

The Ten Commandments #1

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Originally done in 1996

Preached again in 2015 – July 5, 2015

LESSON ONE

An Introduction

I. OPENING REMARKS

- A. Exodus 20:1-2 *And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*
- B. These are not the ten suggestions. They are commandments from God, and they are to be kept.
 1. Deut. 11:8 *Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;*
 2. Psalm 19:8 *The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

II. GOD IS OUR LORD

A. God Had Chosen Israel

1. Exod. 3:7 *And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;*
2. Deut. 7:6 *For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

B. God Took Care of Israel

1. Exod 23:20 *Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.*
2. Isa. 42:6 *I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;*

C. God Was Testing Israel

1. Jer. 6:27 *I have set thee for a tower and a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way.*
2. Dan. 11:35 *And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.*
3. Zech. 13:9 *And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

D. God Loved Israel

1. Isa. 43:4 *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have*

- loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.*
2. Jer. 31:3 *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

III. GOD DELIVERED THEM FROM EGYPT

- A. This is the greatest thing that ever happened to Israel.
 1. Ex 20:2 *I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*
- B. These commandments are mainly for those who have been delivered.
 1. We have been delivered from our sins, the greatest deliverance.
 2. Lev. 22:33 *That brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD.*
 3. God is saying here in essence, "I have delivered you; therefore, I am your LORD."
 4. Our deliverance is threefold: 2 Cor. 1:10 *Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*

IV. JESUS AND THE LAW

- A. Jesus came not to destroy but to fulfill the law – Matt 5:17 *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*
- B. Jesus was challenged concerning the law – Matt. 22:36-40 *Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*
- C. The Law Came By Moses – John 1:17 *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*
- D. Jesus Became A Curse For Us – Gal. 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*
- E. Jesus Made Under The Law – Gal. 4:4-5 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

V. PHARISEES AND THE LAW

- A. Matt 23:23 *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

VI. REASON FOR THE LAW

- A. That Sin May Abound – Rom. 5:20 *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*
- B. To Bring Us To Christ – Gal. 3:24 *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

VII. INSUFFICIENCY OF THE LAW

- A. Rom. 2:20-21 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*
- B. Rom. 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*
- C. Rom. 7:14 *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

VIII. THE LAW'S EFFECT UPON THE BELIEVER

- A. Righteousness Not My Own (Law) – Phil. 3:9 *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*
- B. Deliverance Without The Law – 2 Cor. 1:10 *Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*
- C. Translation Without The Law – Col. 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*
- D. Hope Without The Law – 1 Thess. 1:10 *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us (hope) from the wrath to come.*

The Ten Commandments #2

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – 9/15/1996 and 7/12/2015

LESSON TWO

Commandment #1 – Exodus 20:3 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In Adrian Roger's book "Ten Secrets For A Successful Family" he speaks about a Mush god. He quotes Nicholas Van Hoffman, saying, "The Mush God has no theology to speak of, being a Cream of Wheat divinity. The Mush God has no particular credo, no tenets of faith, nothing that would make it difficult for believer and nonbeliever alike to lower one's head when the temporary chairman tells us that Reverend, Rabbi, Father, or Mufti, or So-and-So will lead us in an innocuous, harmless prayer, for this god of public occasions is not a jealous god. You can even invoke him to start a hooker's convention and he/she or it won't be offended."
- B. This is the kind of God that the average American has.
- C. Some Statistics on Attendance:
 - 1. Christianity Today in 2014
 - 2. About 70% of high school kids stopped going to church after graduation.
 - 3. The upside to this is that the survey showed that at least 2/3 of those came back to church after a period of time – some more quickly than others.
 - 4. Indication of the study – "If your student ministry is a four-year holding tank with pizza, don't expect young adults to stick around. If, however, they see biblical teaching as relevant and see the church as essential to their decisions, they stay.
 - 5. . . . or they return after a time.
- D. Some Statistics on Standards
 - 1. Josh McDowell gave a survey a few years ago (and I could not find a current one) to some church-going youth and found out some startling things.
 - a. 57% said there was no standard of truth.
 - b. 8.5% said that just because it is wrong for you doesn't mean it is wrong for me.
 - c. 55% said everything is negotiable.
 - d. In other words, ideas about right and wrong are "subject to change."
- E. Psalm 11:3 *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
- F. Ted Turner said that the Ten Commandments are outdated and what we need is "Ten Voluntary Initiatives."
- G. We do not serve a Mush god. We serve Jehovah God, a jealous God, the God of Israel. We are serving the Creator of all things. We are speaking of a God who thundered his commandments from Mt. Sinai. He did not suggest them, he commanded them.
- H. With that in mind, let's consider the first of these Ten Commandments.

II. IT IS A PRIORITY COMMANDMENT

- A. It is of high priority because it is the first commandment.
- B. It is of high priority because it is from God Himself.
- C. It is of high priority because it is written with the finger of God – Exod. 31:18 *And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.*
- D. It is of high priority because God has proven who He is.
 - 1. He had shown his superiority over the false gods of Egypt
 - 2. God had every right to demand Israel's highest loyalty
- E. It is of high priority because there is but one God
 - 1. All other gods are the inventions or imaginations of men
 - 2. This God is invisible; others had their representatives of creatures from nature, but God is spirit (John 4:24).
 - 3. This is the reason that God told them not to make any likeness of Him.
- F. How do we know there is only one God?
 - 1. The Bible tells us there is only one God.
 - a. Mal. 2:10 *Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*
 - b. Deut. 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:*
 - c. We need no physical proof of the existence of God, and we need to know that there is no physical proof that there is no God.
 - 2. Creation tells us there is only one God.
 - a. Laws of nature are God's laws
 - b. Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*
 - 3. Faith tells us there is only one God
 - a. The atheist believes by faith that there is no God. We as Christians believe by faith that there is a God.
 - b. We have the witness of the Holy Spirit within us – Rom. 8:16 *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*
 - c. Heb. 11:3 *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*

III. IT IS THE PROPER COMMANDMENT

- A. This is the proper commandment, because it demands that we worship this only one God.
 - 1. Phil. 3:3 *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*
 - 2. This one God is the only true God, the only one that exists, who is both transcendent and immanent.
 - a. Transcendence – Isaiah 55:9 *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*
 - b. Immanence – Rom. 15:33 *Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

3. Israel is not to bring any other gods into Israel except Jehovah God Himself.
 - a. Exod. 23:13 *And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.*
 - b. Deut 11:16 *Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;*
4. While in Egypt, Israel were amazed with the gods of the Egyptians. They had grown up with these gods, so this commandment was proper for them. It was needed, because Israel had been used to many gods.
5. Today our children are introduced to many gods. That's the reason that this commandment is proper even in our own day.
6. Even today, when the Jewish man worships, he takes out a little box called a phylactery and ties it around his head and another one on his hand or arm. This is to remind him that he serves only one God.

