

March 23, 2014

Ten Commandments of James

James 4:7-10

All Stand and Read Scripture

James 4:7-10

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

I have entitled my message this morning, "*The Ten Commandments of James*".

When we think of the ten commandments of the Bible, we are generally thinking of Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21, where Moses was given the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets by God on Mount Sinai.

- I. You shall have no other gods before me.
- II. You shall not make for yourself any graven image.
- III. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- V. Honor thy father and thy mother
- VI. You shall not murder.
- VII. You shall not commit adultery.
- VIII. You shall not steal.
- IX. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- X. You shall not covet.

Many people today believe that if they just live a good life, if they just keep the Ten Commandments, they will be saved. Let me tell you that ALL of us here today have broken the Ten Commandments in our life. If you break one of the Ten Commandments, you have broken them all. It is like a “Ten Link Chain” that cannot be repaired by you.

Why were the Ten Commandments given to us?

ANS.: They were given to us so we would know and recognize sin and realize that we need “**outside help**” to relieve us of our sins. We need someone to repair the broken chain.

Who is that outside help?

ANS.: It is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:4-25

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

⁷ What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”

...

¹⁴ For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I *would* like to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ But if I do the very thing I do not want to *do*, I agree with the Law, *confessing* that the Law is good.

...

²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. ²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

All of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The Ten Commandments causes us to realize that we are in sin. Paul (through the inspiration of God) has made it clear that our physical body is constantly bombarded with sin. No matter how hard we try, we cannot keep from sinning.

But if we have accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior, we have died to ourselves and have been reborn into a newness of life. We have made an **“about turn”** in our lives by turning away from worldly ways and worldly wisdom to a new life in Christ and Godly wisdom.

We have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and our mind will be set on spiritual things. In our minds, we do not want to sin, but because of the weakness of the flesh, we do. God says that since our intent is not to be sinning we are agreeing with the Law that the Law is good.

Christ died on “The Old Rugged Cross” that we sang about this morning. God sent Jesus to earth to live among men. He lived a sinless life. He died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

If you want to understand more fully about how the Ten Commandments apply to your life today, **write this down!** I would suggest you carefully read Romans chapters 6 through 8.

BODY:

Now, I said all that to say this. I am not talking about these Ten Commandments this morning. Turn again with me to the opening scripture from the book of James, chapter 4, verses 7-10. I will reveal to you the Ten Commandments as found in the book of James.

James 4:7-10

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⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

So here are the Ten Commandments from James:

- I. Submit yourselves to God.
- II. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
- III. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.
- IV. Cleanse your hands, you sinners

- V. Purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- VI. Be miserable.
- VII. Mourn.
- VIII. Weep.
- IX. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.
- X. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

We will be covering the first two commandments this morning.

You will remember, in the last several sermons, we have been talking about **“worldliness”**.

These “Ten Commandments” gives us:

- The solution to worldliness
- A test to determine whether your faith is genuine or not

James tells us in the previous verse (verse 6) that **God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble**. So he is saying, if you are worldly this is what you need to do to get right with God.

I. Submit yourselves to God.

The word “submit” is an interesting word. It hated a lot today. You see people “cringe” when they read “wives submit to your husband” or “children obey your parents”.

But this submission is to God! **Unconditional surrender** to God is the only way to submit to Him. We must allow Christ be our Lord and Master and serve Him by His terms.

Some people believe that they can “set the terms” or “tell God” how a person can be saved. They **think** they can tell God how it is. Their opinion is not worth a plug nickel if it is not in line with God’s Word. An unsaved person cannot be saved without submitting to God.

If you submit yourself to God, you will not be chasing after the world.

Your true submission to God is a test of your faith, whether it is genuine or fake.

2 Corinthians 13:5

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵Test yourselves *to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?*

Many people claim to be Christians, but there is no fruit to demonstrate that they are. You must be a fruit inspector for yourself. You should look at yourself closely to determine if your heart is right with God.

If there is no fruit in your life:

- There is no desire for spiritual things.
- There is no desire for the Word of God.
- There is no desire to pray.
- There is no desire to witness.
- There is no intent to do anything for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- In fact, many can't even get out of bed in the morning to get to church.

Friends, THIS OUGHT NOT TO BE! You need to examine yourself! We are told to **set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.** (Col. 3:2).

You **must not believe that by “living a good life”, your good works will save you.** We **MUST** read and understand God's Word and live by His terms. When we come to God, we come to Him on His terms.

When you submit yourself to God, you are committing to obey Him.

Let me explain this for you, HE OWNS YOU! You are not your own, you have been bought with a price.

1 Corinthians 6:17-20

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. ¹⁸ Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, **Whose body? The believer's body.** whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: **The precious blood of Jesus. “What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus”** therefore glorify God in your body.

II. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

So, how can we know whether the advice we are getting is from God?

1 John 4:1-6

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. ⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** Who is in you? The Holy Spirit who started dwelling within you when you were immersed with him in baptism and was saved. God promises us that He is greater than Satan. ⁵ They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

The devil cannot be resisted through human strength, but when I submit to God, I can resist Satan through His power. Just because we have been saved, Satan will not quit attacking our lives. He MUST be resisted. He MUST not be ignored. If we do not resist him, he will get a foothold in our lives and he will defeat us.

Ephesians 4:27

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁵ Therefore, laying aside falsehood, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE *of you* WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Satan is seeking whom he may devour.

Colossians 3:2

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

By doing this, we will resist Satan.

We must not let Satan distract us by

- Being careless.
- Being worldly.
- Ignoring that there is a spiritual battle going on in our lives.
- Being lackadaisical in our prayer life.
- Being careless in the type of church we attend.
- No being faithful in the church we belong.
- Being casual about sin.
- Placing more value on temporal things of the world than eternal things.

Ephesians 6:10-13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Satan is a very powerful enemy. We must have the Lord's strength on our side to resist him.

We have a promise from God concerning temptations from the devil:

1 Corinthians 10:13

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

James tells us that IF we are a Christian and we resist the devil, he must flee from you.

CONCLUSION:

Matthew tells us that we will know a Christian by his fruits.

Matthew 7:15-20

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁵ "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does

not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits.

We can't read people's hearts, but we can be fruit detectors.

- We can know if someone is of God if they bear good fruit.
- We can also know our own faith is genuine if we are bearing good fruit.

Romans 6:4-7

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

I urge you to not play "Russian Roulette" with your soul. In Russian roulette, one bullet is placed in the revolver and the chamber is spun. The person does not know if the bullet is in front of the firing pin or not. He is taking the chance that, when he pulls the trigger, it will not fire.

Our lives are just like that. The people, who boarded flight MH370 over two weeks ago, did not know that they would not have a normal flight. Quite possibly, they are dead today.

You may be in a fatal accident, or have a heart attack, or a stroke that completely debilitates you. You do not know if your bullet is in front of the firing pin.

If you have not been baptized by immersion into Christ

...or if the Holy Spirit is convicting you to get away from worldly ways and rededicate your life to Christ. **Now is the time for your salvation.**

...If you would like to identify yourself as part of this family in the Greenwood Christian church, this is your opportunity this morning.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.