

## **Meditation On The Ten Commandments ('Decalogue'): An Integrated Look At The Laws Of God**

(c) Brian Fusonie, 2020

**Note:** As the world suffers its first COVID-19 virus pandemic, I thought it a good time to meditate on the "Ten Commandments" ("Decalogue") as they are listed in Deuteronomy 5:6-21. The current coronavirus epidemic will pass, but whether we experience a new one will depend on whether we respond to God with the current epidemic. It is therefore a good time to renew our vows to God and to seek to make the Covenant (Contract) that God promised will protect us from diseases and other manifestations of God's wrath.

"Every word that I command you, you shall be careful to observe, neither adding to it nor subtracting from it." Deuteronomy 13:1

**Introduction:** There is a mistake among some that God only has ten laws. Nothing is further from the truth. God has well over twenty additional Laws given with the same force as the Ten Commandments, and which are equally integrated into the Covenant (Contract) of God's Laws. When making the Covenant, God used contract law of "offer and acceptance" of the entirety of God's Laws. See Deuteronomy 26:16-19. It was to all His Laws, not only the ten laws called the "Ten Commandments," that God said to "neither add" to them "nor subtract" from the full body of His Laws -- the entire "Book of Law." Then when again ratifying the Covenant (Contract) when Joshua took over from Moses, God warned the people: "Only be strong and steadfast, be careful to observe the entire law which Moses my servant enjoined on you. Do not swerve from it either to the right or to the left ... Do not let this book of law depart your lips. Recite it by day and night; that you may carefully observe all that is written in it." Joshua 1:1-9. The Ten Commandments comprise only a part of the "book of law" given Moses. The other Laws are equally important, and are, as stated in this text, necessarily and inextricably integrated into the First Commandment to "make no idol." When you lie to pretend 'God has only ten commandments,' you made an "idol" false-god. Hence, while this text meditates on the Ten Commandments, let us also remember and obey the entire Laws in God's Book of Laws. As example, God equally gave Moses the commandment not to tolerate homosexuals, but to condemn them: "You shall not lay with another male as with a woman; such a thing is an abomination." Leviticus 18:22. "If a man lays with a male as with a woman, the two of them shall be put to death." Leviticus 20:13 While you may disagree with the "death penalty," the command is clear, and it is inextricably part of the First Commandment to obey God as He Is, not how you want Him to be. As stated in "Meditation On 'Abominations,'" such strong language used by God makes clear that homosexuals, at a minimum, are "cut off" from God's people (ex communicated). And that commandment against homosexuals is equal to, and no less then, all other commandments such as "not to steal." And when you

pretend that God 'allows homosexuals' (which He does not), you stole from God His Law and His Good Name. Moreover, one can easily make the case that God commands the end of homosexuals even more than to prevent stealing of money -- this because the anger, the disgust, the use of the loathing word of "abomination," and the penalty are more severe in God's tone toward homosexuals than toward stealing. Both are equal commandments, but one has more severe disgust towards it and penalty in the words of God. Remember, we must be "altogether sincere" with God in order to obey the First Commandment. In short, while there are about twenty or more additional Laws of God made as equally stern commandments of God, this text will focus on only those called the "Ten Commandments," or "Decalogue."

**1. The First Commandment: "I am the Lord your God ... You shall not have other gods beside me. You shall not make for yourself an idol ..." Deuteronomy 5:6-7.**

