

Andrews University

## Digital Commons @ Andrews University

---

Faculty Publications

---

2023

### Living out the Principles of the Ten Commandments

Trevor O'Reggio

Andrews University, [toreggio@andrews.edu](mailto:toreggio@andrews.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs>



Part of the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

O'Reggio, Trevor, "Living out the Principles of the Ten Commandments" (2023). *Faculty Publications*. 4913.

<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/4913>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact [repository@andrews.edu](mailto:repository@andrews.edu).

# Living out the Principles of the Ten Commandments

---

By Trevor O'Reggio

# The Principle of First Priority and Primary Love

*“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”*

---

- Whole agenda is motivated by self-seeking and self-gratification
- Primary love for God is the foundational principle and the first priority of the Ten commandments and severing rule of God
- Must be the first and the best one in our lives



# The Principle of First Priority and Primary Love

*“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”*

---

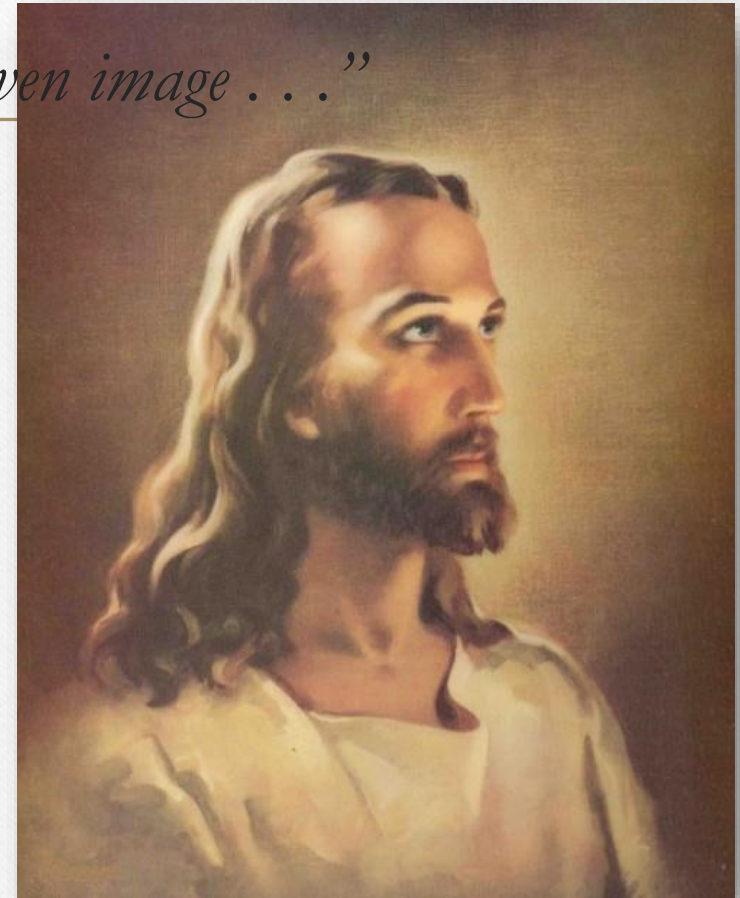


- The placement of this first principle in the Decalogue is not coincidental but divinely intentional
- The first principle addresses the fundamental problem of sin
- Sin is really self-idolatry
- We as humans have made ourselves our own god

# The Principle of Submission to Divine Sovereignty

*“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image . . .”*

- God strictly prohibits the creation of any object to portray him.
- He knew we would have the inclination to create things after our own image
- Even with the strict injunction against pictorial representation in the last 500 yrs. a picture of Jesus has been accepted by mainstream Christians.
  - Why has Western Christianity put forward this picture and proclaimed it as Jesus?
  - Sociological implications are far reaching, for the restriction of a Christian God to an ethnic group or race excludes others



