



General Conference
of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
West-Central Africa Division

IMPACT WEEK OF *Prayer*

April 12 – 18
2025

The Ten Commandments are God's revelation
of His love and character. —EGW



<https://wad.adventist.org/publishing-department>

General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist Church

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

IMPACT WEEK OF PRAYER

APRIL 12-18, 2025

INTRODUCTION

You are welcome to the annual **IMPACT WEEK OF PRAYER**. Impact Week of Prayer is an annual program organized by the world church and conducted at the local church level. It serves as a lead-up to the yearly distribution of the missionary book. During this special week, the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) focuses on both in-reach and outreach evangelistic prayer meetings, providing an opportunity for members to study and become familiar with the missionary book of the year. This year, our impact week of prayer begins the same day as the World Church Impact Day on **April 12, 2025**. However, sharing continues throughout the year. We, too, must benefit from what we are sharing with others. The taste of the pudding is in the eating. All hands should be on deck. All church departments are to use this week for in-reach and out-reach. Speakers are to be carefully and specially selected. Let us prepare ourselves and prepare others for Christ's second coming.

WAD IMPACT 2025

One of the materials selected for use during WAD IMPACT 2025 is the *Ten Commandments* by Loron Wade to guide our journey. This powerful document, which happened to be one of the earliest missionary books of the year, serves as a cornerstone for our faith and a profound opportunity to enrich the spiritual experiences of our long-standing members and new believers alike.

To ensure everyone has access to this transformative resource, we must commit to its widespread distribution, allowing its timeless wisdom to resonate across our faith community and deepen our collective understanding. Let us unite, embracing these teachings to inspire and uplift our spiritual walk.

PREFACE

The decline of 19th-century optimism highlights how advancements in science and technology have not addressed moral problems such as hunger, oppression, and tyranny. While the era was marked by a belief in progress and rationalism, this faith was shattered with the advent of World War I and the realization that many societal issues stem from moral failures rather than scientific or technological shortcomings. Problems like inequality and violence cannot be solved merely through intellect or innovation but rather require a moral framework. This suggests that returning to ancient moral codes, like the Ten Commandments, may provide insights for addressing contemporary challenges that have long been overlooked. This will also serve as the moral compass to direct us to God, the Creator. The Ten Commandments are "A fountain flowing with practical wisdom, they offer real-time solutions to real problems and situations that all of us deal with every single day." (Wade, 14-15)

METHODOLOGY

We suggest that you use various methods for conducting this week of prayer to accommodate all categories of church members and special guests.

1. Traditional method—all members come together in their local church.
2. Small Group—Action Unit or House Fellowship.
3. Office Group—Two or more members within office proximity.
4. Business Group—Two or more members within business proximity.
5. Online Group—Some church members can connect through WhatsApp/FaceBook/Phone or Zoom to conduct the week of prayer. Share your daily reading experience with someone to whom you are committed/responsible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

This year's Impact Week of Prayer is a special one. It will help every participant to dig deeper into the book, *The Ten Commandments*. The discussion questions have been prepared as an aid to the study of this book. The summary of the chapters is not meant to provide full information for the chapters. Instead, they are to urge individuals to study and read the entire text in each chapter. For class or study groups, assign portions to different members who can then share what they learn. As you answer the questions, consider the key points of the chapter. Use a pen or paper to highlight any other important points you discover. Please read the entire book over and over again to prepare for a deeper understanding of God's will and how to align yourself with His commandments.

SUGGESTED OBJECTIVES OF EACH GROUP LEADER

1. Each group member gets the material—hard or soft copy.
2. Each group member reads the material.
3. Share testimonies and prayer requests.
4. Pray for one another and pray for requests from other sources.
5. Encourage each member to donate books for distribution during impact day.
6. Encourage each member to participate in the mass distribution of the Missionary Book on IMPACT Day.
7. Encourage members to continue to share Missionary Book to their friends, neighbors, work mates, e.t.c. after IMPACT Day.
8. Write reports and inspiring testimonies about the week of prayer and IMPACT Day.
9. Encourage each group member to read the corresponding chapters before attempting the questions.
10. Discuss how best to improve the prayer program and Missionary Book distribution.

NOTE: Each group leader is encouraged to read the entire chapters of the book *The Ten Commandments*, from where the week of prayer reading was taken. This will give him/her

deeper insight and additional information to share with the group. The discussion questions were meant for each participant to study/read *The Ten Commandments* book.

