

The New Covenant's Ten Commandments (Video)

by Zac Poonen

This sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding that every commandment of God is an expression of His love. It highlights the need to change our mindset to see God's commandments as beneficial and not burdensome, ultimately leading to a life of rest and freedom in Christ. The sermon also touches on the significance of honoring parents, avoiding lies and theft, and not coveting what belongs to others.

Scripture: Exodus 20:12, Revelation 22:15, Hebrews 4:9, Luke 14:26, 1 Timothy 6:17, Acts 5:1, Philippians 4:19

Topics: "God's Love in Commandments", "Freedom through Obedience"

Description

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Transcript

One of the things I would really like to do, and I think the Holy Spirit would also like, it's quite a good number of people here, if everyone here could be gripped with the truth that every commandment of God that he gives us is because he loves you so much, a commandment is an expression of his love. I don't know whether we are gripped by that. If we are gripped by that, it will change our attitude to God's word.

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. God so loved the world that he gave us his commandments that whoever obeys them will never perish but will have everlasting life here on this earth, will bring everlasting life into his home, into his marriage relationship, will bring up his children in everlasting life and the ways of everlasting life. God so loved the world that he gave us his commandments.

Have you seen it like that? I fear that with many people it does not feel, oh God's commands are such a burden. Imagine I have to live my life never once getting angry, never grumbling, never complaining. Really? Is that the way we look at it? As if God so burdened the world that with commandments, that's exactly how the devil wants us to look at it.

That's why I said I wish I could get everyone here convinced of one thing. God has not burdened us with his commandments. We got to change that mindset.

Until that mindset is changed, we're not going to take God's commandments seriously. They are for our good. There's not one of us who will not take what is for our good.

We all have a serious sickness and that is our fleshly tendencies and here is the medicine. We think the only thing is to come to the Lord and ask the blood of Jesus to cleanse us, justify us and we rejoice in that. But why is it our progress is so limited and our joy is so short-lived in spite of believing that the blood of Christ cleanses us? It's because we do not believe fully that God loves me so much that he gave me his commandments to keep.

You don't see them as an expression of his love. We see Calvary's cross as a clear expression of his love. I mean you go to the worldly person and tell him that Jesus loved you so much he died for you, they can understand.

But if you go and tell him that God, Jesus loved you, God loved you so much that he gave you so many commandments to keep. He tells you to love your wife exactly as Christ loved the church. You say oh what a burden.

He tells you to submit to your husband as the church is to Christ. You say what a burden. I'll tell you why we feel like that.

We don't believe these are expressions of God's love. We think okay the expression of God's love is on the cross. He gave himself for me.

I want to say my dear brothers and sisters, once your mindset changes on this one issue, your progress will be something like you know how these rockets, if you watch a rocket going up into space, it's struggling for a long time. You don't see it but it's struggling. But there's a point at which it crosses the realm of what we call the space around the earth where the gravity can pull.

Once it crosses that oh the speed is unimaginable. It's something like that. Most Christians, yeah they're trying to go up.

I believe everyone here is really seeking to obey the Lord. You wouldn't belong to this church if you had no such desire. But if you're honest you'll say that you're like the rocket struggling against gravity and unlike the rocket sometimes slipping down and again firing another rocket going up and slipping down and firing another rocket.

But once you get into outer space there's no firing another rocket. You just speed off like anything. I want to say to you the good news there is such a life.

There is such a life. I've only begun to taste it. I know there's very much more but even that little taste is so wonderful.

I wish for you all that taste of that life which I fear that most believers have never experienced because if you did you'd never feel a single commandment of God is a burden. It'd be like a child loves chocolate or ice cream. It'll be something like that and not like some bitter medicine.

Be honest. Very important to be honest. Ask yourself how do I view all the commandments in the new testament.

There's so many of them. Let me show you a verse now in Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is the chapter where Moses repeated the commandments God had given and towards the end of that chapter it says here in chapter 33 sorry the end of that book.

This is the blessing. Thank you. This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death.

It's a blessing. What is the blessing? God's going to give you the land of Canaan, defeat all his enemies. No no no that'll come.

Hang on. The blessing is the Lord came from Sinai and from Mount Paran and so on with his 10,000 holy angels and here's the blessing at his right hand. You've got to read this in the margin.

