

REFLECT: 10 Guidelines of Life (Exodus 20:1-17)

***Ten Reasons
God Knows
What He Is Doing***



READ: ¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes ¹¹ and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. ¹² Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death. ¹³ They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.’ Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain.”’ Exodus 19:10-13

“All these blessings will come on you and accompany you **IF** you obey the Lord your God:

³ You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴ The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

⁵ Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

⁶ You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

⁷ The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

⁸ The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

⁹ The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, **IF** you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. Deuteronomy 28:2-9 (NIV)

*“The God you worship will shape the values you hold,
and the values you hold will shape the lifestyle that you choose.”*

And God spoke all these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

#1: ³ “**You shall have no other gods before (besides) me.**
- God must be the ultimate authority if we are to embrace his moral code.

#2: ⁴ “**You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything** in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

- “Other gods” are anything that we “worship” more than God—money, power, love, education, a nation, or art.

#3: ⁷ “**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God,** for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

- Hebraic translation literally reads, “You shall not *carry* the Lord’s name in vain,” meaning do not commit evil in God’s name.

#4: ⁸ “**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**
⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

- This “reminder” uplifts mankind more than any other commandment. For most of history, life consisted overwhelmingly of work, and human beings were essentially beasts of burden. This guideline changed that by insisting that people stop working one day out of seven to rest, strengthen relationships, and enjoy life.

#5: ¹² **"Honor your father and your mother,** so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

- "honoring" has the implication that parents are an important authority in a child's life. One of the greatest acts of love is to "honor" another. In our present Western culture, this idea has given way to more parents wanting to be liked by their children more than being "honored" by them.

What are the three most significant actions a parent can do to influence their child?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



#6: ¹³ **"You shall not murder.**

#7: ¹⁴ **"You shall not commit adultery.**

#8: ¹⁵ **"You shall not steal.**

#9: ¹⁶ **"You shall not give false testimony** against your neighbor.

- This is one the most important values in society. Goodness and compassion may be the highest priorities in the personal realm, but the societal realm, truth is more important (but flows from personal values).

#10: ¹⁷ **"You shall not covet** your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

WEEKLY STUDY CHALLENGE

In what ways are these guidelines/limits/rules/commandments/laws more life giving than restricting?

ILLUSTRATION: How do traffic laws do more good than harm?

Read 1 John 5... How do are actions show our love?

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ² We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³ Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. ⁵ And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 5:1-5 (NLT)

Three reminders we learn in our journey through Exodus:

The redeemed remember...

1. ... How God works through ordinary human beings who are courageously willing to put their trust in Him to do what they could never accomplish on their own.
2. ... The opportunities that struggles and weakness provide to show you God's amazing strength and love.
3. ... The unique ways that God chooses to accomplish his will and extend his mercy to us all in order to fully redeem us!