



catechism.
LIVING THEOLOGY

Becoming Like Christ: The Ten Commandments – Part 2 – Lessons 22-27

Memorizing the Ten commandments

Question 256 from “To Be a Christian”: See Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
 2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
 3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
 4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
 5. Honor your father and your mother.
 6. You shall not murder.
 7. You shall not commit adultery.
 8. You shall not steal.
 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
 10. You shall not covet.
-

Lesson 22: Do Not Murder

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)
Becoming Like Christ: Questions 307-316: The Sixth Commandment



Memory Work

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.



Review of Last Week: The Fifth Commandment

Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.

The Teaching of the Fifth Commandment

- “Honor your father and your mother.”
- “Honor” means to “be heavy, weighty” implying love, service, respect, and care.
- There is both a dimension of holiness and practicality (promise) in this command.

New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus intensified our understanding in his rebuke to the Pharisees (Matthew 15:3-9) for placing human tradition ahead God’s word.
- Jesus broadens the definition of family to “whoever does the will of my Father in heaven” (Matthew 12:46-50).
- Jesus honored his parents while obeying His heavenly Father (Luke 2:41-52).
- Provision for relatives, like widows, is an example of true faith (1 Timothy 5:1-8)

Applying it today

- Parents should represent to their children the loving care of our heavenly Father.
- We also keep the fifth commandment in our obedience to authorities in our society.
- Authority is limited when sin is commanded, and human tradition is placed above the word of God.

My Notes



The Teaching of the Sixth Commandment

(Large Group)

TBAC 307: What is the sixth commandment?

The sixth commandment is “You shall not murder.” (*Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17*)

TBAC 308: What is murder?

Murder is the willful and unjust taking of human life. (*Genesis 4:1–10; Deuteronomy 19:4–13; Acts 7:54–8:3*)

Killing

Capital punishment/Execution

Manslaughter (accidental)

Just-war

Self-defense

Murder

1st degree, premeditated

Manslaughter (negligence)

Infanticide/Child Sacrifice

Euthanasia/Suicide

“Willful”

“Unjust”

My Notes

TBAC 309: Why does God prohibit murder?

Because every human being is made in God’s image, all human life is sacred, from conception to natural death. Therefore, I may not take the life of others unjustly. (*Gen. 9:6; Deuteronomy 19:4–13; Psalm 94:1–7; Isaiah 46:3–4; Romans 12:19–21*)

Inherently Valuable

“Made”

“In His Image”

“Must not take unjustly”

My Notes

TBAC 310: What other actions are considered murder?

Genocide, infanticide, abortion, suicide, and euthanasia are all forms of murder. Sins of murderous intent include physical and emotional abuse, abandonment, willful negligence, and wanton recklessness. (*Exodus 1:15–22; 21:28–30; 2 Kings 17:16–18; Psalm 139:13–16; Amos 1:13–15; Acts 9:1–2; Didache 2.2*)



Leviticus 19:17-18

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.



Reflecting on first commandment:

In pairs, think/reflect silently for 1 min, and then share with your partner for 3 min:

Which items from the list in TBAC 310 might someone disagree constitutes murder or murderous intent?



Expanding our Understanding

large group discussion

On what grounds might someone disagree with the examples listed in TBAC 310?

Our cultural moment

Our cultural depictions

Our cultural values

My Note



2. The New Testament Fulfillment: Negative Dimension

(large group)

TBAC 311: How did Jesus extend the law against murder?

Jesus taught that this commandment also forbids the vice of ungodly anger. A murderous heart can lead to hatred, threatening words, violent acts, and murder itself, and is counter to God's life-affirming love. (*Leviticus 19:17-18; Matthew 5:21-22, 43-45; 15:18-20; 1 John 3:15*)



Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 15:19-20

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. 20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

Anger = murder??

External/Internal

My Note

TBAC 312: Is anger always sinful?

While godly anger is a just response to wickedness and injustice, we are more often led into ungodly anger by fear, pride, and revenge. We should therefore be slow to anger and quick to forgive. (*Psalms 103:8-9; Proverbs 15:18; 16:32; 19:11; Micah 7:18; John 2:13-17; Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32; James 1:19-20*)



Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil...31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



2. The New Testament Fulfillment: Positive Dimension (Large Group)

TBAC 315: How did Christ cause life to flourish?

Jesus sought the well-being of all who came to him: he healed the sick, fed the hungry, cast out demons, raised the dead, preached good news, forgave his enemies, and offered his life to redeem ours. (*Isaiah 53:4–5; Matthew 4:13–17; Luke 4:17–21; 7:20–22; 23:32–34; Acts 10:34–42*)



Romans 13:1-8

Jesus sought the well-being of all who came to him: he healed the sick, fed the hungry, cast out demons, raised the dead, preached good news, forgave his enemies, and offered his life to redeem ours. (*Isaiah 53:4–5; Matthew 4:13–17; Luke 4:17–21; 7:20–22; 23:32–34; Acts 10:34–42*)

External/Internal

My Note

Jesus' extension of this commandment



3. Application of the Sixth Commandment Today (Large Group)

TBAC 313: Is it always wrong to kill or harm another?

There are circumstances in which justice, the protection of the weak and defenseless, and the preservation of life may require acts of violence. It is the particular task of government to uphold these principles in society. However, our Lord calls us to show mercy and to return evil with good. (*Numbers 35:9–34; Matthew 5:43–45; Romans 12:17–21; 13:1–4; Articles of Religion 37*)

Just war?

My Note

Capital Punishment?

TBAC 314: How should Christians understand the value of life?

All life belongs to God. Human life is especially sacred because we are created in God's image, and because Jesus came to give us new and abundant life in him. Christians, therefore, should act with reverence toward all living things, and with special regard for the sanctity of human life. (*Genesis 1:26–27; 2:5–8; Psalm 104:24–30; Matthew 6:26; John 10:10; Acts 17:24–29; Colossians 1:15–20*)

TBAC 316: How else can you obey this commandment?

As a witness to the Gospel and a follower of Christ, I can also keep this commandment by forgiving those who wrong me, patiently refraining from ungodly anger and hateful words; defending the unborn, vulnerable, and oppressed; rescuing those who harm themselves; and seeking the well-being of all. (*Psalm 37:5–11; Zechariah 7:8–14; Matthew 5:38–48; Ephesians 4:25–5:2; James 1:27*)



J.I. Packer *Growing in Christ*

We honor God by respecting his image in each other, which means consistently preserving life and furthering each other's welfare in all possible ways.

J. John, *Ten: Laws of Love Set in Stone*

...we can break this commandment simply by doing nothing.