People didn't have the boldness to put that in the text but in the margin of my bible it says the original Hebrew says at his right hand there was a fiery law. Uh-huh. Is that the blessing God has come with? At his right hand there was a fiery law and that proves that he loves the people so much.

Verse 3 what is that fiery law? It's not a weak law. What does that fiery law prove? Verse 3 that indeed he loves the people. It's exactly what I've been trying to say.

That is the blessing with which Moses blessed the people. I wish you guys would see it. Moses says that the fiery law he gave you proves that he loves you.

I wish you would see it in my early Christian life. I never saw it. I tried to obey.

It was a struggle. It's like you'd get your children to take some bitter medicine or some vegetable they don't like and you've got to make them sit there, sit there, sit there gaping at that thing on the plate. A lot of Christians are just like that but put some chocolate or ice cream in front of them.

You don't even have to tell them. They take it straight away. Imagine going to God's commandments like that.

You know you're liberated when you look at God's commandments as an expression of his love. God so loved me that he gave me a fiery law to set me free. It's like treatment.

Sometimes we are willing to go on to an operating theater and be operated on. It's a very painful recovery but you know that that will deliver you. Supposing a doctor says I can guarantee you permanent cure of your cancer even though your cancer is in the fourth stage extreme case.

I can guarantee total deliverance if you will submit to take this bitter medicine every day for the next one year and submit to my operating. You'll be willing to go through 10 operations to be cured of cancer for the rest of your life. Wouldn't you do that? Wouldn't you let your children go through all that suffering for it? Yes.

If you see the good that can come out of it. I believe we need to see God's law like that. So what is God's law basically? You know once we read in Matthew chapter 22.

So please don't forget this opening statement that I made. God so loved you that he gave you a fiery law so that you might have eternal life and not be lost. So when the pharisees did not understand it like that they thought it as or such a burden keeping the sabbath and they would jump on others who didn't keep the sabbath and they didn't understand it as an expression of God's love and I fear that I've hardly ever met Christians in my life who see all of God's commandments in the new testament as an expression of God's love.

It's an expression of God's tremendous love for me that he tells me never to lose my temper. He tells me never to lust even once after any woman in the world to turn my eyes away. It's a mark of God's love for me.

He wants me to be free from cancer. He wants me to be free. It's like we tell your children don't put that mud in your mouth.

Be careful. Look at the look at us sitting with masks. What for? To protect ourselves from viruses.

How careful we are. I wish we'd be as careful to be free from sin but it has to come by an understanding that all of God's commandments are an expression of his love. Anyway the pharisees couldn't understand it like that.

They thought it's a it's a burden and that's why they only but they wanted a good reputation before others and so they were very careful to keep the law when other people saw them. That's why Jesus said you people clean the outside of your cup meaning you're so careful about your external testimony that you're very very careful. Nobody should have a bad impression of me.

I'm a righteous pharisee. Most Christians I'd say I'd say 99% of Christians are like that. That's probably one percent of Christians I met in my life who are very much more eager to have their inner life pure before God, their home life, their private life, their thought life, their attitudes towards people pure more important than the external testimony.

We know that an injury on the outside of our body is not as serious as something serious inside. We know that in the physical realm. It's exactly the same in the spiritual realm.

You know you can be clean on the outside and you can be sick as anything on the inside. That's not the way we should be. So when the pharisees came to Jesus one of them who's a lawyer means Matthew 22 verse 35.

A lawyer means one who was steeped in studying God's law. That's the meaning of that word lawyer in this context. An expert in the mosaic law.

He tested Jesus with a question. Teacher which is the great commandment in the law? For them the Jews it was the Sabbath and they if Jesus didn't say that they would try to question him. So Jesus said the great commandment is love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind.

That's something like saying I want you to be healthy from the crown of your head to the sole of your feet. Something like that. If we heard that about our physical life, oh that guy loves me so much.

He wants me to be healthy from the crown of my head to the sole of my foot. Every part of me to be healthy. Heart, liver, kidneys, everything to be healthy.

That's what it means. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. And Jesus said like a coin has got two sides and if the other side of a coin is blank it's a fake.

A currency note has got two sides. One side is blank. It's a fake and a man who says I love God with all my heart.

That side is right when the other side is blank. Fake. There is another side Jesus said and I can't leave it without telling you the other side.

