



Ten Commandments “ENJOY! JUST DO IT!” The 10 Do’s !

“Commandments #1 & #2: I am the Lord your God!/ No other gods, no idols” 1-15-17

Please catch recent sermon series at our website www.ENJOYLWC.com
Also find the “BEACON Devotional” at the website.

We like to start with something funny each week: I heard about a church treasurer who found receipt from a local paint store on the floor after church. The receipt was signed & authorized by somebody named “Christian”.

The treasurer was upset. She had NOT approved this purchase and promptly called up the store **INFORM THEM OF THEIR OBVIOUS MISTAKEN BILLING OF the church!**

The manager answered the phone, “how can I help you?”

The treasurer snipped: “There must be a mistake in your billing department, Cuz there are certainly **NO CHRISTIANS Here AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH!**”



We have a tradition: Grab your Bible and hold it up today:

“THIS IS MY BIBLE

I am what it says I am!

I HAVE what it says I Have!

I CAN DO what it says I can do!”

Today I WILL be taught the Word of God,

I boldly CONFESS: My Mind is Alert, my Heart is Receptive,

I will NEVER be the same, In Jesus name. (Pray)



NIKE SPORTS has coined the slogan that says what? **“JUST _____”** (DO IT!). In other words **“YOU CAN DO THIS! Stop being insecure and GO FOR IT!”** I believe that is the general idea.

- You may not hit every basket, but at least go have fun and try: **“JUST DO IT!”**
- You may fall on the ice the first several times for ice hockey....but **“JUST DO IT!”** Go live life to the full without the fear of failure and what others may think!

With that said, there are negative peer pressures to “Do it, do it, do it!” Ha, all of us just returned to some awful childhood lunchroom dare! LOL (Have you ever heard that chant to something wholesome and wise????? NO) **Dares like:** **“You can suck that who plate of spaghetti up your nose! “Do it! Do it! Do it!”** Perhaps we are all too quick to listen to that voice to “do something mindnumbingly foolish” to impress the bullies of life and YET find ourselves breaking every known commandment of **GOD HIMSELF** by what we do or refuse to do.

So, the PURPOSE OF This 10 commandments series is to REMIND US OF THEM & TO

- ✓ **TAKE GOD AT HIS WORD :IF HE SAID IT, THEN WE SHOULD “JUST DO IT!”**
- ✓ **Why do it? Because “If you love me, obey what I command.” God says and Christ say again and again! CHOOSE TO ENJOY the fullness of God through obedience!**

But PR; How do I enjoy something with so many RULES and restrictions!?

- Here’s the deal: Did you ever play a pickup game of **kickball** where the rules seemed to change to favor the guy with the biggest MOUTH on the field? The one who lacks ALL ABILITY TO BE REASONABLE!?
- **Was that lack of “rules” a GREAT TIME! Not really.....**
- Is the United states enjoying lawlessness in major cities? No. Lord help us on Jan. 20th at inauguration.
- Or those **Stop lights/ stop signs & SPEED LIMITS** you OBEYED RELIGIOUSLY to get here: Did that bring you LIFE? Absolutely! Or at least it didn’t “take life!” Because it’s the failure to obey traffic laws seldom works out for the best! Amen?

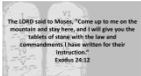
PRECISELY why God gave us a few more than 10 rules that are here to help us **ALL ENJOY LIFE!!**

Coming to give us some cool facts and get us going on the 10 “DO’S” and not the “10 Shalt Nots” is Pastor Cheryl:

PC:

What exactly are The 10 Commandments"? They are a special set of laws that God spoke to the people of Israel as they were gathered at the base of Mt Sinai (Exodus 20:1-21) . I want to point out...before the words were written down, they were spoken..by God to all the people.

Aseret hadevarim – The Ten Words/thoughts



After speaking to the people....Exodus 24:12 - The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction."

Moses went up on the mountain and spoke with God.



Exodus 31:18 - ¹⁸ When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.



Exodus 32:15-16 gives us a fuller description of the stone tablets. ¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

According to the earliest Jewish interpretations of the 1st 5 books of the Old Testament...(Which is the Jewish Torah) the tablets were made of blue sapphire as a symbol of the heavens and God's throne.



So did God give us only 10 rules to live by??

Actually, there are **613** laws that God gave to the people of Israel....not 10. But the "10 Commandments" are CATEGORIES that all of the other laws fit in.

The good news today is that I'm only going to mention the first 524...haha
When we look at the "10 Commandments" as a set of rules...do's and don'ts ...many get discouraged...

This is 2017..."we don't like rules" "They are stifling" "We just need to do what we "feel" is right" That's Moral Relevance – everyone swants to do what they please...."If it's right to you then do it..." (That philosophy can land you into a whole lot of trouble, and a whole lot of pain)

This week....our kitty Thor had something happen with his eye...it was red and swollen and cloudy, running....we didn't know if he scratched it somehow or had something serious going on. We took him to the vet and he has a form of Pink Eye....really? Cats get Pink Eye!?! How do you treat Pink Eye? Drops....let that sink in. Yes, Drops..The vet said "He's going to need 2 drops in his eye, 3 times a day for 10 days". Then she proceeded to give instructions on how to do that. Get someone to help you, tip his head back, play with the back of his neck, open his eye and drop in the drops...so simple. And the first time we did it...it wasn't too bad...but there were 3 of us to holding him down. Then yesterday morning happened. I was alone, Thor was with me, I thought, I think I can just do this myself, I know she said to have someone help but I don't FEEL LIKE waiting for someone to come. I'll just do it my way. Did I mention that his full name is THOR WILDCAT PARKER??

