

The Ten Commandments

What are the Ten Commandments: The Ten Commandments are the laws given to Moses and the people of Israel

- **Exodus 20:1-2**; these commandments are given AFTER salvation not as a means to it
- These are the revelations of God after deliverance from water and feeding with bread: Baptism + Eucharist
- The 10 Commandments reveal God's desire for us and God's desire through us for our neighbor

What is God's desire for us: God's desire for us is to believe and trust in Him and His saving work

- No other God's before me = look to nothing else to save you
- No carved or created images bowed down to as God = making God too definable
- No taking His name in vain = doing things in His name that He would not do
- Remember the Sabbath Day = making space for regular worship / communion with God and neighbor

What is God's desire through us for our neighbor: to love them as ourselves

- Honor Father + Mother: NT starts with a genealogy that Christ comes through and also heals
- Do not murder; we are called to give life not take it away (See Matthew 5-7)
- Do not commit adultery; fostering love leads to the thriving of any community
- Do not steal; We are called to give and not take (even patience is something we can steal)
- Do not bear false witness; standing up for justice is life giving since we too were slaves in Egypt **Exodus 20:1-2**
- Do not covet; the enemy of every community is a lack of contentment = competition not serving

What is the purpose of the 10 Commandments: To reveal the life that God saved us for and to reveal the desires that are birthed from our baptism (Red Sea / Cross) forward.

- **Matthew 22:32-40**; Jesus reveals in perfect clarity the commandments are all about community
- **Galatians 5:13-14**; Paul discussing freedom (from Egypt) = Love neighbor as self (baptism teaches to love self)
- **1 John 4:19-21**; Baptism sends us into the promised land where we develop a new Edenic community

Since we do not fully obey them, are they useful at all: *Since we do not fully obey them, we see more clearly our sin and our need for redemption and ongoing discipleship*

- **Matthew 28:16-20**; the new life is a life of learning not proving, growing not passing or failing
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd b/c He guides and Good Gardener b/c He cultivates
- **Confirmation = commitment to continue the practice of ongoing discipleship as community not only individual**