

If you love me, you will keep my  
commandments.

John 14:15

The Last Seven Commandments  
Love of Neighbor

## DEFINITIONS

Freedom – The genuine ability to choose to do good or evil by a mind undarkened by sin and a will not weakened or enslaved by sin.

Law – Rules of behavior and intention made by God or human authority intended to promote individual virtue and the good of society.

Moral Law – The law made by God for our own happiness and to keep us from turning away from his love.

Natural Law – The moral law written on every human heart that can be known by reason alone.

Revealed Law – The moral law that God has given us through Moses and by Jesus Christ; the Decalogue expresses that law inscribed in the heart of every human person

# The Ten Commandments

- **The last seven commandments are about love of neighbor . . .**
  - Honor your father and mother.
  - You shall not kill.
  - You shall not commit adultery.
  - You shall not steal.
  - You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
  - You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
  - You shall not covet your neighbor's belongings.

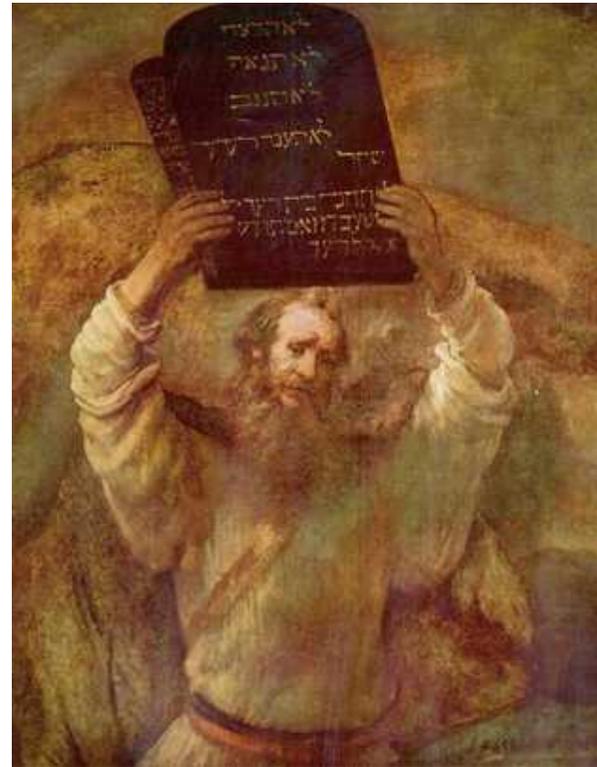


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The Fourth Commandment is the first of the “love of neighbor commandments”, immediately following the 3 “love of God commandments.”

No one, except Adam and Eve, has ever come into the world without a father and a mother.

God has willed that after Him, we should honor our parents to whom we owe life and who have handed on to us the knowledge of God. We are obliged to honor and respect all those whom God, for our good, has vested with His authority.

## The Fourth Commandment

*“Honor your father and your mother.”*

*(Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)*

The Fourth Commandment turns our attention to those precepts of the Decalogue that principally address our relationship with each other.

This commandment is not an arbitrary whim of a capricious God. “Honor your father and your mother” is an injunction that speaks to the very core of human society. As a people, community and nation we can only be as strong, healthy and vital as our families. And our families can only be as vibrant and life-giving as the level of care and respect that we offer to each other beginning with the honor we give to our parents.

## 4. Honor your father and your mother.

- a. When you love someone you love not only them but their family. Love honors and respects the family of the beloved for they gave the beloved life. Love also honors and respects the institution of the family itself, for love, when it matures, will create a new family when it marries. Even non-married love, nonromantic loves, like friendship and charity and kindness, give birth to spiritual children, in a way. Those children are all the benefits given to all the people who will receive the love. For instance, priests, teachers, doctors, nurses, social workers, counselors, rulers, soldiers, lawyers—these are not just *jobs* but *vocations* (literally, “callings”). They are ways of responding to God’s call to live by helping others. They are ways of loving.

Four most happy, prosperous, peaceful and stable societies in history all had two salient characteristics:

- 1 – They were very moralistic – we call them preachy
- 2 – They had a very high view of the family

Mosaic – 3500 years – founded on Judaism

Confucian – 2100 years – founded on Confucianism

Islamic – 1400 years – founded on Islam

Roman – 700 years – founded on Roman polytheism

They were far from perfect but notably more successful & stable than any others in history.