Stewardship

Providing sustenance

Active intervention to save life

Healing

Restoring

Act as agents of reconciliation

Seek the good of others

My Notes



Discussion: Applying the Commandment (Small Group Exercise)

Each group will look at one of the following “life issues” and report back to the larger group.

Group 1: Abortion

Questions to reflect on while reading the passages:

- What do you see these passages revealing about God's view of the unborn?
- How could these passages shape the Christian perspective on abortion?



Psalm 139:13-16

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Luke 1:39-45

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Discussion notes

My Notes

Group 2: Suicide

Questions to reflect on while reading the passages:

- What do you see these passages revealing about God's view on the value of life?
- How could these passages shape the Christian perspective on suicide?



Romans 8:38-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;

we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 30:8-12

8 To you, O Lord, I cry,

and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

9 “What profit is there in my death,

if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it tell of your faithfulness?

10 Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me!

O Lord, be my helper!”

11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

you have loosed my sackcloth

and clothed me with gladness,

12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Discussion notes

My Notes

Group 3: Euthanasia

Questions to reflect on while reading the passages:

- What do you see these passages revealing about God's view of overwhelming human challenges, suffering and distress?
- How could these passages shape the Christian perspective on euthanasia?



Romans 5:3-5

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Job 1:21

And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Discussion notes

My Notes



Summing up together *(Large Group)*

TBAC 273. Can you worship and serve God perfectly?

No. Only our Lord Jesus Christ worshiped and served God perfectly; but I can seek to imitate Christ, knowing that my worship and service are acceptable to God through him. (*1 Kings 15:9-14; Psalm 53:1-3; Luke 4:1-13; Ephesians 5:1-2; Hebrews 7:23-28*)



Closing Litany

Leader God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*



Life Practice

First: Read

Matthew 5:38-48 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you..43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Second: Consider

Think through how each of the functions of the law in the lives of Christians might apply to you with respect to this commandment

- A Light: to show God’s love and holy character
What does God think of human life?
- A Mirror: to show me myself and my sinfulness
Where do I think differently?
- A Tutor/Signpost: to point me to Christ the perfect law-keeper and my saviour

How did Christ value life?

- A Guidebook: showing me how to live, loving God and others as I should
How am I called to live, internal disposition and external actions?

Third: Reflect

In a pluralistic society, how do we help protect lives, while also showing love to our neighbor who holds different values?

How can we seek the well-being of others to help them flourish when they might be harming others?

What does it look like to show mercy, return evil with good?

Appendix

Just War: (*John, J., Ten: Laws of Love Set in Stone*)

- Beware of any simplistic glamorization or glorification of war, whether it is by the cinema, software makers, or the military.
- Beware of hate, the language of revenge or retaliation, or the lowering of the enemy to the subhuman level (“rats”, “animals”, “scum”). Wars kill men and women, mothers and children; all are made in the image of God.
- Be aware of military operations expanding beyond a limited focus. When you hear terms such as “broadening the campaign”, and “the inflicting of unavoidable collateral damage”, and “punitive airstrikes”, things might be going beyond any sort of justified action.
- The goal for us as individuals is always clear: to pursue love, peace, and righteousness across all barriers of race, language, and culture. That - not warfare - is what will bring in God's Kingdom.

Death Penalty (*John, J. Ten: Laws of Love Set in Stone*)

Arguments for:

- Most accept that, if used at all, it is exclusively for murder
- Done with great sorrow and all possible dignity
- Argue that the value of human life justifies death penalty

Arguments against:

- Dehumanizing to those who must implement it, irreversible if a mistake
- Convert to life imprisonment to protect people
- Is there capacity for forgiveness and change in Christ for anyone?

The shift in medicine: In the last forty or fifty years, the focus of medical care has shifted from healing being almost the sole focus. “...medical ethics placed the importance of non-maleficence and beneficence well above that of autonomy...The tenets of the inherent dignity and the equality of every member of the human family were intrinsic both to the private thoughts of our citizens and to our public codes of conduct and laws. These principles are firmly rooted in the imago Dei as taught throughout both the Old and New Testaments.” This has been replaced with “the imperative that all individuals must be affirmed for who they believe themselves to be — irrespective of immutable physical realities or definitions and mores that have been the accepted norms in most civilizations for millennia. Treatments are thus mandated in accordance with patients’ desires alone — even when robust, published, scientific evidence shows these same treatments to be harmful in the long term...Until recently, most physicians who supported abortion considered it to be a “necessary evil” not a societal “good.” ... And now, only a few decades later, this procedure is no longer “dirty work,” but celebrated and defended against even the most reasonable regulations.” (Margaret Cottle https://cmdacanada.org/upheld-in-exile-reflections-for-the-christian-medical-community/?fbclid=IwAR33wKZIBqvj7tw3Znbli4XLwCva2XAGo_p-NLRfCoFeaWipUggL50NRSVM)

Lesson 23: You Shall Not Commit Adultery

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)
Becoming Like Christ: Questions 317-329: The Seventh Commandment



Memory Work

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.



Review of Last Week: The Sixth Commandment

Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.

The Teaching of the Sixth Commandment

- “You shall not murder.”
- Murder is the willful and unjust taking of life.
- God, as creator, intrinsically values human life and commands us to foster and respect it.
-

New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus extends this command *negatively* by forbidding murderous speech and anger.
- Jesus extends this command *positively* by calling us to seek the well-being of others.

Applying it today

- There are situations in our broken world, such as just war or capital punishment, where killing doesn’t violate this command.
- Christians work practically to foster and protect life in many areas of society.
- Many of the most pressing cultural issues of our day intersect around this command, including abortion, suicide, and euthanasia. Scripture calls us to choose life over death, even in these difficult circumstances.

My Notes



Review Principles for Christian Ethics:

- **Pair 1: Law and Love** – The law is given and applied in love, love is defined and governed by law.
- **Pair 2: Theology and ethics** - WHAT we believe held together with HOW we live.
- **Pair 3: The Old and New Testament** – They don't contradict but deepen, internalise, and find their fulfillment in Christ
- **Pair 4: Clarity and Compassion** – Keeping the call to holiness clear and, our counsel pastoral aimed at repentance and restoration.