Verse 39. You have to love your neighbor as yourself. That's what proves that currency note is genuine.

That's what proves your understanding of God's commandment is correct. Both sides are there and you can't have one without the other. He said that the second is like it.

Verse 39. It's exactly like it. On these two commandments hang the whole law and the prophets.

The law is an expression for the five books of Moses. First five books and the prophets is referring to the rest of the old testament. 34 books.

Some of it is history and some of it is prophecies but the expression the law and the prophets is what we today would call the old testament. In those days it was the full bible and he says the whole bible hangs on two commandments. If you obey those two you kept it.

The whole bible. Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.

And that is an expression of God's love for us. When God teaches me to love my neighbor as myself it's an expression of God's tremendous love for me that I don't get a cancer inside me. That the laws we you know when they tell people don't eat junk food, be careful about the food you eat.

We are so careful of the food we give to our children. This is exactly like that. God wants us to be healthy spiritually to keep his commandments.

So when God when Moses said that to the Israelites he had already given them what we know as the ten commandments. Now I don't know whether all of you know the ten commandments but I thought I would go through them with you today so that we get educated. The ten commandments are listed in Exodus chapter 20.

That's the first thing all of you should know. Your children should know Exodus chapter 20. It's a round figure 20 ten commandments and the first commandment is verse two and three.

I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me. I'm the Lord your God who brought you out of sin.

For us it is like that. Out of slavery to the devil. Verse two.

I'm interpreting this in terms of the New Testament. You shall have no other gods but me. That's the number one commandment.

How is it in the New Covenant? It's exactly what Jesus said. Luke 14. If you come back to Exodus 20.

Luke 14. Jesus is telling us how to be his disciple. Number one commandment.

You shall love me more than everybody else. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. There's no place, no competition for that love.

Luke 14 26. From father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, all your own life. That is the first commandment that the Lord Jesus must be absolutely supreme in my life where the voice of my father, the voice of my mother does not influence me.

The voice of my wife does not influence me. The voice of my husband will not influence me. The voice of my children, brothers, sisters, and not even the voices I hear within me will not influence me.

I'm going to put Jesus first in every area of my life. I will not listen to any other voice. You know there are many times we hear other voices.

Sometimes those voices are from outside where loved ones will say to us, go on, be reasonable, don't be so extreme. I've heard that said to me. Many people will say that yeah you're too radical, too extreme, you can't live like that in this world.

Just be sensible. Yeah, yeah. I see what happens to Christians who live by those principles and I've seen what happens to Christians who live by saying I will not listen to those voices.

I shall love the Lord with all my heart, soul, strength, and mind and no one will take the place that Christ has in my life. Nobody, not even my father, however much he may have sacrificed for me, mother, brothers, sisters, wife, and children, and I wonder whether all of you sitting here can go through verse 26 step by step by step by step and say, Lord, none of these people will influence me. I will not love my children so much that I will consider their earthly comfort above their being disciples of Christ.

No, I shall not do that. That is loving your children more than you love Christ. I will not do that.

There's so many ways in which in schools and all children are taught to compromise. Many children cheat in their examinations, hear false statements when they want to get admission to a college or something like that. What all wrong goes on even among Christians? No, God's blessing cannot be there if you got into some situation by telling a lie.

Impossible. If you think that a lie will open a door for me to a particular job, which almighty God cannot, but the lie is more almighty than God, how do you expect God to bless you in that job? Did any of you get into a college by telling a lie? I hope not. I don't know what your future will be.

No, you can't go back on it, but I don't know. Somewhere along the path, you took a wrong path and your parents didn't protect you from that. I don't know whether you got a job by telling a lie.

I don't know whether you got a visa. I don't know whether you got a visa to come here by telling a lie. I don't know.

What would have been the future if you're told the truth? Have you missed God's will somewhere? Was it God's will that at some point in your life you should have told a lie in order to get something because the lie was more almighty than God? Well, you can't do anything about it now. There are many things you've done in the past we can't know. God forgives us, but certain things even almighty God cannot set right.

I remember in one of our churches in India, a man came, was unconverted. He had AIDS, but then he got converted and he came to our church and he was really born again, but he never got cured of AIDS. Very

soon he died, but he went to heaven.

He was forgiven, but he died. There is forgiveness. There is also the reaping of what we have sown.