# The Principle of Submission to Divine Sovereignty

*“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image . . .”*

---

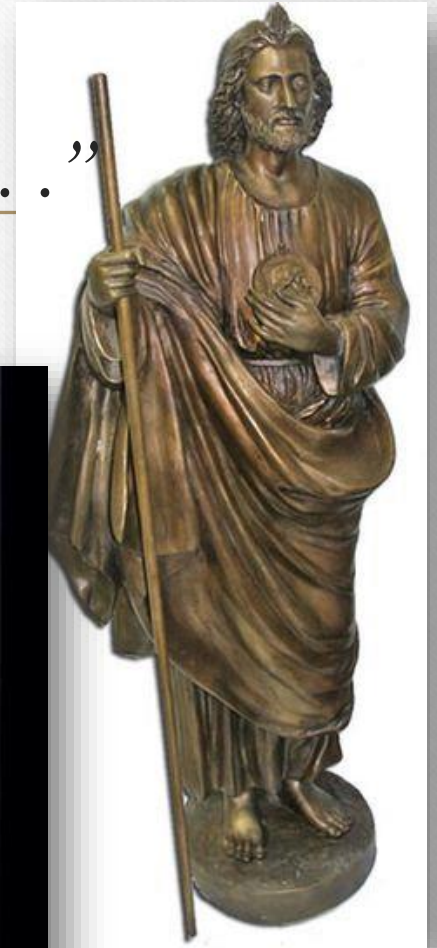
- We as humans thus created a god after our image.
- A god that:
  - Looks like us
  - A god that is convenient and politically correct
  - A god that is a consensus candidate acceptable to most
  - A god with a good public-relations image
  - A god that we can manipulate and control to suit our own purposes



# The Principle of Submission to Divine Sovereignty

*“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image . . .”*

- The second commandment prepares us for heaven by pointing us away from any form of self-aggrandizement, self-promotion, self-honor, or self-glory.
- Like the angels of heaven, we should always declare:
  - “Glory and honor, praise and worship be to the only true God and Father of us all.”



# Principle of Respect and Honor for the Sacred

*“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain . . .”*

---

- I call this command the principle of respect and honor for the sacred
- God calls us to respect and honor the sacred-in particular, His name
- It tells who he is, what He represents
- God’s name is his Divine character
- We are not to repeat his name glibly or casually to claim his name as our own
- To claim the name of God by our profession or words and then to contradict it by our lives violates the third command



# Principle of Respect and Honor for the Sacred

*“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain . . .”*



- We will be held accountable for our actions
- This command prepares us for heaven by nurturing in us a respect and reverence for the Supreme Being of the universe and for his magnificent creation

# Principle of Divine Rest and Celebration in Relationships

*“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.”*

---

- This commandment calls for us to remember and keep the 7<sup>th</sup> day as God’s Sabbath
- I call this principle the divine rest and nurturing of love
- Humans can have no relationship with God without fellowship with each other
- The Sabbath commandment reflects more clearly the nature of God

*Remember*

# Principle of Divine Rest and Celebration in Relationships

*“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.”*

---



In the first command

- God calls for primary acknowledgment of his place in the life of the believer



In the second command

- He calls for our surrender to divine sovereignty



In the third command

- He calls for respect for the sacred



In the fourth command

- He calls for a place in time to nurture this relationship so love can grow between himself and humans and among animals

# Principle of Divine Rest and Celebration in Relationships

“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.”

- The Sabbath commandment reflects more clearly the nature of God than any other because it denies us the ability to concretize and make an image of our own likeness
- Time is accessible to all
  - It comes to all, everywhere, with no physical distance or disability to limit access
- God did not choose a thing or a place by which to memorialize his creation and establish a relationship
  - From the king to the slave all are subjected to time
  - Time is the ultimate master, subject to no one but God



SABBATH  
Blessings

Thank You, Father, that You are my place of rest. And, that all You have brought me through, can be used by You to encourage others. Bring praise to Yourself through me. Amen.

HAPPY SABBATH

# Principle of Divine Rest and Celebration in Relationships

*“Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.”*

---



- *Words of Affirmation* speak of the praise that is due to God on the Sabbath
- The Sabbath provides *Quality Time*
- *Physical Touch* speaks of God's desire to have an intimate and close relationship
- *Gifts* must flow freely on the Sabbath
- Acts of Service. no other day is more appropriate to carry out acts of mercy and love for God towards each other

# Principle of Respect and Honor for Lawful Authority

*“Honor thy father and thy mother . . .”*

---

- This commandment is what I call the principle of honor for lawful authority
- God in his wisdom has placed our parents as guardians over us



