

LAW-BREAKING

Sin is breaking God's law. We rebel and sin all the time. Take only the first and last commandments as examples:

1. **First commandment:** This commandment states that we should have no other gods besides the true God. At the very least, this commandment means that God should be the first priority of our lives. But, there are literally years of my life where God didn't even seem to rate in the top five. Every second, of every minute, of every day, of every week, of every month of these years I was constantly breaking this commandment.
2. **Tenth commandment:** Do not covet. Unlike the other commandments, breaking this commandment is not outwardly observable. This commandment deals at the level of our thoughts and desires.

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| <p>a. The anatomy of sin</p> <p><i>Action</i></p> <p><i>Will Gives Consent to Action</i></p> <p><i>Plan or Design</i></p>
<p><i>Dwell on Thought</i></p>
<p><i>Inordinate Desire</i></p> | <p>(<i>example working backwards</i>) --</p> <p>(I stab a man with a knife and murder him)</p> <p>(I decide that I will stab a man with a knife)</p> <p>(I plan that in order to murder a man, I will stab him with a knife)</p> <p>(I entertain the inordinate desire: I hate the man, someone ought to do something about him, he deserves to die, maybe I should be the one to do something)</p> <p>(Hate or spite brews up spontaneously in my heart)</p> |
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- b. Theological Term – Concupiscence
 Concupiscence refers to the orientation or inclination or tendency of human beings towards sin (post-fall). After the fall, we have an orientation towards sin that manifests itself in inordinate desires of every kind. Theologians have maintained that concupiscence is forbidden by the 10th commandment

We therefore break this commandment constantly every time we have a stray thought or desire. In doing so, we demonstrate ourselves to be rebellious sinners.

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Q&A 113

What is God's will for you in the tenth commandment?

That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in my heart. Rather, with all my heart I should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.