SONGS: Suggested Theme Songs are SDAH 590. HL 284. **Note:** Feel free to choose more appropriate hymns.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

1. You can distribute the Missionary Book both in hard and soft copy. Kindly note that all copies shared should be reported through the denominational channel, whether soft or hard copy.
2. To have access to past Missionary Books and some other resources, download the 'Sharing Hope App' from: [Sharing Hope Website - Publishing](https://publishing.adventist.org/mission-365/sharing-hope-app)
<https://publishing.adventist.org/mission-365/sharing-hope-app>
3. Use this link to download *The Great Controversy* and helpful resources on GCP 2.0: www.greatcontroversyproject.org. You can also scan the bar code on the cover page to share a soft copy of this book. *The Great Controversy* remains the Missionary Book of the Year for 2025.

PRAYER

Church leaders are praying for you that this week of prayer will bring abundant blessings to all families. Below are standing prayer requests. Please ask members to share their prayer requests and employ different modes of prayer.

GENERAL PRAYER POINTS

1. WAD IMPACT 2025 –
 - Bumper harvest.
 - Nurture and retention of the new converts.
 - God's blessings on all those who supported the project. Etc.
2. General Conference Session –
 - Journey mercies.
 - Election of godly leaders.

- Business sessions.
- Policy and working documents. Etc.

3. Revival and Reformation—

- Revival of primitive godliness.
- Preparation for Christ's second coming.
- Increase in Faith and work. Etc.

4. West-Central Africa Division –

- Election of godly leaders.
- Overcome all her challenges.
- Growth and prosperity. Etc.

5. Unions and Conferences-

- Blessings on church leaders and wisdom to lead.
- Growth and prosperity.
- Unity among pastors and members Etc.

6. Local Churches and Members:

- Blessings and prosperity.
- Healing mercies.
- Provision of job.
- Promotion.
- marital issues and our youth
- The barren.
- Exam success for students.
- Projects.
- Protection. Etc.

DANGEROUS LOVE

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3.

“You don’t seem to get it, Jackie. It’s your future that’s at stake--your life!” “No, Dad. You’re the one who doesn’t get it. I’m telling you I *love* Danny. Next Tuesday the judge in the first civil court available downtown is going to marry us. “All right. understand that it’s your decision. This time, Jacqueline was happy that her father seemed to respect her right to choose.

“Last Thursday you wore a white blouse when Daniel wanted you to wear a different one. “Well ... he wasn’t exactly happy.” “Yes. In fact, he clenched his fist and yelled at you. “Because Danny didn’t hesitate to embarrass you in front of the whole family. Jacqueline, if that’s how he treats you now, how do you think it will be when—.” “Stop it! Stop it!” she shrieked, clapping her hands over her ears.

“Can’t you understand? I love Danny. He is my whole life. Nothing else matters. What you’re saying doesn’t matter. What you think doesn’t matter. I love him. I adore him. That’s all that matters. Can’t you understand?” “You ‘adore him’? You ‘adore him,’ Jacqueline? So what is Danny to you? Is he your god?”

“Sure, that’s it. If that’s how you want to say it, you’re right. Danny is my god.” Harry Williams trembled at his daughter’s words because he knew the power that love has can hurt us and cause terrible damage. How terrible it was for Jacqueline’s parents, when she began to reap the consequences of her terrible decision! She woke up to find herself united to a man who was intensely jealous and never satisfied with even her best efforts--who crushed her spirit with sarcasm, ridicule, and sometimes his fists! That is why Harry Williams trembled because of his daughter’s attitude. He was terrified to see her place herself in the hands of someone who could hurt her so much.

And that is why God has given us the first commandment. It is a warning, offered out of deep concern. It means: *Don’t surrender your loyalty and devotion to “gods” who in reality are no gods. Do not give a supreme place in your life to something or someone who, in the end, will only disappoint and hurt you.*

Failed Gods

The nations surrounding the ancient people of Israel worshiped “other gods.” There was Dagon, the chief deity of the Philistines. They looked to him for good harvests and large catches of fish, which meant abundance and prosperity. The Phoenicians were devoted to the moon goddess Ashtoreth, or Ashtart. She was in charge of fertility. The Moabites worshipped Chemosh and the Ammonites Moloch. Both gods accepted child sacrifices as ways to pacify and persuade them. The people went to such horrendous extremes, hoping to enlist the power of these deities on their behalf.