# Principle of Respect and Honor for Lawful Authority

*“Honor thy father and thy mother . . .”*

---

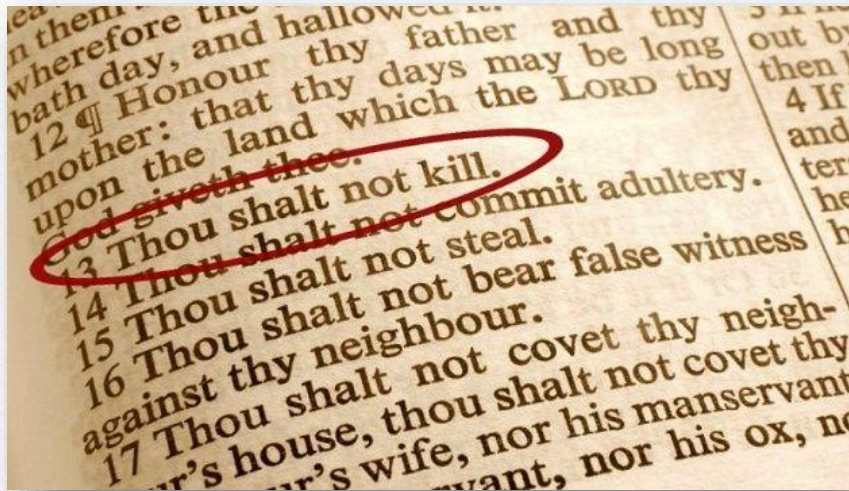
- We are commanded to respect and honor them because it is within the home that we learn the skills necessary to function as law-abiding, God-fearing citizens
- The home is God’s ordained space to learn respect, honor, and obedience



# Principle of Sacredness and Celebration of Life

*“Thou shalt not kill”*

- This principle is a call to respect the sacredness of life and celebrate the joy of life.



- God's nature is to create and nurture life
- We are to imitate our heavenly Father by nurturing and protecting life
- Life is to be lived with passion, joy, and enthusiasm
- Life testifies of beauty, joy, and power



# Principle of Protecting Purity and Keeping Promises (Commitment and Loyalty to Family)

*“Though shalt not commit adultery”*

---

- Protect the purity of the family circle, keeping promises, and commitment to the family
- Adultery is a violation of that exclusive relationship
  - It destroys love and relationships, wrecks homes and lives, and leaves a devastating legacy on generations yet unborn
- The principle focuses on loyalty and promise keeping
- We must learn the lessons of fidelity and loyalty if we are to be citizens in his kingdom



# Principle of Protecting Purity and Keeping Promises (Commitment and Loyalty to Family)

*“Though shalt not commit adultery”*

---

- We must keep our word, because it has meaning
- Faithfulness and loyalty are essential virtues of those who constitute the citizenry of the new earth
  - Because they have kept their promises to God
  - Although they were vexed by the laws of men, harassed by the adversary, and persecuted on all sides, they remained loyal to God
- Faithfulness and loyalty is the bond that holds the family together

# The Principle of Generosity and Giving

*“Thou shalt not steal”*

---

- This principle tells us to live lives of generosity and giving rather than grasping and taking
- When the law of selflessness is operational within us, we will have no desire to take that which does not belong to us
- Stealing originates in selfishness
- Stealing is the antithesis of heaven, where giving is the rule



# The Principle of Generosity and Giving

*“Thou shalt not steal”*

---

- If the command was written in the positive, it could read, give generously of yourself, time, talents, and resources to God and your neighbor
- Never neglect an opportunity to do well and render generosity to all
- The command is not just to refrain from doing something bad. It implies the embracing of the positive command to do well

## Principle of Personal Integrity and Truth Telling

*“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor”*

---



- This principle of personal integrity and truth telling is a mark of God’s people in every age
- The Bible describes them as not having deceit in their mouths
- We should exemplify truthfulness and honesty in thought, word, and conduct
- There is no cognitive dissonance, no gap between what one says and what one does
- Our religion is to be authentic, believable, and creditable

# Principle of Contentment and Living with an Attitude of Gratitude

*“Thou shalt not covet . . .”*

---

- The final principle is living contentedly with an attitude of gratitude.
- God calls us to a life of contentment and gratitude
- Living with this attitude leaves no room for the noxious weed of covetousness to flourish
- At the foundation of God’s law is the principle of unselfishness
- How do we live out this principle of contentment in our lives?

## Principle of Contentment and Living with an Attitude of Gratitude

*“Thou shalt not covet . . .”*

- How do we live out this principle of contentment in our lives?
  - We should accept all that God has given us with a true and sincere spirit of gratitude
  - We must not fall prey to the “grass is greener on the other side” philosophy
  - We need to accept each new day as a gift and a privilege from our Creator’s hand

