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### The Importance of Keeping The Ten Commandments

To love God means that you would obey Him, and in order to obey Him you would keep His commandments. Some people argue that to be a Christian one does not need to obey the commandments, because their righteousness is by faith. Others argue that the law was only for the Jews, and some say the law was nailed to the cross when Jesus died. In this paper, I am going to provide you with some Bible verses that explain the importance of keeping God's Law.

The New Testament is full of verses that make clear the importance of obeying God's Law, which includes the Ten Commandments. Chapter 14 in the Book of John has many instances where Jesus speaks on obedience. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (14:15)." "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him (14:21)." Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loved Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words (14:23-24)." The Bible is clear about this concept; if you love God you will adhere to His precepts. A good test to discover what someone really believes is not by believing what they say but by observing how they act. It is like to old proverb that a person's actions speak louder than words. This same principle applies with God's

Commandments, if someone is a Christian and loves God, then they will naturally obey Him. Love and obedience go together, they cannot be separated.

Many times, in the New Testament we are encouraged to continue obeying the Law of God. Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill (Mat 5:17)." Jesus is like a good school teacher that encourages His students to follow His instructions. He is not like a mean teacher who sets very high standards and does not provide enough learning to enable the students to be successful. He is a gentle school teacher who makes it possible for the students to strive at achieving the standard, showing grace to them when they fail, and encouraging them to keep trying after disappointments. He introduces the Law to the students so they will know what is right and what is wrong. In the writings of the Apostle Paul, it says, "Through the law we become conscious of sin (Rom 3:20)." It is necessary for the Law to be introduced so people know the situation they are in and their responsibility. If there is no law, there is no sin. The Ten Commandments is a guide for people to know when they are doing right and wrong.

The Ten Commandments first appear in their entirety in the Old Testament Book of Exodus Chapter 20. It was during the time soon after Moses led the Israelites from out of Egypt, the land of bondage. God through Moses delivered the people from the hand of Pharaoh and was leading them to a land of freedom. God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai for the Hebrews as well as for the world. God and the Israelites entered into a covenant: God was going to be for them a refuge, helper and strength. He promised to be with them, protect them, meet their needs, give them victory over their enemies, a

promised land to dwell in, etc. On the other hand, the Israelites would have to choose God as their only God. They would have to abide by His Laws including the Ten Commandments. God promised the Israelites that He would send them a Messiah or a Savior.

The Old Testament concept of salvation was the same as in the New Testament. It is by grace alone through grace that someone can have salvation. Abraham is an example of someone who was counted righteous and he was because he believed what God said. He was not counted as righteous because he kept every single Law. It is important to observe that Abraham lived well before the time when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. After the issuance of the Law to Moses, God had Moses establish a sacrificial system to cleanse the people of their sins against His Law. This system is a foreshadowing of the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross.

There are many people even those who profess themselves Christians who argue that the Ten Commandments are not relevant. According to God's Word, observing the Ten Commandments are as relevant now as they were before Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (14:15)." A Christian is a person who loves Jesus Christ, adheres to his teachings, and tries to walk as He did when He was here on earth. Although a Christian is an imperfect human being, he should work every day on improving his character until he reflects His Creator. A person is known by their works and a good tree does not produce bad fruit. So real faith will not condone breaking the Ten Commandments.