

A young boy with blonde hair is sleeping peacefully against a large, light-colored dog, likely a Golden Retriever, in a grassy field. The boy is wearing a camouflage-patterned shirt. The dog's head is resting on the boy's shoulder, and its eyes are closed. The background is a soft-focus green field.

God – A Relational Being Who Lives, Reveals, and Responds – Part II.

Exodus 20

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Exodus 20:12 (NKJV)

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

- Honor is כָּבֵד *kābēd* = heavy or, in this case, heavy respect
- To be a progenitor is one of most “God-like” things we can do
- Involves “God-like” responsibility
- Therefore, first level human relationship

A close-up photograph of a hand gripping a knife handle. A large, red, three-dimensional prohibition sign (a circle with a diagonal slash) is superimposed over the knife blade. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Exodus 20:13 (NKJV)
You shall not murder.

- Sanctity of human life
- God alone has the right to take life
- Exceptions:
 - Just war
 - Capital punishment
 - Defense of family

Exodus 20:14 (NKJV)

You shall not commit adultery.



- The priority of covenant faithfulness
- The limitation of human sexual practice



Police

Exodus 20:15 (NKJV)

You shall not steal.

- Recognition of responsible ownership

Exodus 20:16 (NKJV)

You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.

- Responsibility to represent all humans accurately
- Responsibility to interact with all humans truthfully



Exodus 20:17 (NKJV)

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor's.

- חָמַד *chāmadh* = desire, ungoverned desire, take pleasure, selfish desire, delight
- בָּצַע *betsa* ' = covetous, gain unlawfully
- אָוַח *āvāh* = desire selfishly
- Desire regardless of God's will and purpose

Proverbs 21:25-26 (NKJV)

²⁵ The desire of the lazy *man* kills him,
For his hands refuse to labor.

²⁶ He covets greedily all day long,
But the righteous gives and does not
spare.

Jeremiah 8:10 (NKJV)

Therefore I will give their wives to
others,
And their fields to those who will
inherit them;
Because from the least even to the
greatest
Everyone is given to covetousness;
From the prophet even to the priest
Everyone deals falsely.

Joshua 7:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua and said,
“Indeed I have sinned against the Lord
God of Israel, and this is what I have
done: ²¹ When I saw among the spoils a
beautiful Babylonian garment, two
hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of
gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them
and took them. And there they are,
hidden in the earth in the midst of my
tent, with the silver under it.”

Jesus on Covetousness:

And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” (Lk. 12:15 | NKJV)

Peter on Covetousness:

. . . having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. (2 Pet. 2:14 | NKJV)

James on Covetousness:

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members? ² You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures. ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (Jas. 4:1-4 | NKJV)

The Ten Commandments Details the Kind of God Yaweh Is

1. He is the only God
2. He lends Himself to no physical representation
3. He is a God who anticipates reverence
4. He is a God who honors and esteems the family
5. He is a God who expects regular recognition
6. He is preeminently the God of life and death
7. He is a God who perpetuates covenant faithfulness
8. He is a God who recognizes possessions
9. He is a God of absolute truth
10. He is a God who understands that thought precedes action

Which is the Most Important Commandment?

Matthew 22:35-40 (NKJV)

³⁵ Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, ³⁶“Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

³⁷ Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

- Jesus referenced Deuteronomy 6
- Actions arise out of affectionate commitment
- Heart (*kardia*) devotion, affection
- Soul (*psychē*) – life
- Mind (*dianoia*) – intellectual embrace