

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AREN'T JUST ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT RIGHTS AS WELL Exodus 20:1-17, NKJV — also see Deuteronomy 5:1-22

And God spoke all these words, saying: <sup>2</sup>“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

### FIRST COMMANDMENT

<sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before Me.

### SECOND COMMANDMENT

<sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

### THIRD COMMANDMENT

<sup>7</sup>“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

### FOURTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

### FIFTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

### SIXTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder.

### SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery.

### EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal.

### NINTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>16</sup>“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

### TENTH COMMANDMENT

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

### COMMANDMENTS 1-4

*The first four of the Ten Commandments relate to an individual’s relationship with God.*

### COMMANDMENTS 5-10

*The last six of the Ten Commandments deal with an individual’s relationship to other people.*

The Ten Commandments constitute a list, not only of personal responsibilities, but also of inherent, God-given rights.

- **Commandments 1-4** affirm both the responsibility and right to worship God according to His instructions.
- **The Fourth Commandment** affirms both the responsibility and right to rest periodically from work, as well as the responsibility and right to engage in regular, ongoing work.
- **The Fifth Commandment** upholds the responsibility to honor one’s parents, as well as the right to be honored as a parent by one’s children.
- **The Sixth Commandment** establishes both the responsibility to respect human life *and* an individual’s right to life.
- In **the Seventh Commandment**, we see an individual’s responsibility to respect the marriage relationships (and, by clear implication, the family relationships) of others. In this same Commandment, we also see one’s right to have his or her marriage relationship (and family relationships as well) recognized and respected by others.
- **The Eighth and Tenth Commandments** establish private property rights with regard to both ownership and management of tangible assets. They dictate that people have the responsibility to honor those rights with both their actions (the Eighth Commandment) and attitudes (the Tenth Commandment).
- **The Ninth Commandment** establishes, not just an individual’s responsibility to uphold (and to avoid distorting) the truth, but also his or her right an honest reputation.

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