Both go together. Going to heaven is not everything. I'll tell you this, and that's another thing which I want to convince everybody about.

It's an absolute lie that if you go to heaven, everything is solved. Then it doesn't matter how we really lived on here. That guy was wholehearted and sacrificed and gave his life for the Lord and went and died as a missionary.

I live a sort of a comfortable life and sailed my way into heaven. We're all going to be equal in eternity. Absolutely false.

You say, what's going to be the difference in eternity? I'll tell you. In three words, I have the answers to many of these questions. I don't know, but I do know there will be a difference because Jesus said so many times, my reward is with me to give to every man according to what he has done and lived.

Is that a lie? Heaven and earth will pass away. That word will not pass away. That's why I do not believe that everybody will be equal in heaven.

I do not believe that no believer will have any regret in heaven. That every believer is going to live in heaven without regret. I don't believe it one bit because if it were true, I'd have to say Jesus is a liar.

It's like when some non-Christians come to me and say, why do you say Jesus Christ is the only way? I ask them this question. I say, do you believe, do you respect Jesus Christ at least? Forget about me. Do you respect Jesus Christ? Oh yes.

I say, let me read to you what Jesus himself said. John 14, 6. No one comes to the father but by me. Now tell me, you said you respect Jesus Christ.

Is he speaking the truth or not? You say he's a liar, that you say that you can come to the father some other way. I say no. I say that because I respect Jesus Christ as one who speaks the truth.

The same Jesus Christ says, I will give to every man according as his work shall be. So how in the world can everybody be equal in heaven? Jesus has got to be an outright liar if it's going to be like that. I'm not saying we work for reward.

Anyone who works for reward will probably get zero in heaven. No, we don't work for reward. I always say, Lord, you've already rewarded me more than enough by dying on the cross for me.

I'm not expecting anything more than that. I don't work for reward. No, I don't do a single thing for reward.

I don't make any sacrifice in my life for a reward. No, I sacrifice and do things and I will do keep on doing. Even if I live to 100 years old, I will live 100% sacrificially for the Lord because he already did so much for me.

It's like a person who's given me billions of dollars to meet my need and much more than my need. And then you think I'm going to go and ask him for more? Do you think if I do a little service for him, I'll go to him and say, now, can you give me \$100 for that work I did? Impossible. He's already gifted me billions of

dollars.

How will I go and ask him for \$100 for the work I did for him? That's how I look at it. I cannot think of looking at Jesus in eternity and saying, where's my reward? I hope you're not. He's already done so much for you.

Everything we do is an expression of gratitude to the Lord. I put it like this. I say my whole life is writing a note saying, thank you, Lord Jesus.

And when I'm finished saying that, I'll die. I think I've come up to T-H-A-N, I haven't come, I still got a long way to write something the rest of the sentence. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

That's why he saved us from accidents because we haven't finished the sentence. I hope you look at your whole life as writing one sentence. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

So, don't let anyone come take the place of the Lord in your life. That's the first commandment. Nobody.

Not your job, not your father, mother. Second commandment is, back to Exodus 20, you shall not, verse 4, you shall not make any idol or anything like that or worship that and serve that, verse 5, Exodus 20, verse 5, because I'm a jealous God. Because if you do that, your iniquity will go down on your children and on a third and fourth generation.

How does that apply to us? We don't worship physical idols. You know, some Christians in some denominations have their, what they call icons. Icons are pictures of saints.

Why do you have, it's a form of an idol. You call it an icon or an idol or call it whatever you like. You have a picture of someone you worship.

The point is not a picture. You can keep a picture of a loved one, but you're not worshiping it. But if you keep a picture of some saint that doesn't even look like that and you worship it, they'll ask that person to pray for you.

That's a lot of garbage. Nobody can pray for you, not even Mary. It's only Jesus Christ is the only one who's the intercessor for us.

So an idol is not just these physical things. We don't have that. But anything that takes the place of God in our life, like the main thing Jesus said was money.

He said in Luke 16, 13, you cannot love God and money. It's like telling a woman, you can't marry both these men. You have to choose.

But you say he's so nice and he's also so nice. That's fine. But you still got to choose one of them.

What would you think of a woman says, I like both. They're so good. Both of them are so good.

You'd think there's something wrong with a Christian sister who wants to marry two men. You wouldn't think that such a sister is spiritual. What do you think of a Christian who wants to love Jesus and love money? There's absolutely no difference between that Christian and a woman who wants to marry two men.