IV. IT IS THE PRESENT COMMANDMENT

- A. This commandment is just as valid today as it was in the day when Moses received it on Mt. Sinai.
- B. This commandment will remind us that we serve no other gods but Jehovah God. As a result, we will . . .
 1. Be obedient to him – Acts 5:30-32 *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*
 2. Allow nothing to come between us and Him; only one thing is to be between us and God, our Mediator – 1 Tim. 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*
 3. Know that he deserves top priority in our lives – Acts 27:23 *For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,*
- C. We must remember that, although eight of the commandments are negative, there is a positive effect in each one.
 1. Every time God says, "Thou shalt not," he is saying, "Don't hurt yourself."
 2. Every time God says, "Thou shalt," he is saying, "Help yourself to happiness."
- D. Notice this verse that brings this commandment into our present day – Deut. 6:7 *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*
- E. So, we are to teach these commandments to our children.
 1. They are not permitted on the walls of our schools.
 2. But they are allowed on the walls of our homes.
 3. They are encouraged on the walls of prisons
 4. GET A COPY
- F. Read in closing – 1 John 5:2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we*

love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

The Ten Commandments #3

Commandment #2

Exodus 20:4 *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:*

Sept. 22, 1996 – July 19, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

I. THE COMMANDMENT TO TRUE WORSHIP

- A. The first commandment has to do with whom we worship. This second one has to do with how we worship.
- B. The first commandment has to do with false gods; the second has to do with false worship.
- C. This commandment condemns false worship; therefore, it commands true worship.
- D. So, we are to teach our children to worship in truth – John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*
- E. The violinist Fritz Kreisler heard that an old Englishman possessed a Stradivarius violin, a very rare and beautiful instrument. When Kreisler visited the old Englishman and saw the violin, he asked if he could buy it, but the old man said it was not for sale. Later Kreisler went back and asked, “If I can’t buy the violin, may I touch it?” The old Englishman invited him in his house and allowed Kreisler to handle the violin. Kreisler played the violin as only a master can do. After a few moments, the old man began to weep from the beauty of the sound of the violin. Kreisler says, “Now may I buy the violin?” The old man said, “No, you may not buy it, but you may have it. You are the master, and you are the only one who deserves it.”
- F. That’s the way it is with our God. He is the only one who deserves true and deep worship from the hearts of those who love him.
- G. Idolatry leads to murder (abortion) – Jeremiah 19:1-5

II. THE CONFORMITY IN TRUE WORSHIP

- A. Worship is giving worth to a person or object. That’s what we do when we worship God.
- B. Worship is very valuable, because we become like the object of our worship.
- C. So, if we worship idols, we become like idols. If we worship animals, we become like animals. If we worship God, we become like God.
- D. We should learn to worship God in truth; because, if we have a warped concept of God, then we have a warped worship and a warped life.
- E. Idolatry is wrong, because it has the wrong object:
- F. No object can represent a spiritual God. We are to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).
- G. There is not a thing that we can compare to God. God says in Isaiah 40:25 *To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.*
- H. Let’s say a woman walks into a room and sees her husband embracing another woman,

and he says to her, “Now, honey, don’t get the wrong idea. This woman is so beautiful, she reminds me of you. I was really just thinking of you when I was embracing her.”

- I. What kind of response do you think she would have?
- J. If we compare God to anything, then we belittle God in our minds.
- K. But if we compare God only to himself, then we will conform ourselves to him and be more like him as we grow as Christians.

III. THE CONFUSION OF IDOLS

- A. You may say that you have an image, but you don’t worship it.
- B. But the commandment is “Thou shalt not make . . .”
- C. Now many people will say that they do not have any graven images.
 - 1. Me-ology– “loves of their own selves” (2 Tim. 3:2)
 - 2. “Whose God is their belly” (Phil. 3:19)
- D. We build idols of wealth – 1 Cor. 6:10 *Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*
- E. Some make gods of their families – Matt. 10:37 *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*
- F. Some make gods of pleasure – *lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God* (2 Tim. 3:4. Sunday has become “Fun-day.”)
- G. In America we have sex idols and music idols and sports idols, but where is our love and admiration for God?
- H. Young children emulate sex idols, music idols, sports idols, but what about emulating God and his word?
- I. No wonder our nation is in so much confusion!

IV. THE CONSEQUENCE OF FALSE WORSHIP

- A. 2 Cor. 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
- B. Uzziah worshipped God falsely, and he was cut off from the house of the LORD. He had no right to do what he did.
- C. God struck Uzziah with leprosy, and he was cut off from the house of the LORD, (2 Chron. 26:21)
- D. His son, Jotham, came to the throne (2 Chron. 27:2). Jotham did not enter into the house of the LORD, and the people did corruptly.
- E. A pattern was shapen for the family. Jotham chose to keep his family out of the house of the Lord. He could study the Bible at home and teach his children religion at home. He did not need the house of the Lord.
- F. Then the grandson, Ahaz, came along (27:9). Now he made molten images for Baalim (28:2). These were the sex gods of Baal.
- G. 2 Chron. 28:24 *And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD,*

and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

- H. Just think! By the time the grandchildren of Uzziah came along, they closed the doors of the house of God. Will our children close the doors of our churches? If we are not consistent in our proper worship, then our children will do worse than we have; and their children will do worse than they will.
- I. The story is not over! Read – 2 Chron. 28:3 *Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.*
- J. Would a generation destroy its own children? Yes, if it worships idols. Today we are destroying our children through abortion. Where did we learn this? From God? No! We learned it from paganism and from the inward depravity that every man has.
- K. This all started with a man who loved God, but he worshiped God in the wrong way. See how important proper worship is?
- L. 2 Tim. 1:5 *When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*

The Ten Commandments #4

Commandment 3 – Exodus 20:7

September 29, 1996 – July 26, 2015

Ronnie Wolfe

Exodus 20:7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain;
for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

I. TAKING HIS NAME IN VOGUE

NOTE: That is, what is the fad or fashion of a name?

A. The Personality In The Name of God

1. Many people have names which have been given them because of their meaning. In Bible times, babies were named as a result of prayer and perhaps some prophecy concerning them and their life.
2. Examples: ADAM means man; HEROD means heroic; JESUS means Jehovah Saves, etc.
3. God is a real person with a real name.
4. When God says, “the LORD thy God,” he is telling us who he is, that he is a real person. He is introducing himself to us.
5. The word Jehovah indicates his promise-keeping ability.
6. It also represents that he has a personal relationship with his people. He is a person.

B. The Power In The Name of God

1. The second word of his name, translated here “thy God,” means Mighty One.
2. This word is plural, and it indicates the multiplicity of his powers and his wonders. This also represents the Trinity.
3. He is telling Israel not to take his name lightly, because it is a personal name, and it is a powerful name.
4. They must depend upon him for their welfare, so they must admire and appreciate him for who he is.
5. David came against Goliath with nothing but the name of the LORD of hosts, and that’s all he needed.

C. Protection In The Name of God

1. Prov. 18:10 *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*
2. Take the name of Jesus with you
Child of sorrow and of woe.
It will joy and comfort give you.
Take it then where’er you go.

Precious Name, oh, how sweet
Hope of earth and joy of heaven

Precious name, oh how sweet
Hope of earth and joy of heaven.

D. Provision In The Name of God

1. John 16:23 *And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.*
2. Fill out the purchase order for what you want and need, send it in Jesus' name; and if it is his will, you will receive it.
3. God provides for us through his name.

E. Praise In The Name of God

1. The Psalmist sings out over and over to the praise of the name of God.
2. Psalm 34:3 *O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.*
3. Read Ezekiel 36:23-24 “. . . I will sanctify my great name.”

II. TAKING HIS NAME IN VANITY

NOTE: To take his name in vain or in vanity means to take it frivolously.
The Hebrew root of this word “vain” indicates the erratic behavior of a storm.

A. By Cursing Words

1. We should never use profanity of any kind, whether it is using the Lord's name or just popular words or phrases.
2. Someone said that cursing shows two things about you: an empty head and a wicked heart.
3. Matt 12:34 *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*
4. What a horrible perversion for a Christian to ask God to damn someone else. Why would a Christian want another person to go to hell?
5. Don't even use second-hand swearing (euphemisms) to curse in a soft way.
6. A story is told about Paul Anderson, a world-champion weight lifter, who was in an airport one day and heard a man use the name of Jesus Christ in anger. Paul went over to him, put his arms tightly around him, lifted him up and said, “Jesus? Where is he? He is a friend of mine.” The man saw who it was and said, “Oh, God.” Paul Anderson answered, “That's him! He's a friend of mine. Where is he?” I am sure the next time this man thought to use God's name in vain he probably looked around to be sure Paul Anderson wasn't there.

B. By Careless Usage

1. Eph 5:3 *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*
2. “Oh, Lord;” “Oh God;” “My God;” or even just “God.”
3. Many times we really do not mean to impart God's blessings. If we do, then that is

fine; but a flippant use of God's name is prohibited by this commandment.