1. The Teaching of the Seventh Commandment

(Large Group)

TBAC 317: **What is the seventh commandment?**

The seventh commandment is “You shall not commit adultery.” (*Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; see also Proverbs 6:32; Hebrews 13:4*)

TBAC 318: **What is adultery?**

Adultery is any sexual intimacy between persons not married to each other, at least one of whom is married to another. (*Leviticus 20:10; Romans 7:2–3*)

Exploring the Positive Dimension:

TBAC 322: **What is marriage?**

Marriage is the exclusive, lifelong, covenantal union of love between one man and one woman, and a reflection of the faithful love that unites God and his people. Marriage is therefore holy and should “be held in honor among all.” (*Hebrews 13:4; see also Genesis 2:18–24; Matthew 19:4–6; Ephesians 5:21–33; see questions 146–48*)

TBAC 323: **Why did God ordain marriage?**

God ordained marriage for the procreation of children to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; for a remedy against sin and to avoid sexual immorality; for mutual friendship, help, and comfort, both in prosperity and in adversity; and for the benefit of family, church, and society. (*Genesis 1:28; 2:18; Deuteronomy 6:4–9; 24:5; Psalm 127:3–5; Proverbs 31:10–12; 1 Corinthians 7:2–5; “Holy Matrimony,” Book of Common Prayer 2019*)



Partner Discussion



Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



Expanding our Understanding

large group discussion

Exploring the Negative Dimension:

TBAC 324: Why does God forbid adultery?

Adultery is a sin against one's spouse or spouse-to-be; against the sexual partners with whom it is committed; against their children, family, and friends; against human society by undermining the institution of marriage; and against God, in whose Name marriage vows are made. (*2 Samuel 11:2–12:14; Proverbs 5; Malachi 2:13–16*)



Tim Keller Writes:

Sex is God's appointed way for two people to say reciprocally to one another, 'I belong to you'. When we have sex outside marriage, we are essentially lying with our bodies. Our actions are "saying" that we are united on all levels when in reality we are not. We are contradicting ourselves. We are putting on an act. We are being dishonest.

Quote from "Love Thy body" by Nancy Pearcey



2. The New Testament Fulfillment

(Large Group)

Exploring the Negative Dimension:

TBAC 319: What did Jesus teach about adultery?

Jesus taught that even to look at another person with lust violates this commandment. Adultery begins with a lustful heart, but the Lord calls us to be chaste. (*Matthew 5:27–28*)

TBAC 320: What does it mean to be chaste?

Whether I am married or single, it means I will love and honor others as image bearers of God, not as objects of lust and sexual gratification, and I will refrain from all sexual acts outside of marriage. (*Genesis 39:6b–12; Proverbs 6:25–28; Matthew 5:29–30; Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7*)



Discussion: Unpacking the New Testament's teaching (Small Group Exercise)



1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

³For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴that each one of you know how to control his own body in **holiness** and **honor**, ⁵not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷For God has not called us for impurity, but in **holiness**. ⁸Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

¹⁸Flee sexual immorality, every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a **temple** of the **Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? You **are not your own**,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your own body.

What does the New Testament teach about sexual immorality and why it is God's will for us?

Exploring the Positive Dimension in the New Testament:

TBAC 325: What else did Jesus teach about marriage?

Jesus also taught that divorce violates God's intention for marriage. (*Matthew 19:1–9; Mark 10:1–12*) 326.



Discussion: Unpacking the New Testament's teaching (*Small Group Exercise*)



Matthew 19:3-9

3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." 7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery." 10 The disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry." 11 But he said to them, "Not everyone can receive this saying, but only those to whom it is given. 12 For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it."

What does the Jesus teach about marriage?

In what ways does Jesus restore, apply and deepen the Genesis ideal for marriage?



3. Applying the Seventh Commandment Today (Large Group)

TBAC 321: How do you benefit from chastity?

Chastity establishes wise and godly boundaries that enable me to give freely of myself in friendship, avoid difficulty in marriage, and experience the freedom of integrity before God. (*Genesis 39:19–23; Proverbs 11:5–6; Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 7:25–40*)

TBAC 326: Is divorce ever permitted?

The New Testament permits divorce in some cases; however, out of love for his people, God hates divorce because it severs what he has joined, causes immeasurable pain, and destroys family life. (*Matthew 5:31–32; 19:7–9; 1 Corinthians 7:10–16*)

TBAC 327: How should a single person keep the Seventh Commandment?

Those who are single should honor as holy their own bodies and those of others by refraining from sexual acts, lewd speech, or lustful thoughts. They should nurture chaste and loyal friendships, and uphold the common life of their families, fellowships, and churches. (*1 Corinthians 6:12–20; 7:6–9*)

TBAC 328: Are some called to lifelong celibacy?

Yes. God calls some to an unmarried life of faithfulness and chastity. This calling enables them to devote their lives to God’s service without the responsibilities of marriage and family. (*Matthew 19:10–12; 1 Corinthians 7:32–35*)

TBAC 329: How else is the Seventh Commandment broken?

Violations of this law include sexual harassment and abuse, rape, incest, pedophilia, bestiality, same-sex sexual acts, prostitution, pornography, and any other form of lust in thought, word, or deed. (*Leviticus 18:6–30; Matthew 5:27–28; Romans 1:24–28*)



Discussion: Thinking Carefully about our Culture (Small Group Exercise)

Ed Shaw is a priest in the Church of England who is same-sex attracted, celibate and writes in a book called *The Plausibility Problem* on why the Western Church now finds God’s teaching on sexuality so “implausible” or impossible to adhere to. Ed describes several “missteps”, as he calls them, that have occurred over the past 60 years, in our church thinking and cultures. We can confidently call them not just “missteps” but “misbeliefs.”

In small groups, choose *one* (1) of the five misbeliefs listed below. (Reflect on a second misbelief if time allows).

1. Our identity comes from our sexuality.
2. If something makes me happy it must be right to do it.
3. Men and Women are the same and interchangeable.
4. Chastity is bad for you emotionally and physically.
5. Suffering is to be avoided at all costs especially denying myself something that I desire.

Discuss: How have the following “misbeliefs” contributed to the undermining of Biblical teaching on sexuality in our cultures?



Review

The Teaching of the Commandment

- Positive: The gift, design, and purpose of marriage
- Negative: The harms of adultery and why God forbids it.

New Testament Fulfillment

- Negative: Sexual immorality is not compatible with a life of holiness. Our bodies have been purchased by Christ and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. It is a sin against our “brothers and sisters.”
- Positive: Jesus reaffirms God’s good design for marriage and sex and Paul affirms its place in marriage as a gift and means of holy living

Applying it to Today

- Christians are called to chastity, celibacy, and self-control as we avoid every kind of sexual immorality and faithfully live out the lives in which God has called us.
- We must think carefully about where our cultural beliefs lead us astray from God’s commands.



Closing Litany and Prayer

Leader God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent. And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Life Practice

At the start of each day this coming week, set aside 10 minutes to read this passage from Thessalonians. Reflect on what Paul is calling you to understand about God's will for your life in this matter. Ask God each morning to open your mind and heart to how, in this day, you can grow into this calling to honor God with your body.



