

Lauren Bartolome

Dr. David Emanuel

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The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments include commandments that we may or may not have heard of, but there are a couple that is more well-known than others. For example, most people have listened to honor our fathers and mothers, not to kill or speak the Lord's name in vain, which are a few of the Ten Commandments. So, as we look at the Ten Commandments, we can see whether or not Christians should obey these commands, the beliefs and concepts of the Old Testament, and what the New Testament says about these commands.

Considering the statement, "There is no need for Christians to obey the Law (Ten Commandments) anymore because we cannot gain our righteousness through it, but only through faith in Christ," I believe Christians should obey the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are listed in Exodus 20:1-17. The Lord says that the people should abide by these commands: not have any gods before Him, not make idols, not use the Lord's name in vain, to remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, to honor our father and mother, to not murder, to not commit adultery, to not steal, to not give false testimony against your neighbor, and to not covet your neighbor's house (Exo 20:1-17). These Ten Commandments are still applicable and are followed today. As Christians, I think we should obey these commandments because they are Christlike actions. Each of the Ten Commandments are actions we should or should not do because they glorify the Lord. Knowing who Christ is and striving to be like Him emphasizes that we should not disobey these commands. Our God is a loving God who wants us to be sold out for Him, and these commandments allow us to please Him by following His Word.

The New Testament, to my understanding, does not explicitly mention the Ten Commandments, but throughout the books of the New Testament, we see the same concepts followed throughout the Bible. Although they may not be precisely stated word for word, the Ten Commandments were still expected to be followed for the most part. An example that first comes to the top of my head is found in Ephesians 6:1-2 NIV since my mother would refer to this verse when I was a child. The scripture says, ‘Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—’ (Eph 6:1-2). The verse does not explicitly mention the ten commandments, but we see that obeying these commands is necessary even in the New Testament. The New Testament tackles the other commands by explaining how to treat our neighbors with love, not to kill or steal, not to have other gods or make idols, to not say the Lord’s name in vain, and the rest of the commands that were mentioned prior.

From what I recall from scripture, we are all sinners, and in the Old Testament, the way to repent of sins is different than how we repent as Christians today. In the Old Testament, animal sacrifices and offerings were common to atone for their sins. One of my favorite verses is Hebrews 11:1 NIV, which I believe ties into the Old Testament’s concept of salvation. The scripture says, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” Those in the Old Testament had faith in God even though they followed the commandments. Yes, the commandments were followed and emphasized, but that is not enough for salvation in the Old or New Testament. Hebrews 11 repeats the word, faith on multiple occasions to emphasize the importance of faith. For forty verses, Hebrews 11 highlights the faith of those in the Old Testament. People like Abraham and Moses mentioned how their faith in the Lord equipped them to do what God wanted them to do.

As we have seen above, the Ten Commandments were told to the people, but as sinners, it was difficult to obey them constantly. Exodus 20:20 NIV says, “Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning” (Exo 20:20). The Ten Commandments were to be followed to keep the people from sin, not necessarily lead to their salvation. In Exodus 20, it is emphasized that God is the only God and not to make any other gods. Exodus 20:24 says, “Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you” (Exo 20:24). God wants us to honor and serve Him, not only to follow the Ten Commandments but to have faith.

The Ten Commandments are straightforward and clear but are not necessarily easy to maintain. Looking at the Old and New Testaments, we see that the Ten Commandments are not stated explicitly in the New Testament but are necessary commands followed throughout the Bible. Christians must maintain the Christlike perspective and serve the Lord wholeheartedly by obeying His commands. These commandments do not necessarily lead to our salvation but keep us from sinning. Faith in the Lord is the only way to lead to our salvation.