C. By Corrupt Behavior

1. Isaiah 48:1 *Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the LORD, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness.*
2. People mention God a lot, but they do not live what they say.
3. That's the reason that many people say they are tired of church. They see so much hypocrisy in the church.
4. Don't just talk about loving God, live as if you do.
5. When we sing, we are to sing about God in truth. "All to Jesus I surrender" we sing; and yet we live as if Jesus is the last person on our minds.
6. ". . . the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

III. TAKING HIS NAME IN VICTORY

A. Col 3:17 *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

B. We must take the name that is above every name – Phil. 2:9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

C. Three things we must do in taking the name of Jesus:

1. Wear the name
 - a. The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26).
 - b. 2 Tim. 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*
 - c. Don't be afraid to call yourself a Christian, a believer, a saint, a child of God, a son of God, an elect. In doing so, you are taking the name of the LORD.
2. Share the name
 - a. Share his name by your character
 - b. Share his name by your contemplation
 - c. Share his name by your conversation Mal 3:16 *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*
3. Bear his name
 - a. Acts 5:40-42 *And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. 41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. 42 And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*
 - b. George Beverly Shea was asked once to sing his most notable song "How Great Thou Art." He agreed. But the man making the request whispered to him, "You know, we have some people here today who are not Christians. Could you just leave out that verse that says, 'God His Son not sparing?'" George Beverly Shea

said, “Oh, no, I couldn’t leave that out. That would be to deny my Lord. It’s all right. I just won’t sing.” The man said it was all right to sing about Jesus, so Mr. Shea sang the song.

- c. So, let’s take God’s name in victory and wear his name, share his name, and bear his name.

The Ten Commandments #5

Commandment #4

October 6, 1996 – August 2, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

“Giving Time To God: OR “Rest Day Is The Best Day”

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Introduction

We are living in a day of marvelous inventions. We have all kinds of machinery and equipment to save us time, and yet we are busier today seemingly than in any generation before us. Why?

We have instant coffee, instant breakfasts, instant this and that; and people don't even eat anymore. Everyone is on a diet, so meal time takes no effort or time at all. We have electric alarms to wake us up in the morning and smooth music to lull us to sleep at night. We have better vehicles than ever, better highways, better everything; and yet people run out of time.

We scurry around from here to there in such a hurry that we have very little time for our families, relaxation, and for our church.

Many people are so busy that they have nerve problems; they have so many irons in the fire that they are always on edge. They snap and yell at people, even their own children, and they have no time to visit a neighbor or say hello to a friend or call someone who is shut-in.

But there is a cure for this hectic pace. God said, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

This message will have two points: (I) The Perception of the Day, and (II) The Practicality of the Day.

I. THE PERCEPTION OF THE DAY

A. Under this topic we will get a basic understanding of the Sabbath day and what it means to us and to every believer, past, present, and future. The word Sabbath means rest, and we will see it applied in several ways. The Sabbath was a great gift given to Israel in the Old Testament, but they are not the first to use it; God was. Let's notice the Sabbath in four terms in order to understand it a little better: A Christian Rest, A Covenant Rest, A Calvary Rest, A Coming Rest.

B. Creation Rest

1. Gen. 2:1-3 *Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*
2. Did God rest because he was tired? Of course not!
3. His rest was like a music rest. It is not done because the musicians are tired, but to give emphasis to the work and to give reflection upon what has already been played.
4. God looked at his work and saw that it was very good. Gen. 1:31 *And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*
5. God rested to teach us that we need rest, though God doesn't need it.
6. God is always at work. He never ceases working: John 5:17 *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*
7. God is telling us that we are human, and we need a time to reflect upon what we have done the past six days.

C. Covenant Rest

1. This rest pertained to the nation of Israel.
2. The day for their rest was the seventh day, or the last day of the week.
3. This would compare to our Saturday.
4. Exod. 31:13 *Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that [ye] may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.*
5. Exod. 31:16-17 *Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.*
6. This Sabbath was a covenant between God and Israel
7. Some say we should keep Saturday in our day for the Sabbath; but we must remember that to break one of God's Old Testament laws under his theocracy was to experience sudden death – Exod. 31:15 *Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.*
8. Even if you built a fire on the Sabbath day, you were to be put to death Exod. 35:3 *Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the sabbath day.*
9. By the time the Pharisees of the New Testament times came along, they had added to this commandment and made it easy for people to be guilty of breaking this commandment.
10. Adrien Rogers says, "There are thirty-nine words in the Hebrew text of the Fourth Commandment. So the Jews added to the Word of God and found thirty-nine ways to break the Sabbath. But they weren't content with that, so they took each of those ways and broke them down into thirty-nine divisions. When they finished, they had 1,521 ways to break the Sabbath."

11. When Jesus came along, he said in Matt. 15:6, . . . *thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*

D. Calvary Rest

1. When we have our faith in the work of Christ on Calvary, then we are in a Calvary Rest.
2. The Old Testament Covenant Rest is a shadow of this coming rest for all believers in Christ Jesus.
3. It is shadowed from creation in 2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* We are new creatures in Christ.
4. It is shadowed from Israel's covenant Sabbath (the seventh day, or their worship day) in our coming together one day a week to give him praise in singing and in the preaching of the word of God.
5. You see, Jesus did a work on the cross of Calvary, and at the end of that work Jesus said, "It is finished."
6. Yes, it is finished for him; because he now sits at the right hand of the Father, but it is just beginning for us.
7. His work is completely done; redemption is accomplished. That is, the payment for our sins has been made.
8. Col. 2:13-14 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*
9. In Bible times, when a man was found guilty of a crime, the court clerk would record his crime. That document would then be nailed to the door of the man's prison cell, and he would not be released until his debt to society was paid. That paper was called a certificate of debt [Adrian Rogers].
10. But Jesus came to our cell door, our prison, and stamped over our debt 'PAID IN FULL.' It was paid by the precious blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.
11. He redeemed us, from the word APOLUTROS in the Greek, meaning "loosed away from bondage, never to be convicted again."
12. Col. 2:15-17 *And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*
13. Heb. 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*
14. The Old Testament Sabbath was a shadow of good things to come, of which the reality is Jesus' death and his accomplished redemption on the cross.
15. But we have a new day. Many call it The Lord's Day from Revelation 1:10.
 - a. Heb. 4:8 *For if Jesus [Joshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*

- b. This “other” day, which is the eternal day of rest for all believers, is symbolized in our Sabbath, Sunday.
 - c. Heb 4:9 *There remaineth therefore a rest [Sabbath-keeping, or Sabbatism] to the people of God.*
 - d. You see, some people are saved, but they are not holding fast to their profession.
 - e. Several things we must notice about this new day – the first day of the week.
 - (1) Jesus rose again on this day (Mark 16:9)
 - (2) Jesus met with his disciples on this day (John 20:19-26).
 - (3) The disciples were commissioned on this day (John 20:21).
 - (4) The Holy Spirit was given to the apostles on this day (John 20:19-20).
 - (5) The church was baptized in the Holy Spirit on this day (Acts 2:1-2).
 - (6) The early church met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
 - (7) The church collected its offerings on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:2).
 - f. You start this Sabbath as believers did in the New Testament: by attending the assembly, which we call The Lord’s House.
 - g. I don’t believe we should be as the Pharisees and make ten thousand do’s and don’ts for the Sabbath, the Lord’s Day, but I do believe that we should set this day aside for worship and praise to the Lord. This is a day of love, not a day of legalism.
 - h. We as a church have scheduled meetings for the week, and every member of every church should attend as many of those scheduled meetings as possible.
- E. Coming Rest
- 1. Rev. 14:13 *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

II. THE PRACTICALITY OF THE DAY

A. Make This Day A Holy Day

- 1. The New Testament instructs us to assemble together – Heb 10:25 *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting[one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
- 2. Our worship on Sunday should be more important than our work on Monday.
- 3. Many parents are teaching their children that church is for children and not for parents. They send their children to church, but they don’t go themselves.
- 4. The church is the only family that many people have. Here we can encourage one another and help one another and love one another.
- 5. Reserve your Saturday evenings to get ready for Sunday. Don’t make Sunday morning so hectic that you get out of the will of the Lord before you get to the front door of the church.
- 6. Get a good night’s sleep on Saturday night so you will be awake and prepared to worship the Lord on Sunday.