1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

³ For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in **holiness** and **honor**, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God has not called us for impurity, but in **holiness**. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Lesson 24: You Shall Not Steal

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)
Becoming Like Christ: Questions 330-338: The Eighth Commandment



Memory Work

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.



Review of Last Week: The Seventh Commandment

Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.

The Teaching of the Commandment

- Positive: The gift, design, and purpose of marriage
- Negative: The harms of adultery and why God forbids it.

New Testament Fulfillment

- Negative: Sexual immorality is not compatible with a life of holiness. Our bodies have been purchased by Christ and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. It is a sin against our “brothers and sisters.”
- Positive: Jesus reaffirms God’s good design for marriage and sex and Paul affirms its place in marriage as a gift and means of holy living

Applying it to Today

- Christians are called to chastity, celibacy, and self-control as we avoid every kind of sexual immorality and faithfully live out the lives in which God has called us.
- We must think carefully about where our cultural beliefs lead us astray from God’s commands.

My Notes



1. The Teaching of the Eighth Commandment

(Large Group)

TBAC 330: What is the Eighth Commandment?

The eighth commandment is “You shall not steal.” (*Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19*)



Partner Discussion

Briefly share with a partner a time when something was stolen from you and how that felt.

TBAC 331: What is stealing?

Stealing is the unauthorized and willful taking of what rightly belongs to another. (*Joshua 7:10–26; Proverbs 1:10–19; Luke 19:1–10; Acts 5:1–11*)

TBAC 330: Why does God forbid stealing?

God is Creator and Lord of this world, and all things come from him. Therefore, I must never take what God has not entrusted to me. (*Exodus 23:19a; Leviticus 19:10–11a, 23–25; 1 Chronicles 29:14; Psalms 24:1–2; 50:7–12; Romans 13:9; Ephesians 4:28*)

Personal property

Ownership as stewardship

My Notes

Exploring the Positive Dimension in the Old Testament:

TBAC 333: How did God teach Israel to respect the property of others?

God required restitution when property was stolen or destroyed; and he forbade unjust loans and oppression of the poor. (*Exodus 21:33–22:15; Leviticus 25:35–37; Psalm 37:21–22*)

Restitution

Honest dealing

Generosity

Tithing

My Notes

Exploring the Negative Dimension in the Old Testament:

TBAC 334: What things besides property can you steal?

I can steal or defraud others of wages, identity, credit, or intellectual property; cheat in school or on my taxes; or fail to pay my debts. I must repay and, to the best of my ability, restore what I have stolen. (*Exodus 23:8; Deuteronomy 24:10–15, 17–22; Proverbs 20:23; Jeremiah 22:13; Micah 6:11; James 5:4*)

Other examples

The cost of theft

My Notes

We are called to full honesty and restitution in these things:



Numbers 5:6-7

Speak to the people of Israel, when a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the Lord, and that person realizes his guilt, he shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong.



2. The New Testament Fulfillment

(Large Group)

Exploring the Negative Dimension in the New Testament:

TBAC 335: What did Jesus teach about this Commandment?

Jesus taught that I cannot serve God and be a slave to greed. I should seek first his will and rule, and trust that he will provide for my needs. (Matthew 6:19–24; Luke 12:13–34)



Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

The Motivations *behind* theft

My Notes

Exploring the Positive Dimension in the New Testament:



1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

The promise of redemption

From stealing to giving

Generous Stewards

My Notes



Matthew 25:35-40

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Luke 12:32-34 (ESV)

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Luke 12:33-34 (The Message)

Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bank robbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

What do the following passages teach us as followers of Christ about what our attitude toward possessions should be?



3. Application of the Eighth Commandment today (Large Group)

TBAC 336: How does this commandment teach you to view possessions?

God desires that I be content, responsible, and generous with what he has given me. Everything I own I hold in trust as God's steward, to cultivate and use for his glory and my neighbor's good. (*Genesis 1:28–31; Leviticus 25; Psalm 37:16; Proverbs 16:8; Luke 12:32–34; 1 Timothy 6:6–10; Hebrews 13:5; Articles of Religion, 38*)

Contentment

Responsibility

Generosity

My Notes

TBAC 337: As God's steward, how are you commanded to use your possessions?

As I am able, I should earn my own living, care for my dependents, and give to the poor. I should use all my possessions to the glory of God and the good of creation. (*Deuteronomy 15:11; Psalm 41:1; Proverbs 30:8-9; Isaiah 58:6-7; Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 14:13; Ephesians 4:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*)



Applying the Eighth Commandment in our own lives (Small Group Exercise)

Each group will read silently their assigned set of passages and then discuss what you learn. Assign one group member to report back to the large group. Each reporter should provide 2-3 key take-aways/learnings.

Group 1: Responsibility to provide for your own needs:



Ephesians 4:28

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, 11 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Group 2: Responsibility to others in need:



Leviticus 25:35-38

If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. 36 Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. 37 You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit. 38 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

Leviticus 19:9-10

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

Acts 10:1-4

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Group 3: Responsibility to the Lord:



1 Chronicles 29:11-14

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. 14 “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

Malachi 3:8-12

Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. 9 You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. 10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. 11 I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. 12 Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, 2 and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3 And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. 4 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”



Reporting back...

(Large Group)

What did you hear and learn from others?

TBAC 338: What is an appropriate standard of giving for you as a Christian?

A “tithe,” which is 10 percent of my income, is the minimum standard of giving for the work of God’s Church and the spread of his kingdom; yet I should generously give of all that God has entrusted to me. (*Genesis 14:17–20; Leviticus 27:30–33; Deuteronomy 14:22–29; Malachi 3:6–12; Matthew 23:23; Luke 21:1–4; 2 Corinthians 9:6–7*)



Review

The Teaching of the Commandment

- Knowing that all things come from God, we seek to faithfully steward our own possessions and respect the property of others.

New Testament Fulfillment

- We eschew money as our master, trusting the Lord our God.
- Negative: We should not steal, instead repenting offering restitution for wrongs committed
- Positive: We pursue generosity and almsgiving as we embrace fruitful labour

Applying it Today

- We seek to live responsibly, providing our own needs.
- We seek to worshipfully, giving the Lord what belongs to him.
- We seek to live generously, giving to others from our abundance.



Closing Litany and Prayer

Leader God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*

ALMIGHTY God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent. And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Life Practice

This coming week read the Scripture references for the questions we have studied.

Ask yourself:

- Have I committed theft?
- Have I neglected generosity?
- Have I tried to justify my actions?
- If so, how can I make amends?

Ask the Lord to show you gently what he would have you see.

Lesson 25: No False Witness

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)
Becoming Like Christ: Questions 339-348: The Ninth Commandment



Memory Work

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.