This command is to Monotheism. See Meditation On Monotheism and Meditation On "Abominations" for the rules governing the belief in One God and the ways people make an "idol false-god" -- namely by a) believing that God is 'plural persons;' or b) believing there are 'plural gods;' or finally by c) lying about what God likes versus hates. As such, the First Commandment necessarily integrates all other Laws of God. As stated earlier, when you lie about any Law of God, you make a false-god "idol;" it is "idol worship." But there are other ways you violate the First Commandment by making an "idol" for yourselves. Here is a list. Money can be an idol, a false-god, you want more than to obey the real Laws of God. When you do anything unlawful in the Eyes of God to secure a payment or money, you made an idol of that money. There is a commandment against "Stealing," but also anytime you steal, you made a false-god of money. Or you can make an idol by refusing to speak God's True Laws out of fear of losing money, or fear of losing donations. Or refusing to donate or tithe because you do not like that a cleric of God actually speaks God's true laws, which you hate. You made an idol. Or working for a company that violates God's Laws. Or donating money to candidates who favor abortion; thus donating money to violate God's Law condemning and forbidding abortion. You made an idol. Or placing what your spouse wants ahead of what God wants, as when she wants to watch together a movie or television program God hates. Or you do something against God's Laws with friends, or out of "peer pressure." You made an idol. Or you can put nation ('country') above God by tax funding abortions, which you must refuse to do if to be obedient to God. If your 'nation' asked you - as in Germany - to exterminate the Jews, you must refuse and do all in your power to protect the Jews and end the Holocaust. The same is true about abortion. Or you can put a 'pope' above God by obeying the 'pope' instead of obeying the clear and plain language Laws of God against contraceptives, abortion, and homosexuals, for examples. As Meditation On Monotheism makes clear, 'popes' are fallible, for there cannot exist a 'plural persons' God. Obviously, they are not infallible. In short, whoever or whatever you wanted more than obeying God's

True Laws became your "idol;" you chose it instead of obeying God. This includes idolizing 'celebrities.' God's Laws matter; not the opinions of 'celebrities.' Or 'idolizing opinion polls' about what 'should be lawful or not' -- instead of obeying the objective Laws of God. And today many 'idolize athletes' and as stated the 'media,' including television, movies, games, sports, etc. Finally, there is 'idolizing Jesus.' See Meditation On Monotheism for proofs that Jesus cannot be divine 'person' of God. Hence, you must always obey the clear Laws of God, not what you want or think 'Jesus would do instead.' You made an idol. In addition, there are many different versions of 'Jesus' and different versions of his 'teachings,' including many contradicting 'denominations.' They certainly cannot be trusted; nor are they right. Obedience to them instead of to God's plain language Laws, is to make a idol of them. Better always to follow God and His Laws "in their entirety," "exactly" as written. No 'denomination' has the power to change any letter of any of God's commandments. To pretend they do is to make an "idol."

**2. The Second Commandment: "You shall not invoke the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain." Deuteronomy 5:11.**

People wrongly "invoke the name of God" in many ways. It is a commandment that modern society tramples over daily. We "invoke His name in vain" whenever we wrongfully, without obedience to each of His Laws, invoke His name. The Congress and courts have you recite: "I swear to tell the truth ... so help me God." You say that invocation of God in vain is you are not planning to tell the whole truth; if you plan to lie. Similarly, when you say: "As God is my witness ..." or "As God is my judge ..." -- you invoke God in vain if you are not telling the truth when you so invoke God. The same is true when you casually say: "Halleluiah!," ("Praise be to God"), about matters that actually offend God. Or when you casually say: "Oh my God! (OMG)." Again, if what you are invoking God about in fact is not lawful in the Eyes of God or offends Him, then you say such invocation of God "in vain." It is the same when people casually bid someone "Adieu." Or when you casually say: "Thank God," for something that God does not like. Or when you say: "God damn it!" But perhaps the worst form of invoking God's name in vain is when people say: "We ask this in your name God," or "We come in your name God," or "We pray in your name Lord." You cannot make such invocation of God's name if you are not obeying and remaining obediently in the "full scope" of God's every Law. "In your name" is Agency Law -- Law of Contract (Covenant) -- where an agent is commissioned to act "in the name of the principal" to do "in the name of that principal" as specific service. As long as the agent remains "in the scope of the exact agency commissioned" then the person remains the principal's "agent," and "acts in the name" of the principal. If the agent steps outside the specific scope of the agency commissioned, then he or she is no longer the principal's agent. They lose the right to say they are acting "in the name of" the principal person. The same is