B. Make This Day A Healthy Day

- 1. We are spinning our wheels constantly trying to “get ahead.”

2. We say we have no time to rest, because the ox keeps getting in the ditch.
3. Kill the ox if it keeps you from worshiping God.
4. If you will rest through prayer and worship on Sunday, you will be healthier for it.
This is proven not only in Scripture but also in research.

C. Make This A Happy Day

1. Don't get up and say "Do we have to go to church again?"
2. Listen! We come to the Lord's house to celebrate that Jesus died for our sins and saved us by his grace and placed us in his church through Scriptural baptism. What do we have to be sad about?
3. This should be the happiest day of the week.
4. When you come to church, laugh, talk, enjoy one another, and enjoy the singing of the hymns to give praise to God, and leave with a freedom you haven't had perhaps in a long time.
5. This certainly would be a happy day if someone here could find peace and rest in the Lord Jesus Christ today. By faith in his work on Calvary, through his precious blood, his death, burial and resurrection, you can experience that peace and rest.

Saturday

A Dark Day
A Day of Death
A Day of Law
A Day to Stop

Sunday

A Bright Day
A Day of Life
A Day of Grace
A Day to Begin

No Old Testament Sabbath was legitimately kept, because no one perfectly kept the required "six days thou shalt work." Only God did that when he created the world, and He truly rested on the seventh day.

But Sunday is a Sabbath that celebrates that Christ's work is complete, and we now walk in newness of life.

The Ten Commandments #6

Commandment #5

October 13, 1996 – August 9, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

Exodus 20:12 – *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

This commandment speaks of father and mother, not two mommies or two daddies or roommates. This strikes at the basis for family life today. In America many have made light of the importance of recognizing a family as a father, a mother, and children. Just this past week in one of the major cities in America (I can't remember which one) students protested and stayed home from classes because the school defined a family as a mother and father with children. This is how far we have come in teaching the children of America that a family is something different from what the Bible defines as a family.

The polarization of opinion was shown when Dan Quayle shamed Murphy Brown for having a baby out of wedlock. Murphy Brown has never been the same since. So, a family is a mother, a father and children. The Bible defines the family as such.

In 1995 the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, according to James Dobson, has this goal.

The goal is to give members of the human family five genders from which to choose instead of two. When freed from traditional biases, a person can decide whether to be male, female, homosexual, lesbian, or transgendered. Some may want to try all five in time. Homosexuality is considered the moral equivalent of heterosexuality. For women, however, the preferred love relationship is lesbian in nature. In that way male oppressiveness can be negated. Artificial insemination is the ideal method of producing a pregnancy, and a lesbian partner should have the same parenting rights accorded historically to biological fathers.

Now that that is out of the way, let's see what this commandment says. We will notice The Requirement and The Reward.

I. THE REQUIREMENT

A. Adrian Rogers says that God gave the family for three reasons:

1. For living together – God instituted the family in the Garden of Eden, and he has not changed that. The family is the first Divine Institution.
2. For learning together – Many parents today go to work and send their children to a public school where they stay for seven to eight hours; and when the parents come home, they have no time to support or to deny the training they have had during the day. Many parents have given their children to the state. But that is not where God said we are to train our children. The home is the training ground for children, not the public school, or even a private school, or even Sunday School.

3. For lasting together – When a family is broken apart or when it has dissension, it will not long last. A house divided against itself cannot stand, our Lord has said.
- B. The requirement for this commandment is summed up in the word HONOUR.
1. Now, honor must be earned.
 2. No one can teach your children to honor you. You must teach your children that yourself.
 3. Parents must live honorable lives in order to expect their children to honor them.
 4. Now some children will honor their parents more than other children will honor their parents.
 5. There are no perfect parents; there are no perfect children; there are no perfect families; so there is no perfect formula for having a perfect family.
 6. Some quote Prov. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” But this is not a guarantee that if you do your best that your child will turn out perfect.
 7. Pro. 22:6 tells us that train up (or dedicate – Heb. CHANAK) a child in the way he should go, when he is old, he will not depart from it; it means that the child, when he is old, will not be able to separate himself from the teaching and training he had as a child, no matter how he may try.
 8. Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden did not do so well when they were under the training of God, but I guarantee you they did not ever forget that teaching when they were cast out of the Garden.
 9. Children have their own independent wills, and you do not direct their wills. You can only do your best to direct their wills in the right direction. They are ultimately responsible for their own actions.
- C. How do we gain children’s honor? (From Adrian Rogers)
1. By Loving Them – See Prodigal son (Luke 15:20)
 2. By Lifting Them – Col. 3:21 “Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.”
 3. By Limiting Them – See I Samuel 3:13 (Eli’s children), Certain things should be out of bounds for our children. Certain places, certain music, certain TV programs, certain words, certain people, etc.
 4. By Leading Them – Some one said, “We train our dogs and don’t train our kids, then we tie up the dogs at night and let the kids run wild.” We must be an example of our children, lead them, and keep them in our bounds. Even at that, they will do things that will break our hearts.
 5. By Laughing With Them – Doctors are now saying that laughter is good medicine. Reader’s Digest has said for many years that laughter is the best medicine. Let your children see how to laugh. You don’t have to be a stone face to be a good father or mother. You don’t have to be mean and hateful and always different from your children to be good parents.

II. THE REWARD

- A. “. . . that our days may be long upon the earth.”

- B. Leviticus 20:9 *For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him.*
- C. Deut. 21:18 *If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:*
- D. This fifth commandment was given preceding the children of Israel's going into the land of Palestine, or the Promised Land. The laws in Lev. 20:9 and Deut. 21:18 were given to teach the children that they must honor and obey their parents. If they did not then they would be put to death according to law.
- E. Today this commandment is lived under grace, not under law; so we do not put children to death who do not honor their parents.
- F. But God takes care of this. He judges each individual person on an individual basis. He knows the reasons, the attitudes, the nature of each person. And I cannot say whether a person will be judged one way or another according to his dishonoring his parents, but I know there is a sin unto death to God's children (1 John 5:16).
- G. It would not surprise me at all that God has taken many people out of this world because they did not honor their parents.
1. Some have died in automobile accidents because they did not honor their parents in driving the way their parents taught them to do.
 2. Some have died of an overdose of drugs because they did not honor their parents in leaving that stuff alone.
 3. Some have died because they went somewhere their parents told them not to go, and they got involved in a crime with some people they were with and were shot in the crossfire or police gunfire.
 4. Some, no doubt, God has killed by his own hand through some type of disease or some other way because of their direct rebellion against their parents. 1 Chron. 2:3 *The sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah: which three were born unto him of the daughter of Shua the Canaanitess. And Er, the firstborn of Judah, was evil in the sight of the LORD; and he slew him.*
- H. So, honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land that your Father has given you.
1. This commandment is for Christian people as well as lost.
 2. But especially saved people should honor their parents all the days of their lives.
 3. This is not a direct promise that you will live a certain number of years, but it is a promise that you will not be cut off in the midst of your days (Psalm 102:24).
- I. One of the end-time prophecies that Paul gave to Timothy is found in 2 Tim. 3:2 *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*
- J. Another plea from Paul is found in Eph 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*

Ten Commandments #7

Commandment #6

Exodus 20:13

October 20, 1996 – August 23, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

Thou shalt not kill

INTRODUCTION

From the very beginning of time, God has sanctioned life as his gift to man. We read of the first murder in Genesis 4:8-12, and God held Cain personally responsible for that murder.

Later, God gave a command to Noah that said, “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man” (Gen. 9:6).

This command specifically prohibits murder, and the command is reiterated in Exodus 20:13 in the words of Moses, to Israel, and to us: “Thou shalt not kill.”

The Hebrew word here in Exodus 20:13 is RATSACH, and it means premeditated murder.