Today, of course, popular culture has changed. Most people no longer bow down to gods of wood, stone, and metal. But money, sex, and power are still the driving force in the life of millions. The magazine are full of shows and soap operas. What does this tell you about the “gods” that people worship most fervently today?

From the frantic worship of sex has come the pandemic of AIDS. The simplest, most obvious solution is to turn our backs on this treacherous deity and once again respect family values and the sacred character of marriage. But instead of this, political leaders around the world are calling on their god “money” to save them. “Next year,” “we will spend still more millions. We will build bigger and better laboratories. Then we will find a vaccine so that you can continue with your lifestyle without fear of the consequences.”

Terrorism has become the sword of the weak, it feeds on fanaticism and ignorance, and finds its recruits in miserable refugee camps in which unhappy youth find themselves bombarded daily with the rhetoric of hatred. What is the solution proposed by those who find themselves under attack from such young fanatics? They are turning to the god “power,” “We are going to build better rockets and bigger bombs. With them we will hunt those who oppress us.

And what is the result of such a strategy? Every use of brute force strengthens the radicals in their sense of injustice and persecution. It creates still more anger and confirms their conviction that they are victims and that their hatred and violence are fully justified.

Don't surrender your loyalty and devotion to “gods” who in reality are no gods, says the first commandment. Do not give a supreme place in your life to something or someone who, in the end, will only disappoint and hurt you.

Failure of the Flowers

One day Satan came to attack Jesus on the first commandment. First, he showed Him “all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,” and then he said, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me” (Matthew 4:8, 9). *Here it is: money, sex, and power. You can have it all!*

Jesus, refused to focus on the false gods. Instead he turned the first commandment around and quoted Deuteronomy 10:20: “It is written,” He said: ““You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only”” (Matthew 4:10). Rejecting the false gods, denouncing their worship, is not enough. We must replace their worship with the worship of the God of heaven.

A generation ago, “flower children,” young men and women with long hair and ragged clothing, filled the streets and parks of the Western world. They were rejecting materialism's false values. So why did their movement fail? It collapsed because they tried to take away without replacing.

Paul said: “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). The psalmist says, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10, KJV). Heart renewal that results in true morality is an act of creation and a gift from God.

The text of the first commandment continues: “You shall have no other gods *before Me.*” The “other gods,” who are actually no gods at all, are not to be replaced by a vacuum. After telling us what we are *not* to do (that is, not to worship false gods), the commandment then explains what we *are* to do. The prohibition then becomes a positive command to worship the true God.

Here is an ancient appeal that still speaks to us across the centuries: “***What does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul***” (Deuteronomy 10:12).

(Summary by Stephen C. Alkali).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are the potential dangers of placing someone you love on a pedestal and viewing them as a “god” in your life, as Jacqueline does with Danny? How can this perspective affect one’s relationships and personal well-being?
2. In what ways do Harry's concerns about his daughter’s choice reflect common parental anxieties about the relationships their children pursue? How can these fears be both protective and counterproductive?
3. The narrative draws parallels between Jacqueline's situation and the worship of ancient deities. In what ways do modern “gods”—such as money, power, and fame—create similar vulnerabilities in people's lives today? How can recognizing these "gods" help individuals make healthier choices in their relationships? How can we differentiate between “gods” and God the creator?

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray for God to help us replace our wrong choices daily in worshipping false “gods” that can cloud and fog our true sense of judgment with the worship of the one and only true God.
2. Pray for God to help us daily to say no to modern gods like infatuation, money, sex, power, and fame. Let us say yes to the worship of the true God of creation.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and General Conference Session.
4. Participants share their prayer points.

LITTLE GODS

The Second Commandment

You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. Exodus 20:4-6.

The thought of a 4-year-old that he could reach out with his little hand and touch the sun can be compared with a man who was busy in the forest cutting trees to make an image of God. Both are making the same mistake in their view about the universe created by God and the LORD God Almighty, Who made the Universe.

King Solomon had a better concept. After building a beautiful Temple for God and during the celebration, he prayed and said, “Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!” (2 Chronicles 6:18, KJV).

Why does the second commandment forbid us to make an idol that represents God? Because no matter how big we make it or how much gold, diamonds, or other things we use to cover it, the only thing it can do is make Him smaller. Inevitably, we bring Him down to a strictly human concept of things. And that is really the heart of the problem. A poor mental image of God is the fundamental sin that the second commandment tries to help us avoid.