true of service for God. You must remain faithful to the full scope of each and all of God's Laws to remain His agents, those able to say they are acting "in God's name." Finally, you take the Lord's name in vain when you wrongly call a sinner a "godly man," or a "God fearing woman." You cannot be casual with the use of God's name. Apply it only when it is certain and true. And there is one additional point, you must be careful that when invoking God you are not breaking the commandment to "not put God to the test." "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test. ... But keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, and the decrees and the statutes he has commanded you. Do what is right and good in the eyes of the Lord, that it may go well with you ..." Deuteronomy 6:16-18. In the Eyes of God; not in your own 'opinion.' Be careful. "You shall not do as we are doing here today, everyone doing what is right in their own eyes ..." Deuteronomy 12:8. We must "return to the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, according to all that I am commanding you today, you and your children, with your whole heart and your whole being." Deuteronomy 30:2,6,10. And finally, about "vows to God," those are also invocations of God. "When a man makes a vow to the Lord or binds himself under oath to a pledge, he shall not violate his word, but must fulfill exactly the promise he has uttered." Numbers 30:3. We must be altogether honest when we pledge: "I pledge allegiance to ... one nation under God."

**3. The Third Commandment: "Observe the Sabbath day -- keep it holy, as the Lord, your God, commanded you. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God. You shall not do any work" Deuteronomy 5:12-14.**

An additional related commandment to this is: "Do not make idols for yourselves. ... Keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary. I am the Lord." Leviticus 26:1-2. Avoid idolatry at all hours, everyday, but especially make every effort to avoid mentioning any idol or offending the Lord with any other forms of idolatry on the Sabbath Day. "You shall not mention the name of any other god; it shall not be heard from your lips." Exodus 23:13. Make certain to keep God's sanctuary clean and clear of all idolatrous symbols, names, or relics. Be careful not to offend God in His sanctuary by breaking any of His commandments. And do not do any work for hire, with some essential exemptions for necessary life saving and peace keeping services as hospitals, doctors, police, military, etc., who may work on the Sabbath. This does not mean that you cannot help raise a new barn for your neighbor after it was destroyed by wind the night before. And it does not mean you cannot fix your neighbor's car that broke down on the way to Sabbath worship. You must then help your neighbor and fix his car that he can drive his family to attend Sabbath service. The Law to "love your neighbor" is not altered on the Sabbath, but continues to exist -- if not even more important and of emphasis on the Sabbath. And be careful what you "relax" with on the Sabbath; a day for recreation, not sin. Do not watch television programs or stations that offend God. But stay up on the news of the day and current affairs

that you need to know to be a productive and informed member of society. The Sabbath gathering was always a day of informing the community; but today those teachings are few and references to how to apply God's Laws in current affairs is largely missing. Your best source of news may be the television, which also has on it many stations and programs that offend God. So be careful, watch what you know God will accept and approve as your Sabbath duty. And since the Sabbath is a day for recreation and fun with and for God, family, and community, it is appropriate to participate in fun activities such as recreational sports. But I struggle with sports that have violence, and am grateful my own favorite sport of ice hockey banned body checks from youth hockey. I worry about what God thinks of college and professional sports that have violence as part of the games. Not only on the Sabbath; but even more on the Sabbath. Amateur athletics are not "work for hire." But professional sports are "work for hire." So I also think about how that fits into Sabbath Day of worship and recreational activities as duty to God and one another. I am a hockey purist; I love the sport, but hate the violence. It can do without it. There are many good lessons to be learned from recreational sports and team work, but violence and injuring other participants should not be one of them. I pray for athletics to be cleaned up, for God.

**4. The Fourth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord, your God, has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16.**

The important legal phrase in this commandment is the phrase "as the Lord, your God, has commanded you." Hence, "as commanded," "as consistent with all God's commandments," and never against any of God's other commandments. Therefore, honor your father and mother as long as they are faithfully obedient to God's Laws. But if your father or mother commit what is grave sin that "cuts them off" from the people of God, you must not honor them. They are excommunicated. When there are two or more commandments, you must reconcile them as one consistent Law of God; i.e., the commandment to "honor your parents," and the commandment to "cut them off" if they commit grave sin. These are one same commandment. "Honor" also does not mean to "obey." Rather "honor" is defined as "esteem paid or due to worth; high rank or place; respect." You can obey them on matters that do not offend God, but you do not need to obey them, as long as you honor them. But you cannot honor nor obey them in ways that offend God. It means to be grateful to those who brought you into the world. And to those who raised you to know and obey God's Laws. Do not disrespect them over matters that are not violations of God's Laws. Do not bring dishonor to them by in any way breaking one of God's Laws. For example, do not steal, for your parents did not raise you to steal, and when you steal, Scripture says you "bring dishonor to your parents." "If a priest's daughter debases herself by prostitution, she thereby debases her father;" Leviticus 21:9. That is only one of the examples where Scripture says the sin of a son or daughter "brings dishonor" to the parents. If you catch your parents breaking