John Gill says about this commandment:

Verse 13. “Thou shalt not kill.” Not meaning any sort of creatures, for there are some to be killed for the food and nourishment of men, and others for their safety and preservation; but rational creatures, men, women, and children, any of the human species, of every age, sex, condition, or nation; no man has a right to take away his own life, or the life of another; by this law is forbidden suicide, or self-murder, patricide or murder of parents, homicide or murder of man; yet killing of men in lawful war, or in defence of a man’s self, when his own life is in danger, or the execution of malefactors by the hands or order of the civil magistrate, and killing a man at unawares, without any design, are not to be reckoned breaches of this law; but taking away the life of another through private malice and revenge, and even stabbing of a man’s character, and so all things tending to or designed for the taking away of life, and all plots, conspiracies, and contrivances for that purpose, even all sinful anger, undue wrath and envy, rancor of all kind, all malice in thought, words, or deed, are contrary to this precept.”

God provides for capital punishment in Exodus 21:12-14

Exodus 21:12-14 *He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death. 13 And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. 14 But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die.*

But let us not talk about death today. This commandment is not a dwelling on death but a dwelling upon life.

Deut. 30:19 *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*

- I. GOD IS THE LIFE-GIVER
- II. SATAN IS THE LIFE-TAKER
- III. WE ARE THE LIFE-PROTECTORS

I. GOD IS THE LIFE-GIVER

A. He gives us physical life:

1. John 1:3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
2. Col. 1:16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*
3. Gen. 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*
4. We need to train our children where physical life comes from, because they are being barraged by information from school, from friends, from the zoo, and other places that life is just a happenstance, and no one is responsible for it.
5. If we have such a low value on life, then what is its value to us? If we get tired of it, we just simply snuff it out.
6. Dr. George Wald, a Nobel Prize winner in science, once said this about the origin of life:

When it comes to the origin of life on this earth, there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved 100 years ago, but that leads us only to one other conclusion: that of supernatural creation [from The Collapse of Evolution, Freedom Publications, 1994, p. 236].

7. But I have a higher authority than a Nobel Prize winner. God told Moses: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
8. Without teaching our children this great truth, they will have a very low value of life and seem it inconsequential to take their own or someone else’s life in a time of heated anger or depression.

B. He Gives Us Spiritual Life

1. John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
 - a. “I am the way:” Without me there is no going.
 - b. “I am the truth:” Without me there is no knowing.
 - c. “I am the life:” Without me there is no growing.”
2. In the gospel of John the word life is found 38 times, and in all but about three of those verses mentioning life the Holy Spirit speaks of spiritual life. John 6:53 talks about “no life” in those who do not know Jesus. A couple of other verses refer to Jesus’ giving his life for our sins and a friend’s laying down his life for another friend,

but even here spiritual life is implied.

3. Remember, God gives spiritual life. He is the Life-giver.
4. No one can have spiritual life without Jesus. We must speak of him to our children and tell him to others in order that they may hear and believe the Gospel and be saved.

C. God Gives Eternal Life

1. Again the gospel of John speaks of “eternal life” six times in the book and “life eternal” three times. In John 12:50 he speaks of “life everlasting.”
2. John 10:27-28 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

II. SATAN IS THE LIFE-TAKER

- A. John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- B. John 8:44 *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*
- C. Someone wrote:

A crust of bread and a corner to sleep in.
A minute to smile, and an hour to weep in.
A pint of joy, and a peck of trouble, and never a laugh.
But the moan comes double, and this is life.

- D. This is the Devil’s definition of life, not the Lord’s
- E. Someone noticed that the word evil spelled backward is live.
- F. Satan loves to destroy life.
- G. The Devil has always used music to get to our youth, and he is very good at it. We notice the influence of Satan in our modern music groups by their names: Some of the names of groups past and present are:
- H. Secular Rock Groups:
 1. The Grateful Dead
 2. Annihilator
 3. Atrocity
 4. Carnivore
 5. Coroner
 6. The Damned
 7. Dark Angel
 8. Sluts From Hell
 9. Atheist
 10. Autopsy
 11. Megadeath,
 12. Morbid Angel
 13. Obituary

14. Death Angel
 15. Destruction
 16. Entombed
 17. Legion of Death
 18. Massacre
 19. Napalm Death
 20. Poison
 21. Devastation
 22. Guillotine
 23. Malice
 24. Violence
 25. The Zombies
 26. Oblivion
 27. Slaughter
 28. Suicidal Tendencies
 29. Venom Slayer
 30. Thrasher
 31. Ultimate Revenge
- I. Christian Rock Groups
1. Facebook: 8-27-2015 – Nate Marino Yeah I remember the Christian death metal band Impending Doom creating an occult symbol and called it a "repentagram"...no joke. Then they took a genre of death metal called gore grind and combined it with worship music and called it GORSHIP. I'm not even making this up.
 2. Day of Fire
 3. Dead Artist Syndrome
 4. Dead Poetic
 5. Delirious
 6. Dizmas
 7. Good Morning Midnight
 8. Grey Holiday
 9. I Am Terrified
 10. The Letter Black
 11. Lost Dogs
 12. Mortal
 13. The Museum
 14. Number One Gun
 15. One Bad Pig
 16. Queen's Club
 17. Rush of Fools
 18. Terminal
 19. Twothirtyeight
 20. S-Sinner
 21. Hippos of Doom

- 22. No Innocent Victim
- 23. Six Feet Deep
- 24. Blessthefall
- 25. A Bullet For Pretty Boy
- 26. Close Your Eyes
- 27. The Devil Wears Prada
- 28. He Is Legend
- 29. Here I Come Falling
- 30. Inked In Blood

- J. I do not know the reason for these names, so I may be implying more than is in these names, but I believe they are bad names for so-called Christian groups.
- K. I suppose that the most famous of these is The Grateful Dead.” But I want you to know that I am not grateful for death; I am grateful for life, life in Jesus Christ. Life is worth living because He lives, as the song says. CBS News reported that The Grateful Dead had their last concert on July 5, 2015. They made \$50 million on this concert. This speaks volumes about our culture today.
- L. Someone said that “Sin thrills, then it kills.”
- M. Someone said that “Sin fascinates, then it assassinates.
- N. One Gospel song says, “Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay; sin will cost you more than you want to pay.”

III. WE ARE LIFE PROTECTORS

- A. We as parents spend much of our lives protecting our children, and the most horrible thought that a parent can have is to think that he might lose one of his children.
- B. We go to great lengths to keep our children safe.
- C. Let’s see what we must guard our children against:
 - 1. Homicide
 - a. Our children see and hear about so much murder in terrorism, gang killings, and one-on-one shootings that it is hard for them not to think about it.
 - b. We must teach our children well the commandment “Thou shalt not kill.”
 - c. We know that God will eventually judge all murderers. 1 John 3:15 says, *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*
 - 2. Suicide
 - a. The statistics on suicide are horrifying. 30,000 people per year commit suicide in the United States, one every 17 minutes.
 - b. We must teach our children and those around that our life is not our own. It is a gift from God.
 - c. Suicide does not end problems.
 - d. I have known of several Christian people who have committed suicide in a moment of desperation, but it is never the answer that God gives to us.
 - e. Suicide is a very selfish thing. The heartaches and future problems left behind are sometimes unmentionable.

