

Am I a sinner?
Exodus 20:1-17
Matthew 5:21-30

Q) What are the qualities or characteristics of a true Christian community?

R)

The first four commandments instructed us on how to love God and the remaining 6 show us how to love others. So let see if Gods prescription matches for love between us matching up to our idea of a true Christian community.

Back to where we left off, commandment numero cinco.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.”

Q) Why do you think God wants us to honour our father and mother?

R) - Families are the first social unit of a nation and so act as building blocks for a stable country. One of the reasons given by Ezekial for Israels exile to Babylonia was that they had treated their father and mothers with contempt.

- Honouring our parents is about honouring *God*, first because God has told us to honour them, but also because honouring them builds deeper and wider channels in our hearts for honouring *him*.

Q) What ways can we practically honour them?

R)

Q) What do you think the difference between honouring and obeying is?

R) Honour means – regard with great respect. Obey – Submit to the authority of. Ephesians 6:1-2, Paul reaffirms this commandment as well as adding that children should obey their parents. We have different expectations of us as children compared to when we leave the home and the relationship shifts from obedience to honour.

It’s also worth noting that this is the only commandment that comes with a promise. No thoughts really just worth pointing out.

Now the biggie, the one we’ve all done a few times here and there.

You shall not murder.

Q) What makes murder wrong?

R) Genesis 1:27 says “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” As people that are made in his image, we have value and a right to life that should be protected.

Q) When does someone's life have value?

R) Jeremiah says "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." This is an incredible look into God's sovereignty and control. We are known to God in our mother's womb from before we are even formed.

You shall not commit adultery.

Q) Why is adultery so offensive to God?

R) So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman before God and adultery breaks that sacred covenant.

Matthew 5:27-28

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'^[a] ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Q) Why is this important to us?

R) We hopefully won't adulterise anyone, but everyone has looked with lust upon another person. And so, Jesus makes it clear that we are all guilty of adultery and in need of his forgiveness. Jesus also applies this to murder and hate earlier on in the passage.

Number 8.

You shall not steal.

This commandment calls us to respect the right to ownership of private property.

Number 9

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

How do you think this applies to us?

R) This applies both legally giving a false testimony but can also apply to using spreading untruths about another man.

Q) Do we think it's ever appropriate to lie? E.g. lie to get across the border as a missionary

R) - The commandment is talking about false testimony against your neighbour does this apply to all lies?

- God never lies
- Dishonesty is not a good witness or a good quality.
- Proverbs says Gods hates a lying tongue (Proverbs)

Last but not least

Number 10

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

Q) How does this relate to Matthew 5:27?

R) This commandment shows us that God is concerned about the state of the heart and its desires. Ancient moralists at the time saw thoughts as "free", without consequence, until acted upon but God holds us accountable for the desires we allow to live in our heart, whether this is lust, anger or coveting.

In society today, a common saying is to "follow your heart". This is widespread and accepted by almost everyone including Cinderella. However the Jeremiah says "The heart is deceitful above all things" and we should instead "Trust in the lord" (Proverbs). Reject culture. Ignore your heart. Follow the Lord.

As we've seen from the ten commandments "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (romans 3:23). How do we be reconciled to GOD?

"God so loved the world and each one of us that he sent his only son to die on the cross to take the penalty we deserved for our sin which means we can have forgiveness and eternal life with him if we turn from our sins and make him Lord of our lives. What will your response be?