But a Christian woman can marry a man and have a male servant who works. I mean, if she was an official in an office, she has a secretary or someone who could be a male secretary serving her, that's fine. Or a servant like a driver of the car or something like we can have that, but it can't be a husband.

That's the point. So you can have other things as your servants. Many luxuries, comforts, a house, money, but not as a husband, not as one you love, not as one you're devoted to.

Not as one you live for. What do you think of a woman who lives for a car driver? Or a secretary in the office? That's crazy. That's exactly how it is.

When a man says, I love Jesus Christ, and most of the time he's living for money, money, money, money. And if he loses a little bit of money, he gets so worried about it. We need to know the difference between having money and loving money.

To have money, money is a gift of God. Let me tell you that. It's not the devil who invented money.

All the gold in the world was not placed there by the devil. The devil did not create one gram of gold. God created all the tons of gold there are in the world.

He created all the diamonds and the pearls and every single thing. But like the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God says, don't get attached to it. Make that serve you.

If you have a driver in the car, don't get attached to him. Let him serve you. So money is a very good servant, but a terrible master.

It's like fire. Fire is a wonderful servant. Look how we cook food with it.

But it's a terrible master. If you let your house catch fire, it will destroy it. Money is like that.

Keep it under control. Know when to turn off the stoves before the house catches fire. Keep that fire under control.

Use it. Use it every day. Money.

Have many pots burning on your stoves. That's fine. Many fires lit, but don't let the fire take over the house.

God is not against our having good things. We read in Luke, sorry, 1 Timothy 6. Sometimes Christians give the impression that God doesn't want us to enjoy anything. He wants us to be so disciplined.

We must not enjoy an ice cream. We must not enjoy a chocolate. We surprise you by something God's word says.

1 Timothy 6.17. This is especially written to the rich. The poor cannot afford many things in the world, but rich people can afford many things. What should they do? Instruct those who are rich in the world, 1 Timothy 6.17, not to be conceited.

It's a tremendous temptation for rich people to become proud, to look down on poor people, to look down on others who don't have, it could be rich in education, to look down on those who are not so educated, not to be conceited, and not to fix their hope on uncertainty of riches. It's very uncertain. I tell you, it's more uncertain than the stock market.

You think if the stock market goes down one day, you know it's gonna go up one other day. Riches are not like that. It's absolutely uncertain.

But fix your hope on God who gives you all this money, richly, does God give money richly? Yes, he certainly does to some people. Why does he give it to them? Gives us things to enjoy. Have you read that word? Have you read that God gives you material things to enjoy? Yeah, I enjoy many material things.

You have a comfortable house, enjoy it. You can afford good food, enjoy it. You can afford a car or two cars, enjoy it.

And don't feel guilty about it. God has given us richly all things to be enjoyed. Don't get conceited.

Don't depend on it. Don't make it an idol. Keep it in its proper place, like a servant, not your husband.

Christ alone is our husband. That is a servant. And I'm always gonna keep money as my servant.

That's how I try to live. I'm not preaching what I don't practice. And it has made my life extremely happy, I'll tell you that.

I will never allow money to sit on my head. However much God gives me, I'm gonna keep it under my feet. And I'm gonna enjoy it.

I don't feel guilty about enjoying what God gives me. But it also says, verse 18, be good and be generous to those who are in need. That's also a privilege God gives us when he gives us money.

That way, we have an eternal treasure in heaven. So that's the second commandment. Don't make worship any idol.

And then it goes on to say in the third commandment is you shall not take the name, verse seven, Exodus 20, verse seven. No, let me, before I go there. It says here, if you worship this idol, the iniquity will fall even upon your children.

Exodus 20, verse five. Do you know that if you worship money, you can destroy your children? Yes, there are umpteen examples in the world around us of rich people's children who have not been brought up to be grateful to God for every gift. Teach your children to be grateful to God for the house they live in, for the car they have, for an education they can get.

Teach them to be grateful to God and not to worship those things. Otherwise, the iniquity will go to their children and they'll grow up wayward and wild. And I've seen umpteen examples of that in the world around.

