

Decalogue as a signpost of our life (Exodus 20,1-17)

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Preamble (v1-2)

The introduction is very important because it tells us the context of the Decalogue. Before we hear what we should do and what God forbids - note the first two verses. They speak about *who God is* and what He *has done* for us!

Division of Decalogue

Generally, the content of the commandments can be divided into two categories: our obligations to *God* and our duties towards our *neighbors*. The commandments concerning God appear at the beginning.

The First (v3). We believe in the existence of one God. A specific God, not God in general. Triune God. Scripture teaches that in him we live and move.

The Second (v4). Do not turn away from the icons made by God that is your fellow men to seek out the icons, made with a human hand. Come to God through *His* icons.

The Third (v7). If you are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, proceed as a person baptized in the name of the Triune God. Do not call the name of Christ in vain, saying that you are a Christian but denying it with your life.

The Fourth (v8). The Sabbath is a blessing for God's People. God gave us the Lord's day so that we rest, praise him, have a community together, siesta. Do not think about the Lord's Day as a day when you can't do certain things. Think of it as a gift for you.

The Fifth (v12). There are a few aspects of this commandment. Most of us are grown up, but we still have the fifth commandment in the Decalogue. We do not remove it after the age of maturity. What changes is *the way* we observe the fifth commandment, but *not the obligation* to honour our parents.

The Sixth (v13). If you did not murder anyone you still do not have a reason to believe that you obey this commandment. Think about such things as malice, slander, derision, pettiness, arrogance, insolence.

The Seventh (v14). The Sexual sin is no worse than other sins, but it is certainly more complex than other sins because it relates to our most intimate desires. Disorder in this regard causes great remorse and shame. Let it be a comfort to you that God forgives all sins.

The Eighth (v15). Do shall not steal. It would be nice to say that this is not a problem for Christians. Today, however, there are more subtle forms of theft than entering a store and secretly launching sweets. Theft of intellectual property, plagiarism - are popular forms of theft.

The Ninth (v16). The Scripture teaches that Satan is the father of lies. One of the first things we teach our children is to always tell the truth. Even the hardest. In general, our relationship with God can be defined as *walking in the truth*.

The Tenth (v17). These are some good desires. The problem begins when you covet someone else's stuff. Things that we have no right to. Do not covet the family that is your friends, the church, to which it belongs, their car, their wage.

Summary: Let these 10 signposts show us the path we should go. In fact, they all point to one: the path of love for God and neighbor, where all God's Law leads us. Do not turn away from any of these signs.