Family & religion are the two main causes of individuals being morally good.

Morally good individuals are the main causes of a good society

Two most crucial causes of common good are  
Morality & Religion

Many today say they are spiritual but not religious

Remember there are many evil spirits in the world

The Fourth Commandment is addressed expressly to children. However it likewise concerns the ties of kinship between members of the extended family. It requires honor, affection and gratitude toward elders and ancestors.

Observing the Fourth Commandment brings its reward: “ Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”

## **The Fourth Commandment commands:**

The Fourth Commandment commands us to respect and love our parents, to obey them in all that is not sinful, and to help them when they are in need. We are also obliged to respect and obey all lawful authority.

# The Fourth Commandment forbids:

## For children:

  All manner of anger and hatred against parents and other lawful authority.

  Provoking [annoying or irritating] them to anger. Grieving them [causing them deep sorrow or distress]. Insulting them [saying something meant to hurt them].

  Neglecting them in their necessity [not helping when needed; not caring for them when they are old].

  Contempt or disobedience to their lawful commands. [Serious disrespect. Acting as if their commands are worthless.]

## For students:

  Disrespect, disobedience, stubbornness, idleness.

  Wasting of time.

# For parents:

- ✍ ✍ Hating their children. Cursing them.
- ✍ ✍ Giving scandal [bad example] to their children.
- ✍ ✍ Allowing children to grow up in ignorance, idleness or sin.
- ✍ ✍ Showing habitual partiality [favoritism] without cause.
- ✍ ✍ Deferring their children's Baptism.
- ✍ ✍ Neglecting to watch over their bodily health, their religious instruction, the company they keep, the books they read, the movies and TV that they see, the electronic games that they play, the Internet sites that they visit, etc.
- ✍ ✍ Failing to correct them when needed.
- ✍ ✍ Being harsh or cruel in correction.
- ✍ ✍ Failing to educate children in the faith, prayer and all the virtues.
- ✍ ✍ Failing to provide for the physical and spiritual needs of the children.

## For husbands and wives:

-   Putting obstacles to the fulfillment of religious duties.
-   Lack of gentleness and consideration in regard to each other's faults.
-   Unreasonable jealousy.
-   Neglect of household duties
-   Sulkiness [showing resentment and ill-humor by sullen, withdrawn behavior].
-   Injurious words.

## For employers:

- ✍✍ Not allowing one's employees reasonable time for religious duties and instruction.
- ✍✍ Giving bad example to them or allowing others to do so.
- ✍✍ Withholding their lawful wages.
- ✍✍ Not caring for them in sickness
- ✍✍ Firing them arbitrarily or without cause.

## For the employed:

- ✍✍ Disrespect for employers.
- ✍✍ Lack of obedience in matters where one has bound oneself to obey.
- ✍✍ Waste of time. Neglect of work.
- ✍✍ Waste of employer's property by dishonesty, carelessness or neglect.

## **For professional men and public officials:**

- ✍ ✍ Culpable [blameworthy] lack of knowledge relating to duties of office or profession.
- ✍ ✍ Neglect in carrying out one's duties.
- ✍ ✍ Injustice or partiality.
- ✍ ✍ Exorbitant [beyond what is reasonable and just] fees.

## **For teachers:**

- ✍ ✍ Neglecting the progress of those confided to their care.
- ✍ ✍ Unjust, indiscreet [lacking prudence, unwise], or excessive punishment.
- ✍ ✍ Partiality.
- ✍ ✍ Bad example, loose and false maxims [rules].

## **For all:**

- ✍ ✍ Contempt for the laws of our state and country.
- ✍ ✍ Contempt for the laws of the Church.
- ✍ ✍ Disobedience to lawful authority.

## The Fifth Commandment

*“You shall not kill.”*

*(Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)*

The basic instinct of every living creature is to preserve its life. The natural desire of every living being is to live. This truth finds expression in the common understanding found among all human beings that the life of one individual is not to be taken by another.

## **5. You shall not kill.**

- a. When you love someone you respect their life. It seems pretty obvious that if you love someone you do not kill them. Love says I am happy you exist! Killing says, I am unhappy you exist! Love always chooses life and fights on the side of life against the forces of death.

**God controls human life:** “*Human life is sacred* because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains for ever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being.”