Then the next thing is don't take the name of the Lord, your God, verse seven, in vain. We have to be very respectful to the name of the Lord Jesus. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And I'll tell you, you know, Jesus taught us to pray. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus because he's the one mediator between us and our father. I cannot go to the father directly.

There's one mediator God has put between me and him. Otherwise, I cannot go. I have to come in the name of Jesus, clothed in his righteousness.

Otherwise, God is too holy. God is so holy that even the angels hide their faces. We read in Isaiah six.

Holy angels cover their faces. Where are we? Isaiah saw that and he said, oh, what a sinner I am. And so we can only come in the name of Jesus to the father.

And even when sometimes we pray Lord Jesus, that's all right. Praying to the Lord Jesus is all right. We are actually coming to him and saying, actually, Lord, take my petition to the father.

It's perfectly OK whichever way you pray. There's no rules on this matter of prayer. But we essentially pray to our heavenly father in the name of the Lord Jesus.

But we should not take the name of the Lord in vain. You know, when people get into a situation and say, oh my God. What do you mean? And some people change it to, oh my gosh.

And some people just change it to OMG. And some people say, oh, G. Oh, G what? What does G stand for? It's all various ways in which, what are they saying? I haven't understood what is the meaning behind it. Are you saying, why did God allow this? I assume that's what they're saying.

Why in the world of God did you allow this? Oh my God. Why in the world did you allow this to happen? Or did you allow this to happen there? My brothers and sisters, you may think this is all extreme. I learned one thing in my life.

If I respect the commands of God and honor him, the word of the Lord is, I will honor those who honor me. I have experienced in my life God honoring me in all types of situations. I decided long ago in my life, I will honor God.

Even other people think I'm a bit extreme. You're welcome. You don't have to do what you think are the extreme things in your life.

But I'll tell you my testimony, it has gone well with me in all my life. In all the 82 years of my life, it has gone well. Because I have tried to honor God.

And where I've slipped up here and there, I've repented and come back to God and he's forgiven me. So take that seriously. Don't take the name of the Lord in vain.

Next is, remember the Sabbath day, verse 8, to keep it holy. That's number four. And that is a day of rest.

And that's another thing that we need to, the New Testament, the equivalent of that rest is, you take some time to read Hebrews chapter four. That's the chapter on the rest of God. He says there, he compares it to the Sabbath.

I don't have time to go there right now. That's the rest that Jesus said, come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden. I will give you rest.

The opposite of rest is, you know, struggling and heavy laden and worried and anxious. Which makes you tense and irritable. The Lord says all of you who are tense and easily irritable, you need a Sabbath.

You need to enter into God's Sabbath rest. You need to enter into believing that all things work together for good, to those who love God and who are called according to his purpose. That'll bring rest into your life.

And that good is to make you a little more Christ-like, not to give you more money, not to give you a promotion. If some guy wanted to marry a girl and it didn't work out, if he's a wholehearted Christian, it doesn't mean God will give him a prettier girl. It means God will give him a more spiritual girl who may not be so pretty, but with whom his life will be so blessed.

You know, that is what brings us to rest. He who believes, it says in Hebrews 4, enters into rest. So anytime there's unrest in your heart, you're not in the Sabbath.

The Sabbath was a picture of the inner Sabbath God wants his children to have. You know, when God made man on the sixth day, tell me, did he set him to work? No. He told Adam, before you go and work in the garden, I want you to spend 24 hours with me.

And that is the origin of the Sabbath. The seventh day, God rested. For what? God is not tired.

What is the meaning of God rested? It's for the sake of Adam who was created on the sixth day. Hey, Adam, I'm not going to do anything today. That's the meaning of God rested.

I'm not going to do any work today because I want to spend time with you. I want the whole day to be with you, Adam and Eve. That's the meaning of God rested.

And the wonderful thing about us in the new covenant is that my life can be a perpetual Sabbath. I don't rest on the seventh day. I rest 365 days of the year.

I'm on a Sabbath. Rest with God. And 366 days in a leap year.

All the time at rest in God, that is God's will for you. And God made man and said, I want to spend a whole day with you. What would you think of Adam rushed off and say, hey, I've got something to do.

I want to do your work, Lord. God said, no, I don't want you to do my work. You will not be able to do my work if you don't spend one day with me.

Very few people understand that. They think the greatest thing is to rush here and rush there, rush there. No, brother, sister.

