

## “The Ten Commandments (Part 12 – Christ and the Commandments)”

As we wrap up this series on The Ten Commandments, our focus in this teaching is on how Christ considered The Commandments. *Because Jesus fulfilled The Commandments, we must put our faith in Him and follow His Commands.*

Jesus interacted with The Commandments in the following six ways:

1. **Jesus completely fulfilled all The Commandments.** In Matthew 5:17 Jesus said that He did not come to abolish or destroy The Commandments, instead, He came to fulfill and accomplish them. A commentator writes, *“We are not capable of keeping even a single Commandment with perfect integrity. But Jesus kept them all, down to the last detail, and He did it on our behalf. If we are joined to Him by faith, then God regards us as if we had kept the whole law perfectly. For Christ was crucified ‘in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us.’ (see Romans 8:4a).”*
2. **Jesus deepened The Commandments by applying them to the heart.** In Matthew 5, Jesus equated murder with anger, and adultery with lust. Resolve that it’s not just a matter of outward compliance, it must come from the inside out.
3. **Jesus distilled all The Commands into two.** In answer to a question about which is the greatest Commandment in the Law, Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-40: *“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.’”* The first four Commandments represent love for God, while the final six call us to love our neighbors. Everything that God asks of His people is impossible if they do not love Him with everything and love their neighbors as themselves.
4. **Jesus paid the penalty we deserve for breaking The Commands.** One of the purposes of God’s Commands is to show how short we fall of His holy standards. By the death of the sinless Son of God justice was fully satisfied so believers can be declared “righteous.” If you sin just once in your life, you’re no longer qualified to meet God’s requirements on your own. The good news of the Gospel is that you don’t have to, because Jesus did it all for you—so put your faith in Him.
5. **Jesus expects His followers to live out His Commands.** Jesus said in John 14:15, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* Once we are saved, we have the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Word of God and the amazing grace of God enabling us to live out His Commands. Keep in step with the Spirit.
6. **Jesus used The Commandments evangelistically (to bring people to salvation).** Before someone becomes convinced of their need for the Savior they must see their utter sinfulness. Jesus did this with the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-22. Tragically, though, he thought his own goodness would merit him eternal life, and we walked away from Jesus and salvation because he loved something more than Jesus. A lot of people go to hell believing they’re good. Don’t ever think too little of Jesus and too much of yourself. Out

of His great love for us, Jesus reveals where we fall short. But until you agree with the Lord that you're a sinner, you'll never see your need for the Savior. Accepting Jesus is not just adding Jesus—it's also subtracting idols.

## **Discussion Guide/Action Steps**

1. Praise God for the sinless Savior, Jesus!
2. Love God. Love yourself. Love others.
3. Admit that you miss God's mark of perfection. Confess your need for the Savior.
4. Do you confess that you're a sinner, and you need a Savior? Do you believe in the One whom God has sent (Jesus) to take away your sins and to be the Savior of your soul (see John 6:28-29)?