**The unborn are persons:** “Because it should be treated as a person from conception, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed like every other human being.”

**Self-defense is legitimate:** It is legitimate to insist on respect for one's own right to life.

Someone who defends his life is not guilty of murder even if he is forced to deal his aggressor a lethal blow. Legitimate defense cannot only be a right but a grave duty for someone responsible for another's life, the common good of the family or of the state.

**Capital punishment should be avoided:** “ If bloodless means are sufficient to defend human lives against an aggressor and to protect public order and the safety of persons, public authority should limit itself to such means, because they better correspond to the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity to the dignity of the human person.”

## **The Fifth Commandment commands:**

The Fifth Commandment commands us to take proper care of our own spiritual and bodily well being and that of our neighbor. The Fifth Commandment obliges us to show love for our neighbor by respecting his person and not injuring him in any way.

## **The Fifth Commandment forbids:**

✂ ✂ Unjust taking of human life – murder, suicide, abortion, euthanasia.

✂ ✂ Kidnapping, hostage taking, terrorism and torture.

✂ ✂ Violence in thought [violent TV shows, movies, Internet sites, video games, songs, etc.], word or act which may lead to unjust taking of human life.

✂ ✂ Exposing life or limb to danger without reasonable cause [dangerous pranks, doing something dangerous to yourself or others because someone dared you to do it]

✂ ✂ Reckless driving.

✂ ✂ Carelessness in leaving about poisons, dangerous drugs, weapons, etc. [where children, especially, may be harmed or do harm to someone else]

- ✂ ✂ Desires of revenge, anger [getting even with someone]
- ✂ ✂ Fighting [physical], quarrels [verbal], hatred [against individuals or groups of people]
- ✂ ✂ Showing aversion or contempt for others.
- ✂ ✂ Refusal to speak to someone when addressed [due to anger or hatred].
- ✂ ✂ Ignoring offers of reconciliation, especially between relatives
- ✂ ✂ Insults – irritating words and actions.
- ✂ ✂ Sadness at another's prosperity.
- ✂ ✂ Rejoicing at another's misfortune.
- ✂ ✂ Jealousy at attention shown to others.
- ✂ ✂ Tyrannical behavior [harsh, cruel, unjust, oppressive behavior].
- ✂ ✂ Bad example [causing others to sin by word or example].
- ✂ ✂ Gluttony [eating too much], drunkenness [drinking too much].
- ✂ ✂ Misuse of drugs.
- ✂ ✂ Injury to health by over-indulgence [overdoing it].
- ✂ ✂ Giving drink to others, knowing they will abuse it.
- ✂ ✂ Refusing assistance to someone in danger.

The Sixth and Ninth Commandments work together. What the Sixth Commandment forbids in action, the Ninth Commandment forbids in thought or desire.

**Prevalence of these sins:** “More souls go to Hell for sins of the flesh than for any other reason.” Our Lady to Jacinta Marto, Fatima, 1917.

**Chief dangers to the virtue of chastity:** Idleness, sinful curiosity, bad companions, drinking, immodest dress, indecent books, plays, movies, video games, Internet sites, TV shows and even some types of music.

**Chief means of preserving the virtue of chastity:** Avoid carefully all unnecessary dangers and temptations; seek God’s help through prayer, frequent confession, Holy Communion, assistance at Holy Mass and have a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

# The Sixth Commandment

*“You shall not commit adultery.”*

*(Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18)*

The Sixth Commandment speaks of the relationship of a man and woman who choose to be husband and wife and the founders of a family. On this relationship is based not only their love but the future of their lives together and the family that they hope to nurture. A unique and essential element in their relationship is their human sexuality.

The Sixth Commandment reaffirms the centrality of faithful love and imposes on husband and wife the obligation to keep their marriage exclusive and indissoluble.

## The Ninth Commandment

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.”*

*(Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21)*

“You have heard the commandment ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ What I say to you is: Anyone who looks lustfully at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his thoughts” (Matthew 5:27-28).

The Ninth Commandment calls us to that purity of heart proclaimed by the sixth beatitude. Not just our actions, but our intentions, our motives and our hearts need to be washed clean every day in the blood of Christ’s loving sacrifice.

