

# Exodus

113

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- Honor your father and your mother
  - The root of the Hebrew word for honor is to be heavy. One is to consider the worth of father and mother. In contrast they are not to be taken lightly.
  - Note that the father and mother are worthy of equal honor.
  - The promise given with the commandment (see Ephesians 6:1) reflects the central place of the family in the health of a nation.
  - The implication of the command is for father and mother to be worthy of honor yet the command does not depend on that condition.
  - Jesus referenced this commandment in Matthew 15:4 and 19:19.

114

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not murder
  - The Hebrew word is from a root to break or dash to pieces, used of killing in a violent and unjust manner. Always refers to humans.
  - Reiterates the sanctity of human life.
  - Does not forbid capital punishment after due process carried out by those who have been placed in authority by God. (see Genesis 9:8; numerous laws in the remainder of the Torah which required the death penalty, Romans 13:1-7)
  - Jesus referred to this commandment in Matthew 5:21; 19:18.

115

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not commit adultery
  - Adultery is the violation of a marriage. It is sexual intimacy between two people who are not married to each other but at least one of whom is married.
  - As the preceding commandment emphasized the sanctity of human life this commandment emphasizes the sanctity of marriage.
  - Jesus spoke of this commandment in Matthew 5:27; 19:18.

116

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not steal
  - To take away by stealth, secretly
  - Establishes the right of personal property
  - Jesus refers to this command in Matthew 19:18; mentioned in the Epistles in Romans 13:9; Ephesians 4:28;

117

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
  - This involves intentionally misrepresenting the character or actions of another person.
  - The term neighbor here and in the next commandment refers to a person with whom you are interacting at any given time. (Jesus made this clear in the parable of the good Samaritan which was given in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?")
  - Reveals the important place of honesty in a healthy society.
  - Addresses the issue of injustice.

118

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
  - The penalty for breaking this commandment is that the penalty the false witnesses would have imposed on the person against whom he was giving a false witness would be placed on him. This was up to and including the death penalty. Deuteronomy 19:18-21
  - Listed among the seven things Yahweh hates. Proverbs 16:16-19
  - Mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 15:19; 19:18

119

## The Ten Words 20:1-17

- You shall not covet [anything that rightfully belongs to someone else.]
  - A desire for something that is inappropriate for you to possess.
  - To covet is not to want something **like** another person has, it is wanting to possess **what** the other person has. This would naturally lead to breaking the commands against stealing and adultery.
  - Jesus warned against coveting in Mark 7:22 and Luke 12:15
  - Referenced in the Epistles in Romans 7:7, 13:9; Ephesians 5:3; James 4:2.

120