Learn to spend time with God. You will accomplish a lot more in the long run if you spend time with God first. I don't mean the length of time.

Some of you may have to rush off to work early in the morning. OK, that's why I've said many times as soon as you get up from bed, I don't mean get out of bed. I mean, when you wake up before you get out of bed, have your quiet time with God.

I don't mean you to kneel down or anything. As soon as you open your eyes, talk to God first. Why do I say that? Because that's the way God made man.

When God made Adam and breathed into him the breath of life and Adam's eyes open, who did he see first? Not Eve. There was Eve did not exist. He saw God, not the angels, not the work he had to do.

No. So when you open your eyes in the morning, don't think of the work you have to do. I hope you think of God first.

That's how he created man. And why did he not make Adam and Eve together? Have you ever thought of that? God could have made two blocks of, I mean, clay models and breathe into both of them because then they opened their eyes. They may have seen each other first.

So no, no, I don't want you to see Adam first. So he put Adam to sleep, took a rib, went to some other part of the garden and made Eve and breathed into her and she opens her eyes. Who does she see? She doesn't even know that such a person as Adam exists.

She sees God. You get a lesson from that? The first person Adam and Eve saw was God. Then he brought them together.

That's how we are supposed to live every day. I often say, how does your Bible begin? First four words, teach your children the first four words of the Bible. Memory verse, in the beginning, God.

Very easy. Genesis one, verse one, in the beginning, God, but in the beginning of your day, God. The beginning of your life, your work, everything in the beginning, God, put him first.

That's the meaning of being at rest. The Sabbath day was, the Jews had it as the seventh day, but for Adam, it was the number one day. That's why Jesus rose up on the first day of the week.

We're not on the seventh day. For Adam, it was the first day. And for us, it is the first day, what we call Sunday.

And our life, it must always be there. That's the New Testament equivalent of the Sabbath. So when God made, gave Adam, sorry, God made Moses, God gave Moses two tablets of stone.

One tablet was, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. That is, I am the Lord your God, have no other gods but me. You shall not worship idols.

Shall not take the name of the Lord in vain. Keep the Sabbath day. It's your relationship with God.

The other is, you shall love your Lord God, love your neighbor as yourself. Another six commandments. It was not equally divided, five and five, it was four and six.

So here in the second tablet, the first commandment is, honor your father and mother. So it starts as children. Horizontal relationship, like the two arms of the cross.

Vertical four commandments, the horizontal six commandments. Love, and beginning with children. Honor your father and mother.

The first thing we need to teach our children is not ABC, not thank you, or any such thing. Obey your parents. Obey them.

And they can learn obedience from the age of one. The word they understand at the age of one, in case you did not know, is the word know. Or don't do that.

That's one of the first things that children must learn, obedience. You can't do that. Honor your father and mother.

It'll go very well with your children if from the age of one, you teach them to obey. When they tell them not to do something, they must not do it. That's more important than forcing them to eat the vegetables and

things like that, which is also good, but that's not as important as teaching them to obey what is going to harm them.

And when daddy and mommy say no, that's no. And as they grow up, they must not only learn to obey, but honor means they must speak respectfully. If ever you hear your child speaking disrespectfully, they may fear their father, but they may speak disrespectfully to the mother.

You must tell him, drop everything you're doing. I don't care what is important. Stop it and go and apologize to mommy before you do anything else.

I hope your fathers are strict like that with your children. I was. It'll go well with your children if you teach them from the earliest age to obey their parents and to be respectful to father and mother and be respectful to people.

In India, we have beggars, what you call homeless people. There are beggars who come to the gate. They go knocking at the gates asking for money.

And sometimes people from inside say, get out, go away from there because that's a poor man there. So I used to tell my children, listen, you must not speak like that even to a beggar. If accidentally you do, you please go and ask that beggar forgiveness.

Go to that beggar and say, I'm sorry, sir, for speaking like that to you. Teach your children to respect human beings, even if they are beggars, even if they are homeless, even if they are very low in society. That's what we must teach our children.

Respect all human beings. And if you have children growing up like that in a church, we had the tremendous advantage and blessing in our church in Bangalore, where all my boys grew up, of people who are extremely well-off, PhDs, highly educated, and absolute low-down people who never finished school. We had the whole range.