- f. 1 Cor. 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
3. Abortion
 - a. Over 4,000 babies per day are killed by abortion. 57.5 million babies have been killed in the womb since the 1973 law, Roe vs Wade (Right To Life Web Site)
 - b. This is Satan's most prolific weapon against Christian principles.
 - c. But this goes further than individual responsibility. We as a nation will answer for this, because in 1973 the U. S. Supreme Court made abortion legal in a bill called Roe vs Wade.
 - d. The same nation that has groups who call for the protection of the spotted owl, whales, bald eagles, and many other animals is with the other hand destroying the most precious life on the planet – human life.
 - e. We must know ourselves and teach our children that the taking of innocent life, the spilling of innocent blood will not stop at abortion, but the social teachings of this social doctrine will continue to dull our minds until people outside the womb will be killed for reasons that we cannot even now predict, such as the child or the handicapped person or the elderly person who may be a burden to the family and is no longer any good to society. This was Hitler's way, but it should not be America's way.
 4. Alcohol
 - a. I mention this, because its dangers are so much overlooked in our society today.
 - b. But every twenty-two minutes somebody is killed in an alcohol-related car accident.
 - c. Every sixty seconds someone is maimed.
 - d. We have at least 4 million teenagers addicted to alcohol in America today.
 - e. Someone said that alcohol has many defenders but no defense.
 - f. Even non-problem drinkers have an elevated risk of suicide in times of depression.
 - g. Hab. 2:15 *Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!*
 5. Anger and Hatred
 - a. 1 John 3:15 *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*
 6. Drugs
 - a. Legal and illegal drugs are killing many Americans today.
 - b. Legal drugs include prescription drugs:
 - (1) anti-depressants, barbiturates, benzodiazepines and opioids.
 - (2) From 2001 to 2013 legal drug use and overdoses have more than doubled with about 22,000 people in America dying due to overdosing on legal drugs in 2013.
 - c. Illegal Drugs

- (1) The overdosing of Cocaine spiked in 2006 to about 7,500 deaths that year, but that number has gone down to around 5,000 in 2013, which is the most recent that I could find.
- (2) However, death from Heroin has increased dramatically from 2011 to 2013, going from a little over 4,000 in 2011 to nearly 8,000 in 2013. This is because this drug has become so very much available and is one of the cheapest to purchase. It is a desperate killer!
- (3) We must do everything we can to let our children know that drugs are not good; they are really bad and dangerous.

7. Murder

- a. Murder comes from the heart.
 - b. Jer. 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
 - c. People rationalize (or give their own excuses) why they should murder someone.
 - d. But there is no excuse for it.
 - e. James 4:2 *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*
- D. But not just our children; we must protect others from dying through our negligence:
Deut. 22:8 *When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.*
- E. Thou shalt not kill (murder). We have enough deaths without murder.

Ten Commandments #8

Commandment #7

October 27, 2966 – August 30, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

Exodus 20:14 – *Thou shalt not commit adultery*”

I. THE SEVERITY OF SEXUAL SINS

- A. Adultery is a grievous sin against Almighty God.
- B. This sin, along with fornication, includes all kinds of sexual sins. Sins of premarital and extramarital sex: sins before marriage, and sins outside the marriage vows.
- C. In the 1960's we were taught that this very commandment was out of date and old fashioned.
- D. We are now reaping from this “new morality.”
 - 1. We have more sexually transmitted diseases than have ever been heard of in any past society.
 - 2. We are paying larger bills for these sicknesses.
 - 3. These diseases are killing innocent babies and others.
- E. The new morality was simply the old “immorality.”
- F. Gal. 6:7 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*
- G. 1Thess. 4:3 *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*
- H. Al Huxley wrote a book back in 1932 entitled “Brave New World” in which he prophesied that in America the day will come when marriage licenses will be issued like dog licenses. They will last only one year, and there will be no law against having more than one wife at a time just as now there is no law against having more than one dog.
- I. I hope that our society never comes to this, and Huxley was being satirical. But do you know that getting a marriage license is a very easy thing to do? In order to get a *driver’s license*, you must study a manual and take driver’s training; but in order to get a marriage license all you have to do is put up some money and pass a blood test.
- J. Marriage has been pictured as a mountain with a beautiful valley at the bottom. On the way down are very dangerous obstacles, and many have already run into these obstacles. The newlyweds start down this dangerous journey and hope that they will not wind up like the others.
- K. We need to put guardrails around these mountain roads by reading the Bible and living good examples for our young generation.
- L. We need to take away obstacles by changing laws to make divorce harder and be examples of what true love really is.
- M. We need to teach our youngsters how to drive and how to live honorable lives with their spouses.
- N. We need to teach our young people to stay sexually pure while they are unmarried. This is God’s way, and there are blessings in it.

II. THE SACREDNESS OF MARRIAGE

- A. Genesis 2:21-2 *And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*
- B. The Priority of Marriage
1. Leave and cleave (vs. 24)
 2. The leaving part is hard sometimes, mostly for the parents, so they shelter their children and try to get them to stay as long as possible. The young eagles don't want to leave the nest, but the mother makes them leave.
 3. Some parents say "I want my children to have what I did not have."
 4. How about giving them what you DID have?
 5. We need to give our children values and commitment. This is very hard to do in this luxury-driven society.
- C. The Permanence of Marriage
1. "... cleave unto his wife."
 2. Mark 10:9 *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*
 3. In our marriage vows we usually say, "Till death do us part."
 4. Some people say they divorced because they have problems, but we all have problems. Sometimes the difference is the commitment or the lack of it.
- D. The Purpose of Marriage
1. "... They shall be one flesh."
 2. This means both emotionally and spiritually
 3. Like a violin and a bow, one cannot make music without the other.
 4. God makes two people to be like one person.
 5. In this oneness, the Lord reserves the best of the sexual relation within marriage.
 6. Heb 13:4 *Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

III. THE SIN OF ADULTERY

- A. It Is a Sin Against Yourself – 1 Cor. 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*
1. There is no sin that will do more spiritual, psychosocial, and physical damage than sexual immorality.
 2. People today talk about "safe sex." Sex is not supposed to be dangerous; it is supposed to be sacred.
 3. If everyone will keep it where it should be, then there will be no need for "safe sex."
- B. It Is a Sin Against the Home
1. Lives of innocent children are being torn apart.
 2. Those who have families and who commit adultery have no idea what they are doing

to their children. They are teaching their children that pleasure is more important than their own spouse or their children.

C. It Is A Sin Against The Church

1. Rom. 14:7 *For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.*
2. 1 Cor. 3:16-17 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*
3. Paul is speaking here of the local church. We bring disgrace upon the assembly when we commit adultery.
4. Your adultery is more than just your own business. It is the business of the people around you, your spouse, your children, and your church.

D. It Is A Sin Against A Nation

1. Immorality, according to historians, caused the decline of Rome, Greece, Egypt, and Babylon. It may well be the decline of America.
2. Prov. 14:34 *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.*

E. It Is A Sin Against God

1. As every sin is
 - a. It is God who said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." It was written by his own finger.

IV. THE SACREDNESS OF EXAMPLE

A. We must, then, be examples for our young people and to be teachers of that which is right in the eyes of God.

B. Notice six (6) things in being a model (From Adrian Rogers)

1. Decision – We must decide to live for Christ. Even if you are not saved, you can decide to live a moral life. It will be the best life for you. But, especially if you are saved, you need to decide right now that you will live for Jesus Christ, following his example and his word daily.
2. Dependence – We must depend upon Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit to teach us each day of our lives. We must read his word and trust him to give us needed strength. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).
3. Devotion – We must have a true devotion to our own spouse and for our God. We must express our love for our spouse, and we must express our love for God.
4. Development – Love does not diminish: love grows. You should love your spouse more now than you did the day you married her. Love seems to diminish when problems come, but we must be strong through these problems and let love grow through our trials. I know that sometimes it is impossible if only one of the two works on this, but it is worth the effort.
5. Discipline – We must guard our company, our friends: whom we are with. Watch out what you see. Make a covenant with your eyes as David did that you will not look at things that may tend to lead you away from your true devotion to your spouse.
6. Determination – Men should not use a business trip as an excuse to be away from their wives for a weekend or a period of time just so they can look at filthy magazines

or be with other women. We must be determined (make up our minds ahead of time) that this will not be our pattern of life. Joshua said, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

C. What If I Have Already Failed?

1. If you have failed, then God will forgive – John 8:11 *She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*
2. Determine and decide today to keep your body pure from adultery, and you will be assured (at least in this area of life) that you will have a happy and fulfilled life.

The Ten Commandments #9

Commandments #8 - Thou Shalt Not Steal

Exodus 20:13

November 3, 1996 | September 6, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

Exod. 20:15 *Thou shalt not steal.*

Eph. 4:28 *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with [his] hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

Three things are involved in Ephesians 4:28

1. Integrity – Let him that stole steal no more.
2. Industry – Let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good.
3. Generosity – That he may have to give to him that needeth.