Modern rationalists commit the same error. They cast the little net of their intellectual skills into the vast ocean of the universe. What they can capture is limited by the brief radius of their senses and their ability to process the data they take in. They make themselves the owners of their bit of information and doubt the existence of everything else. As I said, it is the same mistake and proof that this problem is not limited to ignorant people.

“The Father Himself Loves You”

the practices and ideas in idolatry, in terms of polytheism and paganism, express concepts such as the need to worship more than one god, gods being forgetful and indifferent in response to requests, the need to beg and plead constantly for a particular need, and lastly interceding through the dead saints which signify lack of love and concern for the beings or worshippers.

It would be hard to imagine a greater error. The Bible compares God with the most powerful kind of human love, declaring: “Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands” (Isaiah 49:15, 16).

But despite that assurance, many people still came to picture God as forgetful and reluctant, with an army of intercessors around His throne clamoring day and night for His attention to convince Him to help us. But Jesus told His followers: “I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you” (John 16:26, 27). And the apostle urged: “Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

“Why Did You Doubt?”

Having the privilege to view the sea from the sky in an airplane with fishermen and their fish boats on the sea, ready to fish, for those who had such experience can testify of the size and the vastness of the ocean! No wonder the writer wrote *What can such tiny boats do to exhaust all the treasure that God has stored in His pantry?* How things change when we see them from a different perspective!

And I wondered, *What about God’s perspective?* At times, our problems seem to fill the earth and sky. How do you think God views them? That was the lesson Peter learned one stormy night

on the Sea of Galilee. The gigantic waves and winds filled him with panic, and he shouted, “Lord, save me!” (Matthew 14:30). “Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’” (verse 31).

Fear and anxiety come from a lack of faith, and they violate the second commandment because they show that in our minds, God is very small.

Never Underestimate the Power of an Idol

The psalmist wrote about idols: “Those who make them will become like them” (Psalm 115:8), which means that the influence of idol worship changes the mindset of the worshipper. Apostle Paul reflects this inspiration in his teaching that idolaters had exchanged “the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. “Therefore,” he said, “God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts” “and to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.” He clarifies what he means by “not proper” with a list of sins that includes greed, evil, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, insolence, arrogance, boasting, disobedience to parents, and being untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful (Romans 1:23, 28-31).

Today, who can doubt that modern idols have at least as much power over the people as the ancient ones? And we can see more of this in secular music and movies full of sexual immoralities. And it is still true that those who make them become like them. In many ways, the results of modern idolatry are surpassing what the apostle Paul described in his day.

Thousands of Generations

Furthermore, here, God declares that even the third and fourth generations are going to suffer because of the sins of their ancestors. Notice that what happens to “the third and fourth generation” is not revenge taken on them by an angry God. The commandment says plainly that what is “visited” on them is the “iniquity of the fathers.

By contrast, the mercy and “lovingkindness” of God will be on “thousands” of those who love Him and keep His commandments (Exodus 20:6). This refers, of course, to the promise of eternal life. Jesus said: “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world” (John 17:24, KJV).

A Message of Freedom

In Conclusion, the keeping of the second commandment enables one to keep the first and the rest of the Law, which indicates that God is the First, center and last of one’s life

The apostle James called the Ten Commandments “the perfect law, the law of liberty” (James 1:25). At this point, we have looked at only two of its precepts, but the meaning of such

perfection and freedom is already clear. As the psalmist says: "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Psalm 119:165, KJV).

(Summary by Funmilayo Dorcas Adegbenle).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How big is God to you?
2. What are the problems in your life that LORD God cannot handle?
3. What are the idols in your life? Anything you love more than God is an idol?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Dear LORD God Almighty, forgive all my generational sins and bestow your everlasting love upon me and my next generations.
2. Dear LORD God Almighty, destroy every idol, ancient and modern, in my life and generation and jealously secure and occupy every space in my life and generation in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and Revival & Reformation.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

A NAME TO HONOUR

The Third Commandment

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." - Exodus 20:7

Surname as a Mark of Identity

A person's name is crucial in their life. It serves as a means of identity, defining where they come from, the family they represent, and the community or village they hail from. A name gives a sense of belonging.

