



# **The Ten Commandments:**

## **Commandments 1-3**

# The Ten Commandments

- ▶ God chose the Israelites, descendants of Abraham, to be people particularly holy to Himself.
- ▶ To them was given the promise of the Messiah, who would be the Savior of the whole world.
- ▶ Therefore, they needed to be especially holy because the Savior would be born through them.

# The Ten Commandments

- ▶ To teach His people to be holy, God gave them the Ten Commandments, making a covenant.
- ▶ God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments after freeing them from bondage in Egypt
- ▶ Moses was entrusted with them - he received them from God on Mt. Sinai

# The Ten Commandments

- ▶ The Commandments are known as the *Decalogue* meaning the ten statements but also as **God's Law**.
- ▶ There are two parts of the Ten Commandments – we can think of them as tables.

# The Ten Commandments

- The **First** table is composed of Commandments **1-3**, which teach us about the right relationship we are to have with God. These Commandments will be explored in today's lesson.
- The **Second** Table is composed of Commandments **4-10**, which teach us how to live in peace and holiness with each other. We will discuss these in future lessons.

# The Ten Commandments

- The Ten Commandments are found listed in two places in the Bible: **Exodus 20:2-17**, and **Deuteronomy 5:6-21**.

## First Table

1. You shall worship the Lord your God and Serve Him only.
2. You shall not use the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.



# The right relationship we are to have with God

- ▶ Christ echoed the first three commandments parallel when He said:  
“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind” (Luke 10:27).
- ▶ The first three commandments teach us how we ought to relate to God, what honors and dishonors Him.

# The First Commandment

- *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them.*
- Exodus 20:2-5



# The First Commandment

- ▶ By keeping the first commandment we enter into a unique relationship with the one God.
- ▶ He claims us as His people and beloved children, as we love and adore Him above all other things in our lives.

# The First Commandment

- ▶ Keeping the first commandment leads to a life of adoration of God, prayer, and sacrifice.
- ▶ How is this commandment broken?

By placing anyone or anything in place of God in our lives or by failing to give due honor to God, through **greed, idolatry, superstition, divination, witchcraft, magic, atheism or agnosticism**.



# Sins against the First Commandment

- ▶ **Superstition**: Attributing inherent powers to things that in themselves are only externals. e.g. black cats
- ▶ **Idolatry**: Idolatry consists in attributing divine attributes to anything other than God. We commit idolatry whenever we honor and revere a thing in place of God – power, pleasure, money



# Sins against the First Commandment

► **Divination/Magic:** Recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, and recourse to mediums



# Sins against the First Commandment

- ▶ **Atheism**: Atheism consists of a denial or rejection of God's existence.
- ▶ **Agnosticism**: professes an ignorance as to God's existence.

# The Second Commandment

- ▶ *“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”*
  - Exodus 20:7
- ▶ The second commandment forbids the abuse of God's name, but also of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary and all the saints.
- ▶ It also forbids false oaths, which are promises made falsely in God's name.

# The Second Commandment

- ▶ The holiness of God's name demands that we neither use it for trivial matters nor dishonor it once it is invoked.
- ▶ When an oath is required by an illegitimate civil authority, it may be refused. It may also be refused when it is required for purposes contrary to the dignity of persons



# Sins against the second commandment

- ▶ **Blasphemy**: uttering reproach, defiance or ill words against God, and abusing His name. It extends to things spoken against the Church of Christ, the saints and sacred things in general.
- ▶ **False oaths**: calling God's holy name to witness a falsehood, or making magical use of the divine name.
- ▶ **Perjury**: making a promise under oath with no intention of keeping it, or failing to keep a promise made under oath.

# The Third Commandment

- ▶ *“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work.”*
- Exodus 20:8-10

# The Third Commandment

- ▶ In the Old Testament, the Sabbath Day recalled Creation, but also the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
- ▶ It served as a sign of God's irrevocable covenant.
- ▶ By the Sabbath, a portion of time was set aside and sanctified for the praise of God and the remembrance of His saving actions

# The Third Commandment

- ▶ In the New Testament, the Sabbath is the first day of the week (Sunday) upon which the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.
- ▶ Sunday worship observes the natural moral commandment to render God outward, visible, public and regular worship.

# The Third Commandment

- ▶ When we worship and contemplate God, we transcend our merely physical existence and conform ourselves more to the image of God, Who is Spirit.
- ▶ It has always been seen as fitting for Sunday to refrain from what the Church calls “servile labor.”
- ▶ This is due to the fact that servile labor tends to focus us on matters of this world and distract us from worship and love of God.

# The Third Commandment

- ▶ However, the restriction on servile labor does *not* apply to good works and humble service to the sick, poor, elderly and infirm, nor does it apply to activities done in spending leisure time with one's family and relatives.
- ▶ Sunday is meant to be a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind and meditation, which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life.

# The Ten Commandments

- ▶ The first three Commandments are:
  1. You shall worship the Lord your God and Serve Him only.
  2. You shall not use the name of the Lord your God in vain.
  3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.