These are the three principles in the commandment that the Lord gave to Israel.

I. THE NECESSITY OF INTEGRITY

Note: Many people have integrity, and many people do not have integrity. We must instill integrity in our children. We must practice integrity. We must insist on integrity in our workplace. We must vote for integrity and insist on it from our leaders. There are several ways that people can live without integrity.

A. Theft

1. Shoplifting, armed robbery, burglary
2. Shoplifting costs consumers millions of dollars every year through higher prices and the cost of trying to prevent shoplifting and prosecuting shoplifters.
3. Stealing in the workplace is a national epidemic. “The American economy loses \$40 billion annually from theft on the job.”
4. But God will judge those who do it.

B. Fraud

1. This is sometimes called white-collar crime.”
2. Chuck Colson tells a story in his book, “Why America Doesn’t Work,” about a famous baby food company who had been selling what they called 100% apple juice, but it was really little more than chemicals and dye and water.
3. The company was told not to sell this product anymore, but the company loaded the juice up on nine tractor trailers and was soon selling it in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and the Virgin Islands.
4. I read recently of a motel that would give a \$20 cash rebate to their customers. Their rooms cost \$80 per night, but the motel would give a receipt for \$80 and give the

customer back \$20 in cash. This is fraud.

5. Halfhearted, lazy-type work is also fraud. If you do not give your employer an honest-day's work, then you are stealing from him.
6. Once a man went to apply for a job, and he asked the prospective employer, "How much will you pay me?" The man said, "I'll pay you as much as you're worth." The man replied, "Nothing doing, I just left a job like that."
7. Employers who do not pay workers what they are worth are stealing, also – Col. 4:1 *Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.*
8. Some of these fraudulent people think of themselves as shrewd businessmen, but one day they will pay for their lack of integrity.

C. Gambling

1. The greatest form of stealing in America is actually legal.
2. Gambling is morally wrong. Why? Because no one wins without someone losing; and the gamble is that more will lose than win.
3. Let's say I make a certain piece of wood and sell it to you for a certain price. We both agree on the price, and you buy the piece of wood. I get the money; you get the wood. We both win.
4. But in gambling, for every winner there have to be many, many losers; the casinos work day and night just to be sure that there are many more losers than winners.
5. Gambling is a perversion of true hope. It promises happiness of the greatest kind, but it never delivers.
6. Gambling is an attempt to get what belongs to other people without giving them anything in return for it. That is not integrity, but it certainly is stealing.
7. "If two people meet in an alley and one points a gun at the other and takes his money, they call it robbery; but, if two people meet in a casino and one takes the other person's money, they call it 'gaming.'" That sounds so much better than 'gambling.'"
8. Someone may say, "Well, the other person willingly gave up his money in gambling." That may be true, but that does not mean that the other person did not steal his money.
9. If two men consent to dual, it is murder by mutual consent; and it is no less murder just because they both agreed.
10. Habakkuk 2:6 says in part, . . . "Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! . . ."
11. Of course, gambling is also an addiction.
12. Some people in their nature tend toward this type of thing. This is called congenital.

D. Withholding Love

1. Withholding love from your spouse is stealing.
2. 1 Cor. 7:5 *Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.*

E. Stealing From Yourself

1. Jer. 5:25 *Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.*
2. When you steal from others, the one you are really stealing from is yourself.

3. Sin will cost you more than you want to pay.

F. Stealing From God

1. We are God's by creation; therefore, we must seek out his will for our lives. We owe everything to Him.
2. As a child of God, you belong to him by redemption (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
3. When we as God's people breathe his air and drink his water and soak in his sunshine and never give back obedience and praise to him, then we are stealing from Him.
4. Our TITHE belongs to him (Mal. 3:8; Heb. 7:8).
5. Our TALENTS belong to Him (Rom.6:13)
6. Our TIME belongs to Him (Eph. 5:16)

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRY

Note: Eph 4:28 “. . . working with his hands the thing which is good, . . .”

A. The Love of Work

1. We have been taught that working is bad and that it is a curse.
2. We hear about the Monday-morning blahs or blues.
3. But being able to work is a gift from God.
4. 2 Thess. 3:10 *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*
5. The fourth commandment says, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” and implies “Six days shalt thou work . . .”
6. Eccles. 5:18-19 *Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. 19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.*

B. The Loss of Work

1. In our generation people who are getting out of college (thankfully not all of them) are looking to win the lottery or to win a sweepstakes prize. They think of work as a boring and a terrible punishment on life.
2. The Hippies in the 1960's preached what is called Existentialism, and that means that people should not have to work, but the government should provide the basic needs of life for everyone in the country. I don't know where they thought the money was coming from. They thought that there were rich people who did nothing but simply inherited their wealth and could supply money for the country for an eternity, I suppose.
3. Our government is now giving out money prolifically. Someone said, “You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the industrious out of it. You don't multiply wealth by dividing it. The government cannot give anything to anybody that is doesn't first take from somebody else.”
4. Now the Hippies have cut their hair, taken off their beads, and have taken their

philosophy to Washington; and in this process we lose a whole generation of work. The new philosophy is that work is a bad word.

5. We are suffering from it still and probably will be for a long time to come. In fact, we may never recover from it.
6. One man went to Russia and was told by a tour guide that Socialism did not work there, because the people pretended to work and the government pretended to pay them, and everything went under.
7. We have duplicated that in America by making some people better off by not working, thus teaching a generation of young people that not working is better than having a job.
8. That is stealing.

C. The Value of Work

1. We need to teach our children and one another the value of work.
2. Someone objected to making prisoners work.
3. In 1828 approximately 85% of all prison inmates were gainfully employed. By 1990 less than 10% worked.
4. Charles Colson, a prison evangelist, said: “With one of the most destructive and wasteful national policies imaginable, we are deliberately keeping almost a million men and women out of the labor force and denying them the skills they will need when they are released from prison to re-enter the labor force. Prisoners lie around in their bunks with a few magazines and a small TV and do absolutely nothing.
5. It is good, then, that we teach our children to work.
6. Lam. 3:27 *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

III. THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

- A. Eph 4:28 . . . *let him labour, . . . that he may have to give to him that needeth.*
- B. Meeting Our Needs – Acts 20:33-35 *I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel. 34 Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. 35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*
- C. Giving To Others
 1. John Wesley said, “Make all you can, save all you can, and give all you can.”
 2. We should give to God and give to others.
 3. There are only givers and takers. We are to be givers, not takers.
- D. Christ, The Great Giver
 1. Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

The Ten Commandments #10

Ex 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
Commandment #9 – “Whatever Happened To The Truth?”

November 10, 1996 | September 13, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

Adrian Rogers calls his message on this commandment “Truth Or Consequences.” That’s a pretty good title. If we tell the truth, the consequences will be better than if we do not tell the truth.

- I. THE FALL OF THE TRUTH (Isaiah 59:14)
 - A. Isaiah 59:14 *And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.*
 - B. The Cause Of The Fall
 1. Philosophers have caused the truth to fall; they have tainted it with their own ideas.
 2. Dishonest politicians have trampled on the truth. Mark Twain said, “Politicians and diapers must be changed often, and for the same reason.”
 3. Liberal preachers have squashed the truth.
 4. So, “truth is fallen in the street . . .”
- II. THE FAILURE OF A BAD WITNESS (John 8:44)
 - A. Note --> There are several kinds of “untruth” that we can use in our lives and for which God holds us accountable.
 - B. Slander
 1. The word “devil” means “slanderer.”
 2. So, when you bear false witness, or lie about someone, you are acting like the devil.
 3. Satan slandered God
 - a. In the Garden of Eden Satan slandered God’s character and the truth of God’s commandment
 - b. He said, “. . . thou shalt not sure die.” (Gen. 3:4)
 - c. Satan also said, “You will become as gods” (Gen. 3:5)
 4. Satan slandered Job
 - a. Job 8:8-9 *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?*
 5. Satan tried to tempt Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11)
 6. Satan used a false witness against Jesus (Matt. 26:59)
 - a. Matt. 26:59 *Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;*
 - C. Perjury (Exodus 23:1-2)
 1. Truth is not decided by popular vote.
 2. If you lie while on a witness stand in court, you perjure yourself and do harm to the

justice system.