We're very thankful that we had such a church. And I thank God that my children could grow up being friendly with all of them. It didn't make the slightest difference to them what this guy's education was, what his job was, what sort of house he lived in, one room or four bedroom or whatever it is, all were equal.

And I can see the state with them even now when they come back to India to visit, they're all equal to them. We must teach our children that all human beings are equal before God. Begins with respecting parents.

Okay, verse 13, the next commandment, it's 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. You shall not murder. You know, we've spoken enough of that in the New Testament.

The equivalent of that is don't get angry. I've spoken enough about that. The next is don't commit adultery.

The equivalent of that is don't lust with your eyes. We've spoken enough about that. You shall not steal.

I don't think any of us will rob a bank. But stealing is usually in the little, little things. A little unrighteousness in the way you fill up your tax return.

Nobody's going to catch you. I know many people who come from India who have an income in India, which they are supposed to reveal, but there's no way for the IRS here to find out all those details. And so

they won't reveal it.

Or if they reveal their way, reveal a little. Okay, you can fool the IRS, but I cannot imagine a Christian like that. I wonder if he'll even go to heaven.

Quite honestly, I'll tell you. No liars. It says, do you know it says in Revelation 22 that no liar can enter heaven? Have you read that? Do you know one thing that the first sin mentioned in the Bible is what? It's not eating of the tree.

No. The first sin mentioned in the Bible is a lie. And that lie is what Satan said.

You will not die if you eat this tree. That's the first sin. What is the last sin mentioned in the Bible? You read Revelation chapter 22.

All those who go to hell, those who tell lies. Read it sometime. It's serious.

We have to be very careful that we don't steal. Very often we tell lies in order to steal something which doesn't rightfully belong to us. All my life, I was very strict in India with whatever little income I got to pay my taxes.

Exactly. Never, never cheat even one rupee. I don't believe there'll be a blessing on my life or the way I use my money.

If I earn something, save a little bit of tax here by telling a lie. God will bless me a million times more. What is there? The silver and the gold are his.

And I proved in my life the faithfulness of a heavenly father if you honor him. God says, if you honor me, I'll honor you. Please remember that.

Don't ever steal. Don't ever, one part of stealing is where you borrow something and never return it. I've seen that with so many Christians who are so careless.

It could be a book. You borrow it and you completely forget to return it. It's not yours.

It's these little, you say, oh, who's bothered? God's not interested. He certainly is. Because it shows a certain attitude you have towards things that don't belong to you.

If it doesn't belong to you, you must return it. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not tell a lie.

And I interpret that in the New Covenant as, don't give a wrong impression of your spirituality to other people. That's a false witness. Giving people the impression that you're a very spiritual man when you're a downright hypocrite at home.

That's a false witness. You shall not bear false witness to your neighbor. You shall not give a wrong impression to your neighbor.

You know you can tell a lie without opening your mouth. You know the first sin committed in the early church described in the Bible? The first sin committed in the early church was when a man told a lie without opening his mouth. Ananias came and put some money on the floor along with everybody who was giving 100%.

He gave about 50%. But he didn't open his mouth. He just pretended it was 50%.

Quietly, he went away. And Peter said, come back here. Ananias, why have you told a lie? You read Acts chapter 5. Ananias said, I never said anything.

I never opened my mouth. Oh, yes. Your whole behavior here was a lie.

And he dropped dead. Somebody asked me once, question answer time in a church. Brother Zach, why doesn't God punish people like that today? I said, there'll be hardly anybody left in the church if God does that.

Thank God he doesn't do it like that today. There's so much of hypocrisy in the church. And finally, the 10th one, you shall not desire anything that's your neighbor's.

If you find something good in your neighbor's house, go home. Go and buy it. Don't covet it.

Don't covet, oh, I hope somebody will give me this as a gift or something. Don't go around expecting people to give you gifts. No.

That's coveting. Be satisfied with what God gives you. Always take this attitude, which I've taken all my life since I became a servant of the Lord.

What I need, God will give me. If I get what I don't need, it will be a problem for me in my life. What I need, my God will supply all your need, Philippians 4:19.

He won't give you all you want. The promise is all that you need. Beautiful expression.

All your need, Philippians 4:19. My God will supply it. Dear brothers and sisters, those are the 10 commandments in New Testament terms.

May God help you.

Video: <https://sermonindex2.b-cdn.net/lmJvk11o5Ok.mp4>

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