

— Exodus 20.1-3 —
Exodus Series 30
The First Word

Ex 20 ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ You shall have no other gods before Me.”

► **We come** today to the first of what is commonly called the ten commandments, which is more accurately called the ten _____ (1), which include more than commandments.

Ex 20 ^{5b} “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands [*i.e., thousands of generations*], to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”

► **The first word** begins God’s teaching to his people of what it means to reciprocate his _____:

- By which he created us in his _____ and so richly _____ us through our first parents;
- And when our first parents broke faith with God, he loved us even more by sending his _____ to become one of us, to bear our _____ and suffer death for us, to rise from the dead for us in glorified human life fitted for the presence of God and forever to reign in his name.

► **In redemption** through Christ, God has bestowed on us the full extent of his _____, he has held nothing back, and he has given his full _____, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Eph 3 ¹⁴ I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... ¹⁶ that He would grant ... ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you ... ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1Jn 4 ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins ... ¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God ... ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

Gal 1 ³ [O]ur Lord Jesus Christ ⁴ ... gave Himself for our sins

Jn 14 ¹⁶ “I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth ... ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you ... ²⁰ At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.”

► **All that love** is what God is calling to mind when he begins, not with a command, but a _____ (2).

► **What shall** our response be? “We _____ Him because He first loved us” (1Jn 4.19). That’s what all the _____ concerns, including the ten words.

Mt 22 ³⁷ “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.”

- The ten words give us the _____ structure needed to flesh out what those two great commands mean in real life in a fallen world that God is redeeming.
- In the first three words, God focuses on three things we will _____ do if we truly love God unreservedly.

► **The first thing** we will never do if we love God unreservedly is have any other gods before him (3). “Before him” does not only mean “above him,” it means “in his _____,” the sight of him who sees all things. We shall have no other gods, _____, for there is only one true God, creator of all, ruler over all, and the only savior, and therefore he is our only _____ object of worship, supreme devotion, and ultimate obedience.

► **This is vitally** important, because the Israelites have come out of paganism which holds to many gods – demonic powers within the cosmos.

▪ Pagan worship is _____.

▪ There is no love, relationship, or salvation. There is only _____ and _____.

▪ It is very difficult for the Israelites to _____ out of this pagan way of thinking. No matter what God does for them, they remain transactional – focusing only on the latest hardship and how they can complain and _____ to get what they want.

► **Add to that** the fact that Mt Sinai is a betrothal ceremony, in which God is taking to himself a spiritual bride who committed spiritual _____ against him before. God has redeemed his unfaithful bride, but she really knows nothing about what it means to _____ all others and love the one true God who has loved her and redeemed her.

► **The whole** impetus for the ten words is, having received all God's love by which he has given us his whole self, shall we not love him with _____ our love and give our whole _____ to him?

Rm 12 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Dt 30 ¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers"

▪ This is _____ language. There are _____ witnesses. We must _____ all others and cleave only to the LORD, who is our _____, our future, and the restoration of all God's glorious intentions.

▪ We are always cleaving to something. The _____ deceives and flatters us into believing that we are independent.

► **This is part** of the devil's _____.

• Big picture, it is the devil living up to his _____, the accuser – the false accuser.

• Play #1: False accusation disguised as sincere _____.

Gn 3.1 "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Mt 4.3 "If [*i.e.*, *since*] you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

"[W]hat exactly happened the night before [Charlie] died[?] Why was Erica being so weird about providing a sensible alibi for her whereabouts on September eighth? Why did nobody see her when somebody else believes they did see her at Fort Huachuca?" (*Candace Owens Podcast Episode 307 at 21:20–21:36, Feb 12, 2026, accessed Mar 28, 2006, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=1286&v=1hcjQGgvxUY>*).

• Play #2: The _____ of neutral ground.

• Play #3: Multiplying accusations as though they are _____.

Gn 3.4 "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it, you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Mt 4.5-8 "If [*i.e.*, *since*] you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down [from the pinnacle of the temple]. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone' ...

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

Exo 23.2 You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to join with a crowd to pervert justice.

► **How did Jesus** overcome the devil's playbook? By fulfilling the _____ as explained in Dt 30.19-20.