Review of Last Week: The Eighth Commandment

Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.

The Teaching of the Commandment

- Knowing that all things come from God, we seek to faithfully steward our own possessions and respect the property of others.

New Testament Fulfillment

- We eschew money as our master, trusting the Lord our God.
- Negative: We should not steal, instead repenting offering restitution for wrongs committed
- Positive: We pursue generosity and almsgiving as we embrace fruitful labour

Applying it Today

- We seek to live responsibly, proving our own needs.
- We seek to worshipfully, giving the Lord what belongs to him.
- We seek to live generously, giving to others from our abundance.

My Notes



1. The Teaching of the Ninth Commandment

(Large Group)

TBAC 339: What is the Ninth Commandment?

The ninth commandment is “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
(*Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20*)

TBAC 340: What is bearing false witness against your neighbour?

It is to willfully communicate a falsehood about my neighbor, either in legal or in other matters, in order to misrepresent them. (*Deuteronomy 19:16–19; Psalm 109; Proverbs 12:17; Matthew 26:57–61*)

3rd command meets 9th command

False = Untrue

My Notes



Deuteronomy 19:15-19

¹⁵“A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established. ¹⁶If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, ¹⁷then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. ¹⁸The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, ¹⁹then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother.

Severity

Corruption

An umbrella command:
The worst case scenario

My Notes



Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

Zechariah 8:16-17

¹⁶ These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; ¹⁷ do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this...



Reflecting on first commandment:

In pairs, share a story about bearing false witness or lying - whether you have lied, or another person lied to you: *What was the impact of this action on your life, and on others?*



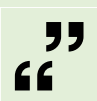
Why God Forbids False Witness

large group discussion

TBAC 341. Why does God forbid such false witness?

Because it defames and wounds my neighbor, erodes my love of truth, disobeys my Lord Jesus, and aligns me with Satan, the father of lies. (*Psalms 52:1-5; Proverbs 25:18; Jeremiah 9:3-9; John 8:42-47*)

1. The Character of God



Titus 1:1-3

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which **God, who never lies, promised** before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his **word** through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the **command** of God our Savior;

2. The nature of reality and relationships

3. The Nature of Satan



Gen 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

John 8:44-45

⁴⁴You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.⁴⁵ But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.

4. What God desires for his holy people

TBAC 342: How is false witness given in public life?

Any willful misrepresentation of the truth in legal, civic, or business affairs bears false witness, rebels against God's will, and subverts God's justice. (*Exodus 23:1–3; Leviticus 6:1–7; Proverbs 11:1; 24:23–26, 28–29; Acts 6:8–15*)

TBAC 343: How is false witness given with respect to teaching in the church?

All false or misleading teaching concerning the Christian faith bears false witness against the truth of God's Word and abuses the authority given by Christ to his Body. (*Deuteronomy 13; Matthew 24:3–14; 2 Peter 2:1–3; 1 John 2:18–27*)



2. The New Testament Fulfillment

(Small Group Work)

Small groups will be assigned a passage.

Each group read their assigned passage silently then discuss the following questions:

(Appoint a reporter to share back to the large group)

- What negative reasons do Jesus/ Paul give for speaking the truth?
- What positive reasons do they provide?

Group 1:



Matthew 5:33-37, 43-48

³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

My Notes

Group 2:



Colossians 3:5-17

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Group 3:



Ephesians 4:17-32

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. 20 But that is not the way you learned Christ! — 21 assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil. 28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



3. Application of the Ninth Commandment Today (Large Group)

TBAC 347. Must you always speak the whole truth?

To keep a confidence or to protect the innocent, I may at times need to withhold the whole truth; and I should always exercise discretion, that my candor may not needlessly cause harm. (*Exodus 1:15–21; Joshua 2:1–14; Proverbs 11:13*)

TBAC 344. What other acts are forbidden by this commandment?

This commandment forbids all lying, slander, or gossip; all manipulative, deceitful, or insulting speech; and testifying falsely about myself for personal gain. (*Leviticus 19:15–17; Psalm 12:2–3; Proverbs 10:18; 11:12; 16:28; Matthew 5:21–22; Romans 16:17–18; 1 Peter 2:1*)

TBAC 345. What sort of speech should you practice instead?

I should speak at all times with love, wisdom, and truth, so that my words may honor God, and comfort and encourage my neighbor. (*Psalm 32:2; Proverbs 12:17–20; 14:25; 15:1–4; Zechariah 8:16–17; Matthew 5:33–37; Ephesians 4:25*)

TBAC 346. When is it right to speak of your neighbor's sins?

I am forbidden to gossip or slander, but I must speak the truth in love, reporting crime, speaking against injustice, and advocating for the helpless. (*Leviticus 19:17–18; Proverbs 28:23; 31:8–9; Matthew 18:15–17; Ephesians 4:15–16; James 5:19–20*)

TBAC 348. How does keeping this commandment help you to become like Christ?

By practicing love and truthfulness in speech, I grow in self-restraint, kindness, and honesty, so that I may know God with a mind free of deception, praise him with an undefiled tongue, and more truly love my neighbor. (*Proverbs 8:1–17; Matthew 15:10–20; Ephesians 5:1–4; James 3:1–12*)

Individual Exercise

- Reread Q and A 344, 345 and 348 silently
- *Circle* or *underline* words or phrases you find particularly challenging or interesting.
- Reflect on where you see the growing edge in your life in Christ



Review

The Teaching of the Commandment

- “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” forbids willfully communicating a falsehood about my neighbor, either in legal or in other matters, in order to misrepresent them.
- God forbids this because it defames and wounds my neighbor, erodes my love of truth, disobeys my Lord Jesus, and aligns me with Satan, the father of lies.

New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus teaches us to “let our yes be yes, and our no be no” speaking honestly and sincerely.
- The New Testament likewise teaches us to take care with our speech, practicing honesty as we emulate God’s truthful communication in our lives.

Applying it Today

- Satan’s murderous intent is to sow lies and separate man from God, and thereby bringing death and all its fruits. To be in the image of God is to be like him, that is, to be truth tellers—his truth tellers. This image of God is restored in us through Christ, as we learn to speak the truth in love.



Closing Litany and Prayer

Leader God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Life Practice

Choose a passage to read:

Proverbs 10:17-22, 11:10-13, 12:17-20

Romans 1:18-32

James 3:1-12

1 Peter 2:1-12

Consider:

What kind of speech does God command us to avoid?

What kind of speech does God command us to pursue?

For what today do I need God's forgiveness?

For what today do I need God's help?

Pray: Spend some time praying based on your reflections. Finish by praying through Psalm 51.



