

# 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Commandments

## Honesty and Fidelity

Sunday, March 14, 2021

### Opening Prayer:

It is not you that shapes God  
It is God that shapes you.  
If you are the work of God  
Await the hand of the artist  
Who does all things in due season.  
Offer Him your heart,  
Soft and tractable,  
and keep the form  
in which the artist has fashioned you.  
Let the clay be moist,  
Lest you grow hard  
And lose the imprint of his fingers.  
*St. Irenaeus of Lyon*



## 6<sup>th</sup> COMMANDMENT: YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

*“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

- The question of how to live the most genuinely loving lives comes down to what is love?
- Love comes from God and adultery violates a loving relationship.  
*Sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman. In marriage the physical intimacy of the spouses becomes a sign and pledge of spiritual communion. Marriage bonds between baptized persons are sanctified by the sacrament. (CCC 2360)*



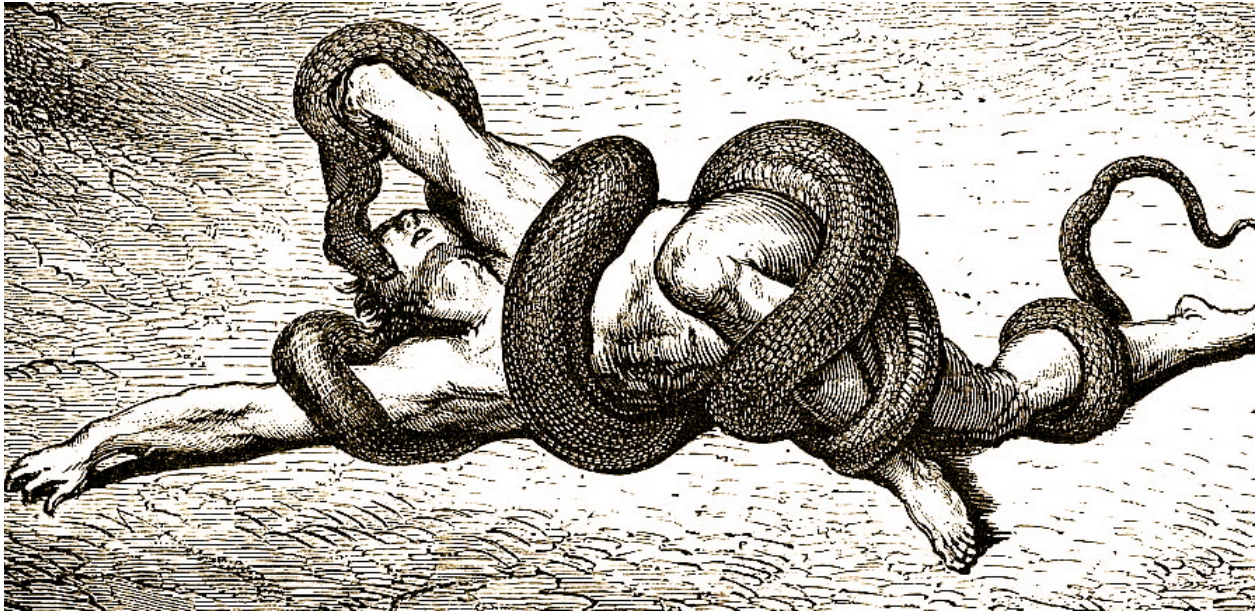
Inferno Canto 5: the lustful are swept up in a whirlwind.

- God created everything as an expression of his self-emptying love. The love of God is faithful and enduring.

*Fidelity expresses constancy in keeping one's given word. God is faithful. The Sacrament of Matrimony enables man and woman to enter into Christ's fidelity for his Church. Through conjugal chastity, they bear witness to this mystery before the world. St. John Chrysostom suggests that young husbands should say to their wives: I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us... I place your love above all things, and nothing would be more bitter or painful to me than to be of a different mind than you. (CCC 2365)*

- God invites all persons to share and participate in His act of creation. *Called to give life, spouses share in the creative power and fatherhood of God. "Married couples should regard it as their proper mission to transmit human life and to educate their children; they should realize that they are thereby cooperating with the love of God the Creator and are, in a certain sense, its interpreters. They will fulfill this duty with a sense of human and Christian responsibility." (CCC 2367 and Gaudium et Spes, 50)*
- By observing the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment, we learn about God. What does this commandment tell us about God?

## 7<sup>th</sup> COMMANDMENT: YOU SHALL NOT STEAL



Inferno Canto 25: Thieves have their bodies taken from them and are transformed into lizards

- Labor is another means to share in God's act of creation. *"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it,"* even though these words do not refer directly and explicitly to work, beyond any doubt they indirectly indicate it as an activity for man to carry out in the world... In carrying out this mandate, man, every human being, reflects the very action of the creator of the universe. (John Paul II, *Labor Exercens*, 4)
- When we steal, we take another person's labor. For example, people would receive greater pay is not for shoplifting. All stealing forces a person to work without pay to some extent.

*However true it may be that man is destined for work and called to it, in the first place work is "for man" and not man "for work."* (John Paul II, *Labor Exercens*, 6)

- Material goods and labor improve many problems in life; but they do not solve everything and even make some problems worse.
- We not only labor for ourselves, but for others and for our communities. *Society is also enriched by a countless array of organizations which work to promote the common good and to defend the environment, whether natural or urban. Some, for example, show concern for a public place (a building, a fountain, an abandoned monument, a landscape, a square), and strive to protect, restore, improve, or beautify it as something belonging to everyone. Around these community actions, relationships develop or are recovered and a new social fabric emerges. Thus, a community can break out of the indifference*



*induced by consumerism. These actions cultivate a shared identity, with a story which can be remembered and handed on. In this way, the world, and the quality of life of the poorest, are cared for, with a sense of solidarity which is at the same time aware that we live in a common home which God has entrusted to us. (Francis, Laudato Si, 232)*

- Our labors of charity not only improve our community and help others; they help us see others differently.

*The difference between a Christian man and a worldly man is not that the worldly man has only affections and the Christian has only ‘charity.’ The worldly man treats certain people kindly because he ‘likes’ them: the Christian, trying to treat everyone kindly, finds himself liking more and more people as he goes on—including people he could not have imagined liking at the beginning. (C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, 131)*

- What does the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment tell us about God?

## **BREAK**

### **8<sup>th</sup> COMMANDMENT: YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR**



Inferno Canto 30: Impersonators run through hell attacking falsifiers

- God is truth.

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)*

*“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John, 8:31-32)*

- Treating another person as an equal due requires honesty and a recognition of his or her freedom.
- God treats us with respect. He does not force us to believe in Him or worship Him.
- When we lie, we deny another person the opportunity to make an informed judgement.
  - Are we sure that our judgment is better than those we lie to?
  - Are we being overly protective in preventing others from making a mistake and learning from it?
  - Are we being lazy and trying to get our way without convincing others and giving them the chance to convince us?

*The right to the communication of the truth is not unconditional. Everyone must conform his life to the Gospel precept of fraternal love. This requires us in concrete situations to judge whether or not it is appropriate to reveal the truth to someone who asks for it. (CCC 2488)*

- The truth of Christ was spread because many brave Saints and martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Gospel even to the point of death, as Christ Himself did.

*Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith: it means bearing witness even unto death. The martyr bears witness to Christ who died and rose, to whom he is united by charity. He bears witness to the truth of the faith and of Christian doctrine. He endures death through an act of fortitude. (CCC 2473)*

- What does the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment tell us about God?

## **Next Week: 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Commandments: Purity of Heart and Poverty of Spirit, Chapters 33 & 34**