## 6. You shall not commit adultery.

- a. When you love someone you respect their body. Love is pure and faithful and does not cheat. When love matures into marriage love says “I give the whole of myself to the whole of you. I do not give part of myself to another. Love says to the beloved, “This is my body” and in this gift creates the power to make new human beings together with the beloved. Love does not trivialize sex and use it just for ‘recreation’ or ‘fun’, but gives itself totally and exclusively and faithfully to the beloved – and thus love discovers an incredibly deep happiness that far transcends “fun”. Total joy comes from total self-giving and pure joy comes from pure self-giving. I remember the old rhyme, Joe and Rea sitting under a tree kissing, first comes love and then comes marriage and then they come pushing a baby carriage. Put that on Facebook and see how quickly you will be attacked!

## **9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.**

- a. When you love someone you are content with them. Love does not regret giving all of itself to one and does not covet or desire another. Total love does not split itself into parts and send parts of itself out to the other besides the beloved, even in the mind. Wishing you had married another person is like wishing you worshipped another God.

## **The Sixth Commandment forbids:**

✍✍ All impurity and immodesty in words, looks and actions, whether alone or with others.

✍✍ Offenses against marriage: Adultery [sexual relations between married people who are not married to each other], divorce, polygamy [having more than one wife] and free union [living together without being married].

✍✍ Offenses against chastity: Lust [sexual desire outside of marriage], pornography [third party viewing of sexual relations], homosexuality [sexual relations between people of the same sex].

✍✍ Any other form of unmarried sexual action.

## **The Ninth Commandment forbids:**

✍✍ All thoughts and desires contrary to chastity.

## The Seventh Commandment

*“You shall not steal.”*

*(Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19)*

The Seventh Commandment clearly calls us to the practice of justice and love in caring for all of God’s creation and to a profound respect for the fruits of human initiative and human labor. It is a commandment that reminds us of our social, cultural and economic interdependence and challenges us to live out God’s plan in such a way that the human family will live together in peace, justice and harmony.

## The Tenth Commandment

*“You shall not covet anything  
that belongs to your neighbor.”*

*(Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21)*

The Tenth Commandment brings us face to face with the whole world of our desires, intentions and motivations.

The Tenth Commandment forbids us to covet the goods of others. Covetousness leads to the violence and injustice forbidden by the Fifth Commandment.

Some years ago there was a song that had as its refrain “You can’t go to jail for what you’re thinking.” Perhaps not, but one can easily go to hell for what one thinks in preferring evil to goodness. The Tenth Commandment challenges us to change our lives so completely that we manifest the presence of Christ in our hearts and minds as well as in our lives and actions.

# The Seventh and Tenth Commandments work together.

The Tenth Commandment makes it easy to keep the Seventh Commandment by telling us not even to desire the property of our neighbor.

**Danger of riches:** Remember Christ's warning on the danger of riches. Anyone who desires to be rich in having more material possessions than he needs, will find it difficult to respect the property of others. The more we love the things of this earth, the harder we shall find it to love God. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21).

## **7. You shall not steal.**

- a. When you love someone you respect their property. Love respects the beloved's personal property because love respects the very person of the beloved. Love is not a taker but rather a giver!

## **10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.**

- a. Love is not greedy after things, especially things that belong to others. Just as love does not want to commit adultery, love does not want to steal. Love loves people and not things. It uses things and not people. It uses things for people and not people for things.

**Man's dominion over creation:** God has given man dominion over the mineral, vegetable and animal resources of the Universe. Thus, treating animals with kindness and caring for the resources of the Universe for future generations are required by the Seventh Commandment.

**Human beings can never be considered property:** The moral law forbids the enslavement or the buying and selling of human beings as if they were property.

**Restitution:** In justice, one must return stolen goods.

**Reparation:** In justice, one must repair the damage caused to the property of another.

## **The Seventh Commandment commands:**

The Seventh Commandment commands us to respect what belongs to others, to live up to our business agreements, and to pay our just debts.

## **The Tenth Commandment commands:**

The Tenth Commandment commands us to detach ourselves from earthly riches.

# The Seventh Commandment forbids:

-   Stealing. Shoplifting.
-   Unjust keeping of what belongs to others.
-   Keeping of goods known to be stolen.
-   Keeping something that was originally borrowed.
-   Keeping something that was found without making a reasonable effort to return it or find the owner.
-   Unjust, careless or malicious [with evil intent] damage to the property of others.
-   Delay in paying lawful debts or in making restitution when able to make it. Neglect to make reasonable efforts and sacrifices to pay back debts or make restitution.