J.I. Packer *Growing in Christ*

When the love which seeks his good prompts us to withhold truth, which if spoken, would bring him harm, the spirit of the ninth commandment is being observed. In such exceptional cases as we have mentioned, (Rahab, midwives in Egypt, Corrie ten Boom) all courses of action have something of evil in them and an outright lie might actually be the best way, the least evil, and the truest expression of love to all the parties involved"... Yet a lie even when prompted by love, loyalty and an escapable recognition that if telling it is bad, not telling it would be worse, remains an evil thing

J.I. Packer *Knowing God*

Truth in the Bible is a quality of persons primarily, and of propositions only secondarily. It means stability, reliability, firmness, trustworthiness, the quality of a person who is entirely self – consistent, sincere, realistic, undeceived. God is such a person: truth, in this sense, is his nature, and he has not got it in him to be anything else. That is why he cannot lie... That is why his words are the index of reality: they show us things as they really are, and as they will be for us in the future according to whether we heed God's words to us or not

Lesson 26: No Coveting

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)
Becoming Like Christ: Questions 349-356: The Tenth Commandment



Memory Work

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.



Review of Last Week: The Ninth Commandment

Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.

The Teaching of the Commandment

- “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” forbids willfully communicating a falsehood about my neighbor, either in legal or in other matters, in order to misrepresent them.
- God forbids this because it defames and wounds my neighbor, erodes my love of truth, disobeys my Lord Jesus, and aligns me with Satan, the father of lies.

New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus teaches us to “let our yes be yes, and our no be no” speaking honestly and sincerely.
- The New Testament likewise teaches us to take care with our speech, practicing honesty as we emulate God’s truthful communication in our lives.

Applying it Today

- Satan’s intent is to sow lies and separate man from God, bringing death and all its fruits. To be in the image of God is to be like him, that is, to be truth tellers—his truth tellers. This image of God is restored in us through Christ, as we learn to speak the truth in love.

My Notes



1. The Teaching of the Tenth Commandment

(Large Group)



Romans 7:7-8

⁷What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” ⁸But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness.

Discuss: Why do think it was coveting that defeated the Apostle Paul?

My Notes

TBAC 349: What is the tenth commandment?

The tenth commandment is “You shall not covet . . . anything that is your neighbor’s.” (*Exodus 20:17*; *Deuteronomy 5:21*)



Exodus 20:17

17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Desire is not of itself wrong but:

- Desire for the *wrong* thing is *wrong*.
- “Over desire” for a *good* thing is *wrong*.
- This command has 2 aspects of covetousness in mind. Covetousness arises from desire that is:
 - Fed and remains unchecked...
 - ...and then acted upon.

My Notes

TBAC 350: What does it mean to covet?

Coveting is the disordered desire for what belongs to another or what I am unable to have by law, by gift, or by right. (*Joshua 7:1, 10–26*)

TBAC 351: What does the tenth commandment forbid you to covet?

It forbids me to covet my neighbor's property, possessions, relationships, or status, or anything else that is my neighbor's. (*Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21; Job 31:7–12, 24–28*)

- Coveting and envy
- Not just stuff
- Obeying this commandment is about the *desire of your heart!*

My Notes



A Tale of Two Kings

(Small Group Work)

Each group will be assigned a passage.

Read through the prompt questions and then the passage quietly before discussing.

Assign one member to report back in the large group.

Questions:

1. What provokes covetousness in the story?
2. How does the sin of coveting lead to a growing chain of other sin?
3. What other commandments are broken as a result of covetousness in the story?

Group 1: King David



2 Samuel 11:2-5, 14-17, 26-27

It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. ³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" ⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." ¹⁶ And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. ¹⁷ And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

Group 2: King Ahab



1 Kings 21:1-4, 7-11, 16-18, 20

Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² And after this Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.” ³ But Naboth said to Ahab, “The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” ⁴ And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.

⁷ And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. ⁹ And she wrote in the letters, “Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. ¹⁰ And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, ‘You have cursed^[a] God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.” ¹¹ And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them.

¹⁶ And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. ¹⁷ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸ “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession.

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord.

TBAC 352: Why does God forbid coveting?

God forbids coveting because it breeds enmity with my neighbor, makes me captive to ungodly desire, and leads me into further sins. (*Deuteronomy 7:25; Proverbs 12:12; Ephesians 5:5; James 4:2*)

TBAC 354: How can covetousness lead to other sins?

Covetousness begins with discontent and, as it grows in the heart, can lead to sins such as idolatry, adultery, and theft. (*2 Samuel 11; 1 Kings 21:1–19; Proverbs 1:8–19; James 1:14–15*)

Reflection questions:

- How does this command connect with the *first table of the law* which is about loving God?
- Why might this be the *last commandment*?



2. The New Testament Fulfillment

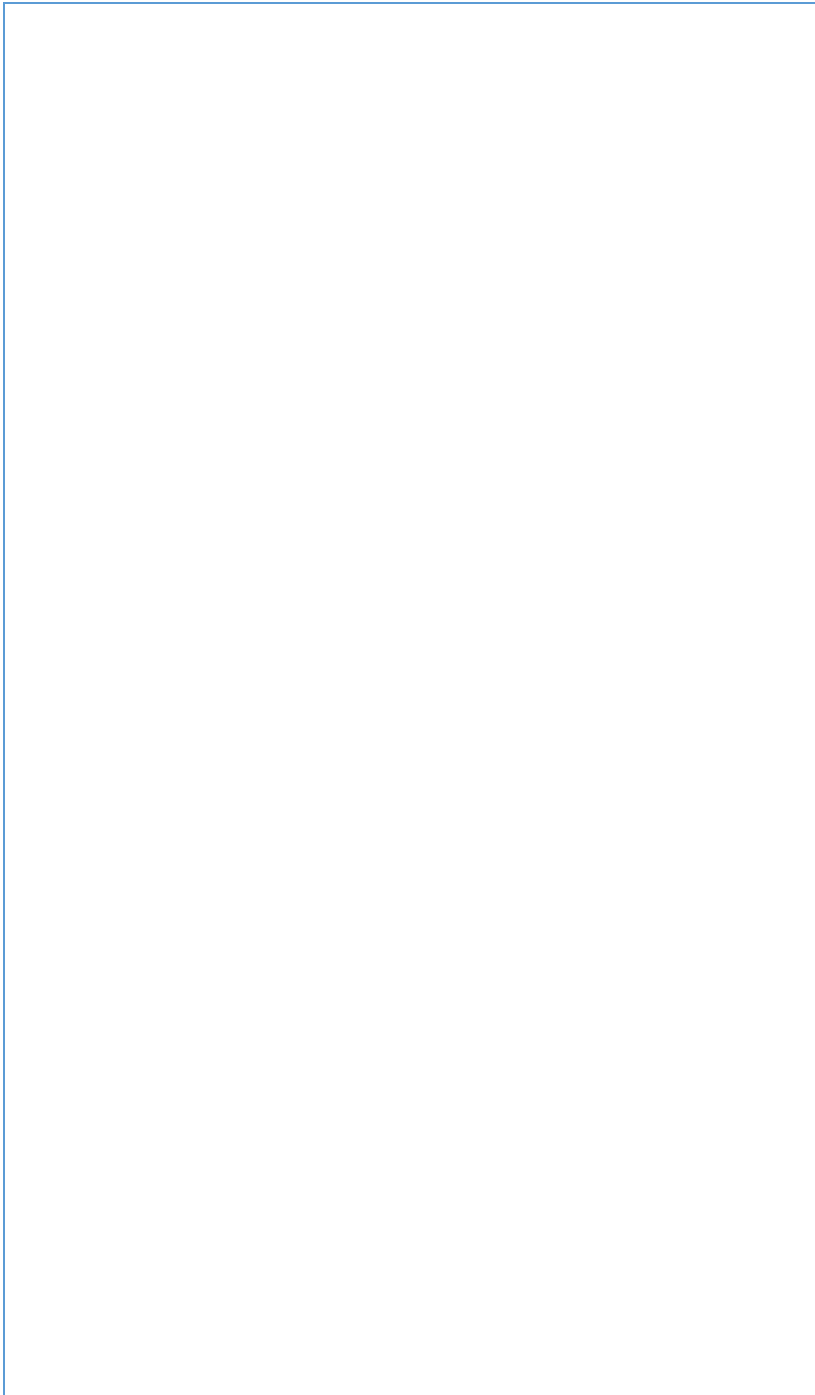
(Large Group)

