

Are the Ten Commandments Relevant for TODAY?



*"The **commandments** of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The **commands** of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living."* Exodus 19:8 NLT

Until modern times, the Ten Commandments, Bible reading, prayer, and the pledge of Allegiance to the American flag were the start of every school day across America. But in recent times, prayer, Bible reading, the Ten Commandments, all have been removed from public property. Surprisingly, some have even suggested the pledge of Allegiance to the American flag be removed.

On October 30, 2001, the ACLU filed a law suit against Judge Roy Moore for placing a Ten Commandment monument in the rotunda of the State Court House. The US Federal Court ruled against Moore and for the removal of the monument. Eventually, Roy Moore was removed as a judge.

Today's world seems to have turned hostile toward the Ten Commandments and Christianity. Are the Ten Commandments relevant for today? Do we still need them in modern society?

Central Lesson

The Commandments are not a *checklist* for earning salvation, but a *mirror* to show us our sinfulness and need for a Savior.

WHY We Need the Ten Commandments TODAY!

1. The TEN COMMANDMENTS - Reveal **GOD** and His **NATURE** to Us.

"Then God gave the people all these instructions...." (20:1).

God normally spoke through Moses or His Prophets (or in the N.T., the Apostles). However, He communicated the Commandments personally and directly to Israel. They actually heard the voice of God, just as Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, the patriarchs, and Moses. The experience caused them deep fear so they asked Moses to speak for God rather than God speak to them (20:19).

The Ten Commandments revealed a number of things about God to Israel:

- He **existed** - they heard His voice and *"...they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear."* (20:18).
- He **cared** about them - He approached them & spoke to them.
- He is **righteous** and **holy** - He gave them moral righteous laws.
- He is **relational** - the Commandments were necessary for the covenant relationship with God.
- He was **all-powerful** and **miraculous** - they witnessed the ten plagues in Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the drowning of Egypt's army, etc., along with the majestic way He communicated the Ten Commandments (20:18).

The NLT Illustrated Study Bible explains: "The first four commandments relate to one's relationship with God. Observing them would foster a correct

understanding of God in contrast to the idolatrous notions of deity that the Israelites had encountered in Egypt and would yet encounter in Canaan."

2. The TEN COMMANDMENTS - The Bases of **MORALITY**.

"¹² Honor your father and mother... ¹³ You must not murder. ¹⁴ You must not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You must not steal. ¹⁶ You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. ¹⁷ You must not covet your neighbor's house." (20:12-17).

3. The TEN COMMANDMENTS - **PROTECT** Us and **PROVIDE** Life's Best for Us.

Someone has explained that every negative "do not" statement of God is actually a "positive" statement. God is trying to **protect** us from the harmful consequences of improper behavior and **provide** for us the best of life.

4. The TEN COMMANDMENTS - A Spiritual **MIRROR** to Reveal Our Lostness & Need of a Savior.

*"For **no one** can ever be made right with God by **doing what the law commands**. The law simply **shows us how sinful we are**."* Romans 3:20 NLT

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe, explains: "The law was never given as a way of salvation for either Jews or Gentiles, because 'by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified' (Gal. 2:16).... The law reveals God's righteousness and demands righteousness, but it can't give righteousness (Gal. 2:21); only Jesus Christ can do that (2 Cor. 5:21). The law is a mirror that reveals where you're dirty, but you don't wash your face in the mirror (James 1:22-25). Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from sin (1 John 1:7, 9; Heb. 10:22).... Then what's the purpose of the law? It's God's way of showing us our sins and stripping us of our self-righteousness so that we cry out for the mercy and grace of God."

5. The TEN COMMANDMENTS - **DRIVES** Us to Christ, the Only Solution to Our Sinfulness.

*"Therefore the Law has become our [guardian] **tutor to lead us to Christ**, so that **we may be justified by faith**."* Galatians 3:24 NASV

Summary of the Ten Commandments

1. You must not have any other god but me (20:3).
2. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind (20:4).
3. You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God (20:7).
4. Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy (20:8).
5. Honor your father and mother (20:12).
6. You must not murder (20:13).
7. You must not commit adultery (20:14).
8. You must not steal (20:15).
9. You must not testify falsely against your neighbor (20:16).
10. You must not covet (20:17).

Central Lesson:

The Commandments are not a *checklist* for earning salvation, but a *mirror* to show us our sinfulness and need for a Savior.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.