



Positive Negatives

Exodus 20:13–21

#16 in a series on Exodus

Pastor Lyle L. Wahl

Commandments Six Through Ten.

#6: You shall not murder. (13; cf. 21:12-14; Genesis 4:3-15; 9:6; Matthew 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15)

#7: You shall not commit adultery. (14; cf. Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22; Matthew 5:27-28; 15:19; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 10:5)

#8: You shall not steal. (15; cf. 22:1-15; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5; Malachi 3:8-10; Ephesians 4:28; James 2:15-17; 1 John 3:17-18)

#9: You shall not bear false witness. (16; cf. 23:1-3, 6-7; Leviticus 5:1; 19:11-12; Deuteronomy 19:16-20; Ephesians 4:15, 25; Colossians 3:8-10)

#10: You shall not covet. (16; cf. Psalm 68:16; 1 Timothy 3:1; James 1:13-15)

The Response To And Positive Value Of The Ten Commandments.

1. Israel. (18-21; cf. 32:1-10; Numbers 11:1-35; 13:1–14:45; 16:1-50, etc.)

2. Ourselves.

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. Read Exodus 20:1-21. The Sixth Commandment: “You shall not murder.” Why do you think God gave this command, based on truth in the Bible? While at first we may think we would never break this commandment, why and how is it that we easily can break it? This command starts with the outward act but also moves into our hearts and minds. You no doubt have experienced being shattered by thoughtless, cruel attitudes and words (cf. Psalm 42:9-10). As you turn to God to be your strength and healing, also turn your attention to guarding your own thoughts and words.

Tuesday. The Seventh Commandment: “You shall not commit adultery.” Why is this commandment important? How does it protect marriages and families? It was part of God’s original design for us at creation (cf. Genesis 2:24). Jesus made it clear that this commandment includes lustful thoughts as well as actions (Matthew 5:27-18). Are you vigilantly guarding your thoughts? Are you “taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5)? Are you using God’s provision for enduring and defeating temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)?

Wednesday. The Eight Commandment: “You shall not steal.” Stealing is taking something you don’t own and don’t have a right to take without permission. We steal when we take things at work that we shouldn’t or spend time on personal interests and business without permission. We steal when we do not fulfill our promises to God and when we do not give our time and resources to Him in loving gratitude. Review your actions (and rationalizations) to make sure that you are not a thief. If you find some points where you are, apply Ephesians 4:28 to them.

Thursday. The Ninth Commandment: “You shall not bear false witness.” As we noted on Sunday, this starts in a legal setting of telling the truth when testifying, and also to bringing forward rather than withholding truth. But it also extends into all aspects of our experience. Since God is truth and we are to be like Him, we must then be truthful people. Being truthful is critical to individual and church spiritual growth and maturity. See Ephesians 4:15, noting not only the importance of truth, but that truthful speech must be motivated by and united with love. Are you a truthful person? Why is it hard to be truthful in certain situations?

Friday/Saturday. The Tenth Commandment: “You shall not covet.” the Old Testament word for covet or desire here is sometimes used in a positive way (cf. Psalm 68:16), as are the New Testament terms (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1). But this commandment deals with the negative side of the term, desiring something I should not desire (notice the link with this to the Fourth through Ninth Commandments). Fulfilling the commandment in a positive way means making sure we are thinking, planning and acting for the good of others, nor for what we can get from them. It means focusing on God and His kingdom, on people, rather than on any thing or acquisition. We can dream big dreams and make sure our reach exceeds our grasp as long as at the core we have Godly contentment.

On Sunday we plan to push on with a fairly large section, the Law given in 20:22 – 24:18. Survey this section in preparation for our time together on Sunday.

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