the law, such as stealing, you must obey God and turn them in to be prosecuted. To do so is to honor God. If you catch your father in adultery, you must tell your mother and the people of God. To do so is to honor God. And the people have a right to know that your father broke the marriage contract, and thus to treat them as no longer contractually married, as in Scripture. But do not bring yourself any unlawful shame to your parents. Scripture warns of even the ultimate penalty of "death" for any son or daughter who defiantly refuses their parent's efforts to get them to obey God's Laws. See Deuteronomy 21:18-21. I am not advocating the "stoning" of sons and daughters, as in Scripture, but to "cut them off" from the people. If a son deals drugs, then you must cut him off from the family and turn him in to be prosecuted. A child who obeys God's Laws is the pride and joy of any parents. They bring no shame or dishonor to their parents.

#### **5. The Fifth Commandment: "You shall not kill." Deuteronomy 5:17.**

For this law as it relates to the condemnation of all abortions, see Meditation On "Abominations." This commandment forbids all willful murder, including any and all gambling with human lives. But it does not in any way include the "death penalty," for God punished in Scripture the offense of murder with the "death penalty." "Whoever takes the life of any human being shall be put to death." Leviticus 24:17. While you may not agree with the death penalty, you must confess that such strong language by God toward murder means, at a minimum, that murderers are cut off from the people of God, and should be thus punished with life imprisonment or death. As to gambling with human lives, you may not do anything that gambles with death of another. If you have a transmittable disease as COVID-19, you shall not go around and hug eighty year old men or women, for they might become infected by you with the virus and may die from it. If you have a sexually transmittable disease, including HIV, you shall not engage in sexual activity. You may infect another, and that itself is willful harm of another; but you also may cause their death. You may not drive a vehicle drunk or on drugs, for you can foresee that it may result in an accident that causes the death of you or another. The Fifth Commandment also forbids "euthanasia" or "mercy killings," and also all "doctor assisted suicides." Each of those are murders. But there is more. Do not turn a blind eye to drug addictions, because your blind eye may result in a person's overdose and death. Do not turn a blind eye to severe poverty and starvation, but help feed those most vulnerable. Do not selfishly refuse to treat potentially treatable cancers, for God wants you to make every rational and good faith effort to save one's life. While pregnant, do not ingest anything that may cause harm to your unborn child; nor engage in any activities that could result in the harm or death of your unborn child. You must be careful with all human lives, especially the unborn. Finally, as to drug dealers or drug users, your actions willfully put others or yourselves in potential overdose and thus you consent by your actions to murder. Each drug deal and each drug use are potentially lethal. Drug dealers are guilty of any and all deaths that result from their sales of drugs. As such, drug dealing and drug use of

potentially lethal drugs violate the Fifth Commandment.