TBAC 355: What did Jesus teach about this commandment?

Jesus taught us not to seek anxiously after possessions, but to put our trust in God; and he showed us how to live by taking the form of a servant and loving and trusting his Father in all things. (*Matthew 6:19–34; Acts 8:9–24; Philippians 2:3–11*)

- Jesus taught the fruitlessness of anxiety and not to waste our lives seeking possessions.
 - *Matthew 6:25–34* – “do not be anxious about your life...”

- *Matthew 6:19-21* – “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”
- Jesus showed us how to resist Satan and wrong desires.
 - *Matthew 4:1-11* – Jesus is tempted by the devil in the wilderness.
- Jesus directs us to replace wrong desire with godly desires.
 - *Matthew 6:33* – “seek first the kingdom...”
 - *Matthew 13:45-46* – chase the real pearl!
- Jesus diagnoses the real issue by telling us that the wrong deeds come out of a disordered and wicked heart.
 - *Mark 7:15, 22* – “the things that come out of a person are what defile him...”; “coveting, wickedness, deceit...”
- Jesus died on a cross to forgive us from our covetousness and powerless over it. This also reveals gravity of all sin and its consequences in God’s sight—it required God to intervene and even sacrifice himself for us.



3. Applying the Tenth Commandment (Large Group)

TBAC 353: **Why do you covet?**

I covet because I do not trust God to provide what I need, and I do not remain content with what I have; rather, I persist in envy and desire. (*Proverbs 14:30; 23:17–18; Luke 12:13–21; Galatians 5:17–21*)

TBAC 356: **How can you keep this commandment?**

I can keep this commandment by learning contentment: seeking first the kingdom of God, meditating on God's provision in creation and in my life, cultivating gratitude for what I have and simplicity in what I want, and practicing joyful generosity toward others. (*Exodus 35:20–29; 36:2–5; Psalms 104; 145:15–21; Ecclesiastes 5:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6–15; 1 Timothy 6:6–10; Hebrews 13:5*)

So, the antidote to coveting is contentment.

Contentment is not:

- Detachment (Buddhism and asceticism)
- Denial of reality (Christian science)
- Despair...just giving up (Passivism)
- Disinterest in life and ambition (Depression)

Contentment is:

- Satisfaction grounded in our relationship with God.
- Trust that God gives us what we need.
- Hope in God's good promises.



Exploring Contentment

(Small Group Work)

Read the passage below quietly and answer the questions which follow.

Here are some prompts to keep in mind as you read:

- What wisdom and help Paul offers us as we seek to be content in our lives today?
- As you read through the passage be looking for:
 - *Practical guidance* – what should we flee and what should we pursue?
 - *Moral guidance* – what should be the desire of our heart? Why?



1 Timothy 6:6-9

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

My Notes

Discussion Questions:

We are living in an age where disordered and disproportionate desire runs amuck, and we're faced with temptation all the time through media. With these real difficulties in mind:

1. How can we practically manage temptations which lead to covetousness?
2. Are there practices which help us cultivate contentment in a culture of excess?
3. What are some negative and positive steps we can take?
 - a. i.e., *abstaining from...* or *committing to...*



Review

The Teaching of the Commandment

- “You shall not covet” forbids our misplaced desires for things that belong to others or have not been entrusted to me.
- God forbids coveting because it stems from disordered desires. These desires draw our hearts from God and sow discord within our communities.

New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus teaches that we will not be ultimately satisfied by accumulating possessions, and we must resist Satan and all wrong desires.
- The real issue beings in our heart, and we need the transformation Jesus offers to deal with covetousness.

Applying it Today

- Jesus teaches us to that the antidote to coveting is contentment as we learn to trust God to provide what we need, and redirect our desires to things eternal.



Closing Litany and Prayer

Leader God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.



Life Practice

1. Ask the Lord to reveal to you any covetousness that is in your heart, causing anxiety or envy or discontent.
2. Meditate on the passages under the “New Testament Fulfillment” section of this lesson to see how Jesus convicts the sin of covetousness and teaches us the way of life.
3. Pray that God will help you seek first his son and his kingdom and know the contentment that can only be found in that godly ambition.

Lesson 27: Justification and Sanctification

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)
Becoming Like Christ: Questions 349-356: The Tenth Commandment



Memory Work

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.



Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*



Review: Reflecting on the Ten Commandments

1. At the beginning of our time some of us commented that we viewed the Ten Commandments as being a list of negatives (*Thou shall not*). As we have looked at each Commandment, we have looked at the broader positive implications of each one.
 - *Question: Have the past 11 weeks changed your understanding of the Ten Commandments? If so, how?*
2. Let's try to list the affirmations behind each Commandment. Use the chart to list one or two affirmations for each Commandment.
 - Work for 5 mins...feel free to look at past lessons and start with the ones you remember.