  Cheating in business or at play [or sports].

  Charging exorbitant [unreasonably high] prices.

  False weights and measures. [For example, knowingly selling a “10 lbs. bag of potatoes” that really contains only 9 lbs.]

  Adulteration of wares [ Examples: knowingly selling products that contain ingredients that are not listed on the label, knowingly selling gasoline that has water in it, knowingly selling “fresh food” that is not fresh.]

  Accepting of bribes by public officials.

  Concealment of fraud [deceiving someone into giving up property or money], theft or damage when one is duty bound to give information.

## The Tenth Commandment forbids:

  All desire to take or to keep unjustly what belongs to others, and also forbids envy at their success.

  Greed [desire to amass earthly goods] and avarice [passion for riches and the accompanying power].

  Envy [sadness at the sight of another's goods and the wrongful desire to have them for oneself].

## The Eighth Commandment

*“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”*

*(Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20)*

The 20th century, an era of mass and almost unending communications, is an age that needs to understand, accept and respect the divine injunction that when we deal with each other and speak to and about each other, we do so fully aware that “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

**8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

- a. When you love someone you respect their mind and you do not lie to them. Love never lies but lives in the truth.

Christ said “I am the way and the truth and the life.” He died on the Cross for the truth.

The Eighth Commandment tells us to love truth and to show love for others by respecting their reputation.

**Living in truth:** The Old Testament attests that *God is the source of all truth*. His Word is truth. His Law is truth. His “faithfulness endures to all generations.” Since God is “true,” the members of his peoples are called to live in the truth.

**Martyrdom:** Martyrdom is the supreme witness given to the truth of the faith: it means bearing witness to the truth even unto death.

**Lying:** Lying is the most direct offense against the truth. The Lord denounces lying as the work of the devil. One of the names of the devil is the “Father of Lies”.

**Is it ever permissible to tell a lie?** We may *never* tell a lie. When people have a right to know the truth, we must tell them the truth, even though we have to suffer for it. When they have no right to know the truth, or when we have to keep a secret, we may answer evasively, or throw them off the track, but we may never directly make a false statement.

**What must a person do who has sinned by detraction or calumny or told a secret he is bound to keep?** This person must repair the harm done to his neighbor, as far as he is able. The same is true of all sins committed against truth.

**Is the right to know the truth unconditional?** No. We need to judge, based on the Golden Rule, whether it is appropriate to reveal the truth to someone who asks for it. The good and safety of others, respect for privacy, the duty to avoid scandal and the good of all concerned are sufficient reasons for being silent about what ought not to be known or for making use of discreet language.

No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have a right to know it.

## **The Eighth Commandment commands:**

The Eighth Commandment commands us to speak the truth in all things, but especially in what concerns the good name and honor of others.

# The Eighth Commandment forbids:

- ✍✍ Lies [speaking a falsehood with the intention of deceiving].
- ✍✍ Malicious falsehoods [falsehoods that are intended to harm another].
- ✍✍ Boasting or bragging [are offenses against truth].
- ✍✍ Irony [aimed at belittling someone by maliciously characterizing their behavior].
- ✍✍ Flattery [excessive, untrue or insincere praise] or adulation [flattery which attempts to control another person], which confirms another in malicious acts or perverse conduct.
- ✍✍ Perjury [lying under oath] and false witness [lying in court].
- ✍✍ Rash judgment [believing something harmful to another's character without sufficient reason].

- ✍✍ Baseless accusations [accusing someone of something that they are clearly not guilty of just to cause them trouble].
- ✍✍ Detraction [making known the hidden faults of another without good reason].
- ✍✍ Calumny or slander [injuring the good name of another by lying].
- ✍✍ Encouraging detraction or slander in others.
- ✍✍ Refusing or delaying to restore the good name we have injured.
- ✍✍ Telling of secrets we are bound to keep. [We are bound to keep secrets when we have promised to do so, when our office requires it, or when the good of another demands it. For example, trade secrets and the secret of the Sacrament of Reconciliation]
- ✍✍ Frauds [deceiving someone into giving up property or money], public and private.

**Questions or Comments ?**