When our boys were little we lived with Uncle Randy & Aunt Rhonda for a while when we planted Lighthouse church. We lived by a horse farm and one of the boys had been struggling with the rules...and boundaries. So I asked the boys "Do you think it's mean to have those horses in a fence, in a boundary?" "Well yes" They replied. I went on to ask "what if they had no boundaries and the potato truck came by and hit the horse and killed it?"
"Hmmmmm Fences are good Mommy!"

So God gives us directives and commands, because He loves us and wants to protect us, not stifle us. He wants us to live in Freedom, not tied down to the pain that comes with living in disobedience, or doing whatever our feelings are telling us to do at any given time.

But the 10 Commandments are more than laws.

The 10 Commandments give us insight into the character of God.

Each one shows us a little bit about how God works, what He thinks, who He is. So instead of feeling overwhelmed and frustrated with them, we can then appreciate and want to understand more.

There's one more thing I want to quickly point out before we get into the commandments themselves....

The first 4 commandments deal with our relationship to God.

What does Jesus say the 1st and greatest commandment is? **“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matthew 22:37**

The last 6 commandments deal with our relationship to people.....who are made in God's image.

And what did Jesus say the 2nd greatest commandment is? **‘Love your neighbor as yourself Matthew 22:39**

Key word.....LOVE

The apostle Paul explained in Romans that **“... love is the fulfillment of the law.” Romans 13:10**

Love is the central idea of the 10 Commandments. The 1st commandment begins with the words **“I am...”** and 10th Commandment ends with the words **“...for your neighbor”** When you join them together it says **“I am your neighbor”** implying that God is in every person you come into contact with.

“Whatever you have done for the least of these you've done unto me.” Jesus said... Matthew 25:40

So let's get to the 1st Commandment:



Exodus 20:1-2

And God spoke all these words: **“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.**

Remember when we're studying these in the original Hebrew language. And according to Jewish tradition.

Commandment #1: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

The first commandment is the most important of them all...because it provide the authority for all the others. **“I am the LORD your God”**

There is only 1 God, who is Judge and Master of the universe.

We must recognize that God is entirely unique, without rival and has ultimate power

Notice that God pointed out to them that He **“delivered them out of Egypt, out of bondage”** The original language implies that He brought them out of bondage **FOR A PURPOSE.**

Throughout the Bible the message is **REDEMPTION**. From beginning to end....**GOD LOVING US SO MUCH THAT HE MADE A PLAN TO SAVE US**. To rescue us out of the bondage of pain and suffering that we have all experienced in one way or another throughout our lives. And He did it **FOR A PURPOSE**.

By reminding the Israelites that He delivered them out of the the bondage they were in, God is saying to all of us....**TO YOU**.... I am faithful, and you can trust Me.

Incidentally when God used the word “YOU” throughout the commandments. it was in the SINGULAR form...so everyone who heard it knows God is talking directly to them....not to the group...but to YOU....

How is it worded for you?

“I am the LORD your God who rescued you from the bondage of

- Alcoholism
- Depression
- Sickness
- Negativity
- Hell – eternal separation from God
- You fill in the blank.....what has God rescued you from? Do you remember who He is? **That’s the 1st commandment**

You might be saying...but He hasn’t rescued my from bondage yet..... then let Him **RESCUE YOU** from the bondage of that! It doesn’t mean He will remove that thing from your life, but He might...It does mean He will rescue you from the **CONTROL** that thing has over you.....if you let Him.

I am the LORD your God....Remember Who God is....**JUST DO IT**.... If you have never known who God is... then find out. Ask us....or someone you trust spiritually.

When we are in bondage, we can’t enjoy anything, because whatever that is that is keeping us in bondage controls us....

Let God deliver you....so you can **ENJOY WHO GOD IS**

If God has already delivered you....then choose to **ENJOY WHO GOD IS**....**JUST DO IT**...

PR:

PC just did the Jewish command #1: from original language: God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

So respond by Letting HIM bring you out of the bondage you are in today!

“Commandment #2 “ENJOY and Worship the Creator, not the created!” **JUST DO IT!**



Exodus 20: 3 “You shall have no other gods before^(a) me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an image (idol) in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.⁵

Why not make figurines of nature and worship it??? I sure love the beauty of DEER! I have a stack of magazines about deer. So many pics of DEER! Now can I have images of deer, “On the earth” ??? If so am I sinning? Is this breaking commandment #2? (show my deer hunting figurine-)

- If I worshipped deer hunting like my brother Randy, then Yes! That’s probably sinning! (ha..... Just kidding. Ask Rhonda for the finer points of knowing idol worship of hunting vs. appreciation for) lol
- But to be a fan of Deer, or you collect bears because they are special to you, or perhaps you love cats..... Or perhaps you **LOVE A SUNSET!** Here is difference: **Do you praise that item at that moment or are you looking to give HONOR WHERE HE IS DUE?** Honor sounds like this: “Hey God! Thank you for your Creation, I love the whole of it! YOU ARE FOREVER PRAISED! Amen.”

