

Introduction: God's boundaries for abundant living

The Ten Commandments: Literally translated - "The Ten Words"

Three things you need to know to understand the Ten Commandments:

1. **Who** gave us the Ten Commandments?

And God spoke all these words...

Exodus 20:1 (NIV)

2. **When** and **to whom** did He give them?

¹ *And God spoke all these words:* ² *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.* ³ *"You shall have no other gods before Me.*

⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

Exodus 20:1-6 (NIV)

3. **Why** did He give them?

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

Exodus 20:20 (NIV)

Boundary #1:
“No gods but God.”

We are to honor God as God!

- **What** does it mean to have no other gods before us?

➤ Take this test:

WHO DO YOU WORSHIP?

1. On whom do you rely? _____
2. To where does your time, energy, and money go? _____
3. Who are you trying to impress? _____
4. What or who is the center of your life? _____

- **Why** does God command exclusive worship of Himself alone?

1. God's **character** demands exclusive worship of God.
2. Our **welfare** demands exclusive worship of God.

- **How** can we honor God as God?
 - **Recognize** God for who He is.
 - **Recognize** ourselves for who we are.
 - **Accept** the free gift of new birth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are **boundaries** a necessity for human relationships to work?
2. Why did God give Israel the Ten Commandments? How does that same purpose apply to us?
3. Did God ever intend the keeping of the Ten Commandments to be a means of salvation? (Read Romans 3:20)
4. What does it look like in your life to honor God as God?