

The Ten Commandments – Eternal Rules of Happiness: 2/2: *Exodus 20:2-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21.*

(Continued from third Wednesday of last month, September, 2023)

1. **“Thou shall not kill”:** We should not kill or hurt anyone for its own sake. Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because each person has been made in the image and likeness of the living and holy God. Killing, whatever the state of life, before birth or after birth, is against the dignity of God, the creator of life. Everyone has a right to life. No one has a right to suicide, because life belongs to God.
2. **“Thou shall not commit adultery”:** The ideal sexual union is an expression of pure love within the bond of marriage. It should be for the creation of children made in the image of God. Man is not limited to physical nature. There is a higher purpose of man and his nature. When one acts just in physical nature without love within marriage, it is no better than an animal, who has his sex and goes his way.

As we control and spiritualize the creative energy, we can feel great peace, love and bliss in God. To be enslaved by sex is to lose health, self-control and peace of mind. He loses everything that makes him happy. Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. Man and woman shall acknowledge and accept their human dignity and sexual identity by living a chaste life.

3. **“Thou shall not steal”:** One should not take unfairly from others property, love or peace, or any other possessions. Stealing begins in the mind. The seed of desire for others property must be removed from the mind. Unless material selfishness is abandoned, there can be no happiness in the world. We have happiness only when we care for the necessities of others.

The seventh commandment enjoins the practice of justice and charity in the administration of earthly goods and the fruits of man’s labor. Every manner of taking and using another’s property unjustly is contrary to the seventh commandment. The injustice committed requires reparation and restitution. Giving alms to the poor is a witness to fraternal charity. It is a work of justice, pleasing to God.

4. **“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”:** Lying consists in saying what is false with the intention of deceiving thy neighbor who has the right to the truth. Society has the right to information based on truth, freedom and justice. One should practice moderation and discipline in the use of social media. Offenses committed against this commandment requires reparation.
5. **“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife”:** The ninth commandment warns against lust and carnal concupiscence. Purity of heart will enable us to see God and see things and people as God would see. Purification of heart demands prayer, the practice of chastity, and purity of intention and vision. Purity of heart requires modesty and discretion.
6. **“Thou shall not covet”:** Covetousness is the source of discontent. The more we covet what others have, the unhappier we will be. We will spend our life in misery and never find contentment. Seek spiritual riches within you. God is manifest in you in a way that he is not manifest in any other human being. You are sufficient unto yourself; for within your soul lies the greatest treasure of all – God. The tenth Commandment forbids avarice arising from a passion for riches and their power. Detachment from inordinate riches is necessary for entering the Kingdom of God.

Rev. Dr. Louis Maram Reddy
Pastor, St. Mary’s Church, Tomahawk, WI