**6. The Sixth Commandment: "You shall not commit adultery." Deuteronomy 5:18.**

This commandment covers more than body infidelity. The marriage contract has as one of its essential terms the vow to be faithful to your spouse with your body, eyes, thoughts, and heart. Any moments where you are unfaithful with your eyes, thoughts, and heart are equally adultery as when you are unfaithful with your body (genitals) with a person other than your spouse. I am not talking about "temptations," but am talking about willingly lusting for another person with your eyes, mind, or heart -- and that lusting for a person other than your spouse is itself adultery. It is a breach of the marriage contract. However, God reserved the strictest punishment for body infidelity. "If a man commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death." Leviticus 20:10. "If a man is discovered laying with a woman who is married to another, they both shall die ... Thus shall you purge the evil from Israel." Deuteronomy 22:22. Again, you may disagree with the "death penalty," but you must admit that such strong language from God means that, at a minimum, the adulterer and adulteress are "cut off" from the people of God (ex communicated). Adultery terminates the marriage contract, both because it breaks the essential nature of the marriage contract, one of its material essential conditions, and because the persons are cut off (ex communicated). For both or either of those reasons the marriage is ended. No contract survives ex communication, especially the marriage contract. But it is ended anyway by the fact that the contract's essential terms was broken. Matthew 19:6-9 is heresy. It states: "Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." Mt 19:6. "He said to them, 'Because of the hardness of your hearts Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful [null, invalid]) and marries another commits adultery.'" Mt 19:8-9. That text lacks any understanding of Contract Law. There is only one Law of Contract authored by God. And God cannot invent some different type of 'contract law' for marriage. It is a contract, and when a contract has its material essential term broken, then the contract is automatically terminated. It does not revive merely when one party wants it to start over. Rather, the parties must go back to square one and prove themselves able (contractual competence, contractual capacity) to actually perform at all times a marriage contract. That takes a lengthy time to prove and establish such material competence to make a contract as special and of such length as the marriage contract. Examples of non-bodily adultery include flirting with a neighbor's wife. Or drooling over an actress or celebrity. Watching porn is also adultery of the eyes, mind, and heart. And then there are actors and actresses who profess to be married to someone else, but who during their 'acting' kiss a person other than their alleged spouse. That kiss is adultery. The mere agreeing to so 'act' out a kiss on television or stage is adultery. Marriage is a serious life-long duration contract (covenant) that requires to make it the promise and

proven ability to be faithful with your body, eyes, mind, and heart. While God authored the marriage contract, God does not join them, rather God is witness to whether the persons are able to marry and are actually honestly making valid marriage vows to one another. In that sense, God does 'join them' by witnessing to their vows. If God knows a person is not truthfully exchanging marriage vows, or has proven they are not competent to be faithful at all hours to a spouse, then they do not marry validly. In addition, God spoke to Moses, and Moses allowed divorce. Both divorce and annulments are valid terms, but the real term is "contract broken," or "contract never made," respectively. I believe that the reason Moses allowed divorce is because forced sexual contract with a person you no longer want to live with is a form of sexual slavery. A contract can be broken by either party, at any time, with repercussions however and stern disapproval from God and His people. But the persons wanting out of marriage must do it right; they must seek either divorce or annulment, whichever applies to them, and not engage in adultery. They must terminate or have declared null the marriage lawfully, then they can, after duration, possibly seek to marry a different person. But it is difficult in the eyes of God to establish "marital competency," and that takes a duration of time of proven obedience to God's Laws. Better to be careful who you marry, and then stay faithful for life. Remaining faithful with your body, eyes, mind, and heart to your spouse is easier than breaking the marriage and then having to prove that you can for life duration be faithful to a new spouse -- which is required before you can validly marry again.

#### **7. The Seventh Commandment: "You shall not steal." Deuteronomy 5:19.**

This commandment forbids any effort to obtain money or property by dishonest means. It includes any efforts of employer or employee to avoid "fair wages for fair labor." Honest labor means labor that is reasonably efficient, not lazy, but on par with what can be rationally expected for that specific labor or industry. It thereby also includes "fair prices for honest product." If you deliberately overprice your goods or services, you are stealing. If you misrepresent your goods or services to make a sale, that is stealing. It includes returning something you borrow in a timely manner. And it includes any going "outside the scope" of an agency or "outside the scope of a rental." For example, if you are hired to do one specific task, and you go outside of the scope of that task to do a different task, you cannot expect to be paid for it. You were stealing. Or if you borrow a car from your neighbor to go to the grocery store and instead you drive to a different location instead of grocery shopping with it, you stole the car. It includes also wasteful "taxation," as well as unlawful "taxation." As example, the government steals from the tax payers whenever it takes taxes to spend on wasteful or inefficient services, grants, or aide. And the government steals whenever it tries to take tax money to pay for what God forbids, such as contraception or abortion. Political candidates steal money donations and steal votes when they misrepresent themselves and their agendas to the people, and thus induce persons to trust them with donations or their vote on promises that are not truthful. Yet I



would also like to mention in this segment that God requires a level of honest generosity from His people. "If you lend to my people, the poor among you, you must not be like a money lender; you must not demand interest from them." Exodus 22:24. "If one of your kindred is in need in any community in the land ...you shall not harden your heart nor close your hand against your kin who is in need. Instead, you shall freely open your hand and generously lend what suffices to meet that need." Deuteronomy 15:7-8. And then there is "stealing from God," as when people steal from God some sacred symbol God used for one purpose, such as the rainbow as the sign of the Covenant made with Noah after God ended sexual corruption as homosexuality on the earth with a flood. Genesis 9:13-17. Yet today that symbol of the rainbow has been stolen by homosexuals using it against the original purpose God gave that symbol as a "sign of the covenant."