#	Negative Prohibitions	Positive Affirmations
1	No other gods	
2	No graven images	
3	Not take his name in vain	
4	Keep sabbath, no work	
5	Honour father and mother	
6	No murder	
7	No adultery	
8	No theft	
9	No false witness	
10	No coveting	e.g. contentment

3. Jesus' summary of the Law: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbour as yourself.*
- *Question: How has the unity of the law/love come together for you as we looked at the Ten Commandments?*



1. Justification and Sanctification: Living in Forgiveness and Healing (Large Group)



The Ten Commandments: Four Images:



A Light: To Show God's love and holy character
(Psalm 19:7-8)



A Guidebook: Showing me how to live, loving God and others as I should
(Deut 4)



A Mirror: To Show me myself and my sinfulness
(Romans 7:7-12)



A Tutor/Signpost: To point me to Christ the perfect lawkeeper and saviour
(Galatians 3:19-26)

TBAC 357: Is it possible for you to keep these commandments?

No. I fail to keep them perfectly, however hard I try. They show me my inability to obey God's Law and my need for God's grace in Christ Jesus. (*1 Kings 8:46; Psalms 53:2-3; 130:3; Proverbs 20:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:9-20; 1 John 1:8, 10*)

Which function of the law does this refer to?

TBAC 358: Since you cannot perfectly keep God's law, what has Jesus done on your behalf?

As the perfect human and unblemished Lamb of God, Jesus lived a wholly obedient and sinless life. He suffered death for my redemption upon the Cross, offering himself once for all as a "full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world." (*"Holy Communion, Anglican Standard Text," Book of Common Prayer 2019; see also Isaiah 53:4-6; Mark 10:45; John 1:29; Romans 8:3-4; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 10:10-14*)

TBAC 359: What do you receive through Christ's Sacrifice?

I receive the unmerited gift of God's grace. If I confess my sins, God grants me forgiveness and pardon through Christ's blood shed for me. (*Psalm 32:1–2; Isaiah 53:10–11; John 3:16–18; 2 Corinthians 5:19–21; Hebrews 9:11–15; 1 John 1:8–9; 2:1–2*)

TBAC 360: How does God enable you to live in his forgiveness?

Through faith, repentance, and Baptism, I am made a member of Christ, a child of God, and an heir of the kingdom of heaven. Washed of sin and united to Christ, I am "justified," being declared righteous by God, and I am given the grace to live continually in repentance and faith. (*Psalm 130:4; John 15:26–16:1; Acts 22:16; Romans 5:12–21; Titus 3:3–8*)



2. The Updated Roman Road

(Large Group)

We are going to trace the story of the law and the Christian – that is, justification and sanctification, through the Book of Romans

The Bad News - *Romans 1-3* – **No one keeps the law**



Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Which function of the law is referred to here?

The Good News - *Romans 3-5* – **By faith we are made right with God**



Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested **apart from the law**, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and **are justified** by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a **propitiation by his blood**, to be received by **faith**. This was to show **God's righteousness**, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



Romans 6:1-6

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the **law of the Spirit** of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³**For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,** ⁴**in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

Romans 12:1

By the mercies of God, present your bodies as living sacrifice to God, holy and acceptable

Romans 13:8-10, 14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



2. Sanctification

(Large Group)

Now let's look at the fourth “picture” of how the Law functions in the Christian's life – as a “guidebook”. We call this part of the Christian life:

TBAC 361: Does God's forgiveness excuse you from personal obedience?

No. God has reconciled me to himself and freed me from bondage to sin in order to conform me to the image of his Son. As I live each day in gratitude for God's forgiveness, I seek to turn from sin and follow Christ in loving obedience. (*John 14:15–24; Romans 6:1–14; 2 Corinthians 5:14–15; 1 John 3:4–10*)

TBAC 362: Are you still affected by your sin, despite God's forgiveness?

Yes. My sinful actions can harm my relationship with God, do lasting damage to others, and leave me conflicted within myself. I live in constant need of Christ's healing grace. (*2 Samuel 12:1–23; Psalm 32:1–5; Matthew 15:18–20; Romans 7:15–25; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8*)

TBAC 363: How does Jesus heal you?

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, as I continue in repentance and faith, Jesus mends my disordered soul from the effects of sin in my mind, will, and desires. (*2 Chronicles 7:12–14; Psalms 25:4–11; 41:4; 103:1–5; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18*)

TBAC 364: What is this healing called?

This healing is called “sanctification,” which means to be made whole and holy. By the work of the Holy Spirit, my mind, will, and desires are increasingly transformed and conformed to the character of Jesus Christ. (*Proverbs 2; John 17:15–17; Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Ephesians 2:1–10; 3:14–21*)

Q. 35: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness

TBAC 367: For what does Sanctification prepare you?

Sanctification enables me to serve and bear witness to Christ in this life and prepares me for the glory of God in the world to come. There I will be completely freed from sin and conformed to the likeness of my Lord, whom I will see face-to-face. (*Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 13:9–13; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18; 1 John 3:1–3*)

TBAC 368: What marks a life of Sanctification?

God calls me to a life marked by gratitude and joy. In gratitude for God’s grace in Jesus, I die daily to the desires of my fallen nature. In the joy of knowing that I will become like Jesus, I live each day in service to him. (*Luke 9:23–26; Romans 5:1–5; 2 Corinthians 4:5–18; 1 Thessalonians 1:6–10; Titus 2:11–14*)

My Notes



3. Exploring Sanctification Together (Small Group Work)

These last two questions focus on the communal aspect of growing in Christ

TBAC 365: How does the Church assist in your sanctification?

The Church's joyful worship, faithful teaching, grace-filled sacraments, Gospel-shaped calendar, compassionate ministry, loving discipline, and caring fellowship all assist my growth in Christ and are channels of God's abundant care for my soul. (*Ephesians 4:1–16; Philippians 3:12–21*)

TBAC 366: How does the Lord's Supper assist in your sanctification?

In the Lord's Supper or Holy Eucharist, I hear the Law read, receive God's good news of forgiveness, recall my baptismal promises, have my faith renewed, and receive the grace of the Body and Blood of Christ to continue following him in love and obedience. (*John 6:5 3–58; 1 Corinthians 10:15–16*)



J. I. Packer:

Sanctification is not a solitary achievement. "Rather, it is to be worked out and expressed in the close and demanding relationships of the Christian Church, primarily the local congregation

God's Plans for You

How does being gathered with the body of Christ (both in the Sunday gatherings and smaller informal gatherings) strengthen and provoke your sanctification and conformity to the character of Christ?

Share a time when this has happened for you.



Closing Litany and Prayer

Leader God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Leader Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet.

People *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*

A Prayer for Increase in the Love of God

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**