Idolatry =

“The worship or divine honor paid to any created object.” It’s Anything that takes the place of GOD in your life that causes it to become idolatry.

Different Forms of idolatry are,

- **Fetishism**, or the worship of trees, rivers, hills, stones, etc. / **Ancestor worship** (praying to departed family members or looking to them as angels – truth be told they don’t have that power. Stop that please, because it is becoming an idol between you and God. Yes my dad is departed, but he is not my god. He is not a “way to god” nor is my dad a means to God’s blessings. When I want to talk to Dad, I go thru GOD to converse. “Hey God, please tell dad I love him! “ “There is only one mediator between God and man- Christ Jesus our Lord.” 1 Tim. 2:5 (we could be hours on much of this but we need to press on)
- **Nature worship**, the worship of the sun, moon, and stars, as the supposed powers of nature.
 - **Another current idol: Astrology-** worship of the stars/ getting life directives from some - Originated in Iraq, Ancient Babylon. It was a way to look to the stars for answers to life, the created, instead of looking to the Creator of the stars – God. What must it be like for God, who would love to help, but not when we arrogantly look to anything else before we seek “the hand of GOD!” **1 Samuel 15:23**
 - **For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.**

There are 52 documented gods and goddesses/ idols of Egypt that the Israelites had just been miraculously saved from before these commands are blessed unto them.

SO! WOW.....

Imagine how BLESSED WE ARE TO HAVE JUST ONE FOR ALL THINGS!! WOO HOO!

- “Ok, wait, I feel unsafe right now - HEY BILLY, what was that goddess of protection’s name again?? And do you have that wooden statue..... I can’t find her! Rats! OH! It’s Wadjet! Sister of Nekhbet! Sweet!”

Wadjet	Goddess of protection	Sister of Nekhbet
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- Our cat got pink eye this week! So hey.... I think there is a kitty goddess.....what luck!

Bast / Bastet	Cat goddess	Known to protect pregnant women and children. She is also involved in celebrations. The protector of Ra, his third eye.
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- What!? That goddess was for pregnant women! But wait! We just wanted our cat to get fixed! Ha. We will just leave that right there.

IN GOD’S MERCY HE GIVES US THE SIMPLE PLAN FOR LIFE! TO ENJOY LIFE!

Exodus 20: 3 “You shall have no other gods before^[a] me. *(Why!? Because they will STEAL from YOU and from GOD ALMIGHTY! Simplify and serve Him alone. It’s such a blessing!)

4 “You shall not make for yourself an image (idol) in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.⁵

JUST DO IT! This is because I LOVE YOU and want to help you simplify! Those idols are DEAD! They cannot add to your life! They can only steal and trade the POWER OF GOD for a lie. Stop wasting time and energy- and HONOR GOD>



You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Notice that God will “punishing to 3rd and 4th generation” (Why? That is actually HIS MERCY! He is allowing time for the sinful to repent and have time to turn to HIM as He ‘relents’) And yet to those who choose to hate Him still and choose the world, then it is a hardened state that you have no guarantees to come out of after the moment to make that choice today.

GREATEST THING EVER HERE Is The BLESSING you can choose today: If God punishes 4 times the generation of those who reject Him, how great is the fact that He blesses those who love Him 500x more!!

Let’s all pray this out loud together repeat after me “*Lord Jesus (repeat), forgive me of my sins (repeat), come into my heart (repeat), I make you my Lord and Savior (repeat).*”

Romans 10:9 “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

With each commandment we will GIVE YOU the old testament version, and YES! THERE IS a New Testament version as JESUS GIVES HIS INTERPRETATION ON EACH ONE! So each command is STERN! Can we deal with that this morning? (We live in a world that doesn't deal well with COMMANDS! With Boundaries!)

Let's all pray this out loud together repeat after me "*Lord Jesus (repeat), forgive me of my sins (repeat), come into my heart (repeat), I make you my Lord and Savior (repeat).*"

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Extra:

✓ **Mt. 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law (the 10 Do's) but to fulfill them."**
Jesus has input on each of these commands, let's CELEBRATE and DO IT

SO, Let's say your young was running toward a busy street with no boundary. Would you say casually "hey son, you might not want to run into nevermind."

NO! You as the parent can SEE DANGER that your child has not learned yet! You would YELL!! "SON!!!! NO! STOP!" And you would RUN TO HIM! And eventually when he continued to run into traffic..... one day, you would actually lay out before that charging car and push your son hard across the street to safety **and you would DIE FOR HIM! Just like eventually Jesus would do some 3500 years after the 10 Commandments were given - The Son of GOD would lay His life down for us all. We just loved to play in the street.**