**8. The Eighth Commandment: "You shall not bear dishonest witness against your neighbor." Deuteronomy 5:20.**

To bear dishonest witness against another person can be by an actual statement that is untruthful about them, or by silence when you know a person is innocent or guilty of what is charged. We the people have a right to know if someone is doing something against God's Laws. But we must balance that interest with the right of the person not to be falsely accused by gossip. When there is good faith concern that the life of a child is at stake, however, we balance the competing interests in favor of making sure we protect the child. At issue is a person's "good name and reputation." If you know a person is innocent, you must speak up loudly in favor of their innocence. And if you know a person is guilty, you must tell on that person. "You shall not pervert justice for the needy among you in a lawsuit. You shall keep away from anything dishonest." Exodus 23:6-7. "Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality ... but judge your neighbor honestly. Do not spread slander among your people. ... Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. ... love your neighbor as yourself." Leviticus 19:15-18. Notice that God said to "judge your neighbor," as long as you do so "honestly." If you make every effort to be honest, you are not sinning. When in doubt, however, do not spread gossip. Finally, I have reported the "death penalty" stated in Scripture during some of these meditations. Here I want to mention that the worst form of dishonest witness is one that lets an innocent man or woman be put to death. "The innocent and the just you shall not put to death, for I will not acquit the guilty." Exodus 23:7. Our judicial system rightly requires proof "beyond a moral doubt," or stated "beyond a reasonable doubt," to convict someone. It must be evidence more than mere gossip. It must be based upon the facts; the truth. This is especially true when dealing with life or death issues as the death penalty.

**9. The Ninth Commandment: "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." Deuteronomy 5:21.**

At first reading, the Ninth Commandment and the Sixth Commandments are the same commandment restated against all adultery. Similarly, the Seventh and Tenth Commandments appear to be the same commandment against stealing. As a rule of construction, however, God must have written each commandment to emphasize certain conduct or thoughts, and therefore the Ninth Commandment must not be merely the Sixth Commandment restated. It must emphasize more. God made the Ninth Commandment against "coveting another's spouse," which means to "lust for," or "flirt with," or to be "jealous for" the spouse of another. Because marriage and family is the bedrock of a healthy society, God made sure with this commandment that mere deliberate lusting (coveting) another's spouse with your eyes, words, mind, or heart is mortal sin. It is sin grave enough to "cut one off" from the people of God. "But anyone who acts defiantly (instead of accidentally), whether a native or alien, reviles the Lord, and shall be cut off from among the people. For having despised the word of the Lord and broken his commandment, he must be cut off (ex communicated) entirely and bear the punishment." Numbers 15:30-31. I am not talking about "temptation" that is not willfully thought or acted upon, but about deliberate lusting or flirting with the spouse of another. The Ninth Commandment is not about sex. It forbids mere deliberate thoughts or actions of lusting. Marriage is so important to God that there are two commandments, the Sixth and the Ninth, which together make clear God is against any thoughts or actions destructive of the marriage of another. Marriage is for the good of the children and society. The children and society have a vested interest as beneficiaries to the marriage contract to uphold and enforce the Laws of God concerning marriage. The well-being of children and thus their proper upbringing to be good members of society depends upon strong marriages of spouses who live out faithfully the entire duration intended by the marriage contract -- and therefore keep fidelity to God's Laws for their entire lives. You may ask when the marriage contract is terminable, as stated earlier, why does God command such stern punishment for flirting or lusting for someone's spouse? The answer is that God wants marriage not to be taken lightly, but honored by the spouses and by all the community as the foundational bedrock upon which the moral upbringing of children obedient to God depends. When marriage is taken lightly it falls apart, and the children -- then the entire community -- suffer the consequences. God therefore wants to prevent any and all destructive behavior that could tear apart a family. He forbids any deliberate flirting with someone's spouse, or doing anything destructive of that person's vows of fidelity to God and to their spouse. God wants marriage to be the bedrock of His people.