D. Rumoring

1. The rumor about Jesus was that he would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Matt. 26:61).
2. John 2:19-21 tells us that Jesus was speaking of the temple of his body, and many of his accusers probably knew that.
3. Rumors spread so much faster than the truth.
4. The first thing we are to remember is that we are not to start rumors – Exod. 23:1 *Thou shalt not raise a false report: . . .*
5. Secondly, don't help spread rumors: Exod. 23:1 . . . *put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.*
6. We need to stop rumors as quickly as we can.
 - a. By not believing everything that we hear.
 - b. By going to the source to find out the truth.
 - c. By spreading the truth rather than rumor.
 - d. By praying that God will not allow the rumor to cause much harm.
7. Sometimes even opinions about a person can become rumors.
8. Mark Twain, it was thought, had died. When a newspaper correspondent heard this rumor, he wired London to see if the rumor were true. The fact was, Twain's cousin had been ill and had recovered. Mark Twain's response was, "Report of my death is greatly exaggerated."
9. Rumors are simple exaggerations of the truth, or misrepresented ideas of circumstances.

E. Flattery

1. Prov. 26:28 *A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.*
2. If someone has done a good job, we should give honor where honor is due.
3. But to go beyond that is flattery. When you flatter a person (or speak of him more highly than you should), you are going beyond the truth; and the person to whom you are speaking the flattery knows that it is nothing but flattery.
4. If a person flatters you in your presence, it makes you wonder what he says behind your back.
5. The difference between a hypocrite and a flatterer is that a flatterer will say to your face what he will not say behind your back. A hypocrite will say behind your back what he will not say to your face (Adrian Rogers).

F. Insinuation

1. Some believe that in John 8:41 the Pharisees insinuated that Jesus was born of fornication when they said, ". . . we be not born of fornication."
2. We can lie by inflections in our voices, by the twitch of the eyes or eyebrows.
3. We can lie sometimes by what we do not say.
4. A policeman stops you for a headlight not working on your car. You know that the headlight was out, and the policeman says, "Do you know you have only one headlight?" and you say, "I have only one headlight?" That is lying by insinuation.

G. Refusing To Lie

1. Remember, it is no compliment that people want to use your ears for a garbage can.
2. But when you hear rumors, you have just received a great responsibility.
3. Sometimes you can simply keep quiet about the rumor.
4. But if you are quiet when you should speak, then you have sinned – Lev. 5:1 *And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.*
5. A priest once heard the confession of a murderer in a confession booth, and he felt pressure from his office as a priest not to tell about this sin. This is wrong.
6. Seven things God hates (Prov. 6:16-19). Two of these have to do with lying: “a lying tongue” and “a false witness that speaketh lies.”
7. The Bible says that “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” (Rev. 21:8).
8. God’s commandment is: “Thou shalt not bear false witness . . .”

III. THE FRUIT OF A GOOD WITNESS

- A. There is always fruit in telling the truth.
- B. But it may not always be comfortable to tell the truth.
- C. In 1 Kings 22:1-14 we read of Michaiah, who told the truth in a very desperate circumstance; but the consequences were grim. He was put in prison for telling the truth.
- D. We hear nothing further of Michaiah. He may have stayed in prison for the rest of his life for all we know, but at least he knew that he had done what he should do in God’s presence and in a time when the truth was needed, although it was not heeded.
- E. Someone said . . .
 1. It is better to be divided by truth than united by error.
 2. It is better to tell the truth that hurts and then heals than to tell a lie that comforts and then kills.
 3. It is better to be hated for telling the truth than to be loved for telling a lie.
 4. It is better to stand alone with the truth than to be wrong with a multitude.
 5. It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie.

IV. FAITHFULNESS TO TRUTH IN OUR LIVES

- A. Note --> Three ways to teach truth in our homes:
- B. By Precept
 1. From God’s word, teaching what the Bible says about lying.
 2. Don’t simply say, “Don’t lie.” Give biblical reasons why a person should not lie.
- C. By Example
 1. Tell the truth, even in difficult circumstances.
 2. Keep your promises to the best of your ability.
 3. If we teach our children to lie for us, don’t be surprised if they also lie to us.
- D. By Discipline
 1. One preacher’s family had what they called the “deadly D’s.”
 - a. Deliberate Disobedience

- b. Defiance – Disrespectful attitude toward parental authority.
 - c. Dishonesty
2. We must teach our children not to lie: “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor . . .”

Conclusion

So, let’s tell the truth, no matter what the consequence. That does not mean that we have to tell everything that we know, but it does mean that we are to have integrity. I am so tired of hearing the political lies that have been used in our election season that it almost turns my stomach.

Now, you must be truthful to yourself. Tell it to yourself in your own mind. Face up to the truth within yourself. Here are some truths you must admit to if you are not born again.

1. You are nothing in the eyes of God (Rom. 3:10; Eph. 2:1).
2. You cannot be saved by your own works (Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:8-10)
3. Christ came to die for sinners (1 Tim. 1:15 “... of whom I am chief.”)
4. Without shedding of blood there is no remission (Heb. 9:22).
5. You must repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:15; Acts 16:31)
6. John 8:32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

The Ten Commandments #11

Exodus 20:17 – “Thou shalt Not Covet
Commandment #10

November 10, 1996 | September 20, 2015

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

INTRODUCTION

We are told by advertisers that we deserve . . .

- 1 . . . a break today
- 2 . . . to be treated with better service
- 3 . . . the best, etc.

Someone said our marriage vows should read “till debt do us part,” because couples get along fine until they want too much too fast.

I. AN AGONIZING PROBLEM

A. Covetousness Is Deceitful

1. Spurgeon said, “I’ve never seen a covetous person converted.” He meant that no one, when converted, admits that he was converted from covetousness.
2. A famous priest once said that of all the thousands of confessions he heard, no one ever confessed of covetousness.
3. Covetousness in a cloak: 1 Thessalonians 2:5 *For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:*
4. Romans 7:7 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*
5. Paul was saying that he knew he was a sinner by the unlawful desires of his heart.
6. → Preacher golfing: He would not curse when he made a bad shot. Someone said, “I admire you for not cursing as the rest of us do.” The preacher said, “Yes, but you’ll notice that wherever I spit, the grass never grows back.” He did not curse, but he wanted to.

B. Covetousness Is Debasing

1. Mark 7:21-23 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*
2. Little children are naturally selfish.
3. We are not thieves because we steal; we steal because we are thieves [adulterers; liars].

C. Covetousness Is Destructive

1. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 *But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought*

nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

2. A person cannot serve two masters:
 - a. Luke 16:13 *No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*
 - b. Matthew 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*
3. Now read: Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
4. Ephesians 5:5 *For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

II. THE ACCURATE PERSPECTIVE

A. Your Possessions

1. What do you really have?
 - a. You have your salvation – Exodus 15:2 *The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.*
 - b. You have God – Psalms 73:25-26 *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. 26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*
 - c. You have your family (spiritual and earthly)
 - d. You have your church
 - e. You have wisdom – Proverbs 3:13-14 *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. 14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.*

B. Your Provisions

1. Some have everything, they think
2. But do they have peace in their hearts?
3. We have a peace that passes all understanding– Philippians 4:7 *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

III. THE ADMIRABLE PRACTICE (What Should We Do?)

- A. Repent and trust Christ – Acts 17:27 *That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:*

- B. Have an attitude of gratitude – Be thankful!
- C. Love people, not things.
- D. Know who you are: a child and a servant of God
- E. Learn to give.

→ A preacher bought his small son some french fries. The preacher began to eat some of them, and his son said, “Hey, those are mine.” He realized that his son had an attitude problem. One of three things happened:

1. He forgot where the fries came from.
2. He didn't think that his father had the power to take the fries away.
3. He never once thought that his father could get his own fries and eat them at a different table all alone.

This is how we are with God!