

The Ten Commandments – Eternal Rules of Happiness: 1/2

Exodus 20:2-17; Deuteronomy 5:6-21

Any disaster that happens is not an “act of God”. Disasters are the results from thoughts and actions of man. Whenever there is a disturbance in nature or personal life, it is the result of man’s wrong thinking and wrong doing. All the wars in the world are the result of selfishness. Banish all selfishness (individual, industrial, political, and national) and there will be no more wars. The world will continue to have war and natural calamities until all people correct their wrong thoughts and behavior. As human beings, we need to seek God first.

Sin is that which causes us suffering; virtue is that which makes us lastingly happy. Real happiness can stand the challenges of all outer experiences. When we can keep inner peace by returning love and forgiveness, we shall know this happiness.

When we ignore the commands of God by following our foolish desires, we do not find happiness. God’s commands are our guide to happiness. Happiness comes only by doing right. We must be good now if we want happiness now and in the future in heaven.

The ‘Ten Commandments’ are Eternal Rules of Happiness. The Lord had to use this word ‘Commandment’ that we may listen to Him and obey Him to have eternal bliss. These Ten Commandments are rules of conduct. Breaking the Ten Commandments is a primary source of all the misery in the world.

1. **“I am the Lord your God ... You shall have no other gods before me” Deut.:** A man worshiping possessions, name and fame – anything less than God – finds unhappiness. Only God can give us true happiness. No diversion is a replacement of our worship of the supreme God. The first commandment summons man to believe in God, to hope in Him, and to love Him above all else.
2. **“Thou shall not take the name of the Lord in vain”:** When we pray, we need to try to concentrate our whole attention on God, instead of saying, “God, God, God” and letting our minds dwell on something else. It is insulting God, if you pray with an absent mind. Let us fill our hearts with the love of God and pray. The second commandment enjoins respect for the Lord’s name. The name of the Lord is holy.
3. **“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy”:** To keep apart one day for God is in the best interest of our own welfare. Many never use it to think of God. If we spend our time alone with the family, enjoying the stillness and quiet time, we will see how much better we feel. Everyone needs one day a week in the spiritual hospital to heal our worldly wounds. It is not by force, but you’ll enjoy it. Seclusion with God is a price of greatness. It does good to our mind, body, and soul. We cannot spend our time fruitfully without communion with God.
4. **“Honor thy father and mother”:** Our parents are representatives of God, who is the supreme Parent. They give us unconditional love and protection. The spirit of God becomes our father and mother to help us and our children. Children owe their parents respect, gratitude, just obedience, and assistance. Filial respect fosters harmony in all of family life.

To be continued on the third Wednesday of October ...

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