**10. The Tenth Commandment: "You shall not desire your neighbor's house or field ... or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Deuteronomy 5:21.**

As stated above, the Seventh and Tenth Commandments appear at first to both forbid stealing. But God must have intended for the Tenth Commandment to mean more. This commandment forbids even the mere "desiring" of the goods or

property of another. Jealousy, or envy, is the root of many evils. This commandment has its emphasis on a deliberate or unhealthy "desire" to have what another has as property -- or we would not need an additional commandment to the Seventh Commandment against stealing. Instead, God wants us to be content with the goods and property that we can afford by our honest labor or circumstances, and not be jealous or filled with envy for what another person has or can afford. It is not against healthy longing to better your situation or to purchase a nicer house with your own honest means or income. But you cannot be jealous for what others have. It is one thing to in a healthy and productive way try to better your own circumstance; and another to be bitter with jealousy of others. Yes, jealousy can lead to stealing. But this commandment is against the mere act or deliberate thoughts of envy. You are to be content with what you have by honest means -- what God has enabled you to enjoy as your own property -- and not break God's commandment by being jealous of others. Again, the Seventh Commandment is against obtaining any advantage or property or money by dishonest method. The Tenth Commandment is against thoughts or acts of jealousy. Or they would be the same commandment restated twice, and God could not have meant to do that, but to give us a specific Law against "coveting," not only against "stealing."

## **11. Closing Thoughts and A List Of Additional Commandments Of God.**

Again, at no time did God say 'these Ten Commandments are the limit and extent of all my Laws.' Instead, God repeatedly and explicitly refers to the "Covenant" (Contract) as including and requiring "obedience to all His Laws," "exactly as commanded," "neither adding to them, nor subtracting from them," "neither swerving to the right nor to the left of them," but "obeying them in their entirety as written." When offering the Covenant with those required terms of it, God referred to many more Laws than those stated in the Ten Commandments. In any event, the First Command, as stated earlier, necessarily integrates "all" other Laws of God, because to lie about God's Laws -- and thus to subtract from them, or alter or dilute them -- is to make an "idol." I close here with a list of the additional Commandments Of God in Scripture, and a few which are obvious for modern times. This list is not exhaustive, there are more you can read about in Scripture. 11th: "You shall not seek ghosts or spirits, or seek the consult from the dead." Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-13. 12th: "You shall not lay with a person of the same sex gender (no homosexuals)." Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13. 13th: "You shall not seek mediums or clairvoyants." Leviticus 20:27. 14th: "You shall not practice sorcery or witchcraft." Deuteronomy 18:10-13; Exodus 22:17. 15th: "You shall not lay with an animal (bestiality)." Leviticus 18:23; Exodus 22:18. 16th: "You shall not have pre-marital sex (no fornication)." Genesis 1:28; 2:24; Leviticus 18:1-5; Exodus 22:15-16. 17th: "You shall not be a prostitute." Leviticus 19:29; 21:7,9. 18th: "You shall not orgy." Leviticus 18:1-5; Exodus 32:6-29. 19th: "You shall not incest." Leviticus 18:6; 20:17. 20th: "You shall not be a pedophile." Leviticus 18:1-5. 21st: "You shall not watch porn."

Leviticus 18:1-5. 22nd: "You shall not tattoo yourself." Leviticus 19:28. 23rd: "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Deuteronomy 6:16-17. 24th: "You shall not use contraception." Genesis 38:9-10; also Genesis 1:28; 9:7. 25th: "You shall not assault another." 26th: "You shall not rape another." 27th: "You shall not lie." Exodus 23:7. 28th: "You shall not be a glutton." 29th: "You shall not be wasteful." 30th: "You shall raise your children to know and obey God's Laws." Deuteronomy 6:4-7. 31st: "You shall not be a drunkard." 32nd: "You shall not use drugs." 33rd: "You shall not operate a vehicle recklessly or at excessive speed." 34th: "You shall not circumcise your sons, but shall raise them to love their nature as designed by God to have foreskin." 35th: "You shall not risk breaking your hymen before your wedding night." You can find and think of many more to meditate on in Scripture, or as applicable to modern society.