A Story of Identity

A couple visited a family in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. As they entered the home, the family, with characteristic Guatemalan courtesy, stood up one by one to introduce themselves. The mother, Carmen Reyes, explained that her husband was not present because he had left the family after they began studying the Word of God.

As each family member introduced themselves, the couple noticed that some had the surname Reyes while others had Díaz. The family explained that their father, who struggled with alcoholism, would often register their births while intoxicated. Sometimes, he would give his name, but other times, he would claim not to know who the father was. As a result, some of the children bore his surname, while others took their mother's maiden name.

This family had accepted their situation, but the couple left with a profound realization: how sad it must be to know that your own father didn't recognize you or acknowledge you as his child.

The Bible teaches us that God wants everyone to be identified by His name. We all belong to Him, and He desires that we remain under His care always. Even when we wander away, He doesn't reject or forsake us. Instead, He eagerly awaits our return. Jesus said, "The one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out" (John 6:37). No matter our circumstances, all we need to do is come to Jesus. The key word is "Come!" Whoever comes will be "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6, KJV).

In Christ, we are all recognized; we are all legitimate sons and daughters. Therefore, He says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine!" (Isaiah 43:1). In verse 7, "Everyone who is called by my name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

What a glorious privilege to bear the Father's name! Apostle Paul exclaimed, "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name" (Ephesians 3:15). Apostle John also wrote, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we would be called children of God" (1 John 3:1).

How Can We Be Sure That We Bear His Name?

Perhaps you're wondering how you can bear this name. How can you be sure of being a member of God's family both on earth and in heaven? Jesus provided the answer through the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

It is through total surrender to Jesus Christ, symbolized by water baptism (immersion), that we take on His name. At this point of surrender, our lives become a reflection of Christ's life. We choose to bear His name, and wherever we are seen, God's name must be honored.

We must be recognized as God's children, and His character must be reflected in our lives. Taking the name of God in vain means calling ourselves sons or daughters of God while continuing to live as before. We cannot claim to be of God and fail to represent Him.

How Much Is a Name Worth?

How much would you say God's name is worth? When we fail to live up to our Christian commitment, we make God look bad; we drag the family name through the mud. When we fail to represent God's name, we cause "the name of God to be blasphemed" (Romans 2:24). We take the name of God in vain when we use His sacred name lightly or as a vulgarity. We dishonor His name when we fail to fulfill promises made in His name.

As God's children, we must maintain our confession in Christ daily by living out His life in us. To avoid taking God's name in vain, we must stay connected with Him through prayer, studying His Word, and witnessing. The enemy seeks to misrepresent God, but through Christ's strength, we can remain true to God.

(Summary by Onuri C. Stanhope).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to bear God's name, and how can we ensure that we are representing Him well in our daily lives?
2. How can taking God's name in vain (Exodus 20:7) manifest in our words and actions, and what are the consequences of doing so?
3. What role does surrendering to Jesus Christ and being baptized play in taking on God's name, and how can this transformation impact our relationships and interactions with others?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father in heaven, help us to truly surrender to You and to know that we are accepted as we are, though vile and full of sin. Amen!
2. Dear God, help us never to take Your name in vain by continuing to live in sin but help us to daily honor Your name through our thoughts and actions. Amen!

3. WAD Impact 2025 and Revival & West-Central Africa Division
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

FINDING PEACE

The Fourth Commandment

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11.

The author describes his experience of traveling to the port of Livingston on the northeastern coast of Guatemala from Puerto Barrios. Their trip was marked by insistent rain, terrible storms, and violent gusts of wind that threatened to break the ship's windows. The journey of 90 minutes appeared to be endless compared to initial trips. However, when they arrived at the shelter of the harbor, they took a breath of relief because they had come into the refuge and were safe, though there were still waves raging as wildly as ever in the open ocean. The author compared this experience to humanity passing through the storms of life. However, on the Sabbath day, they come to the shelter of the Sabbath harbor, resting from the bustling, hustling, and bubbling of life.

There may be turmoil and chaos all around us, but we can be assured that we are God's special creatures on the sixth day to govern the earth. "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'" (Gen 1:26). God pronounces these intelligent beings not as merely good, but very good. Afterward, He rested. After six days of labor, God rested, signifying finished work and perfect provision. "Like Adam, we rest to show that we accept this reality, that we trust in God's perfect provision for our well-being and fulfillment. It means that we repose confidently in His hands, trusting in His wisdom, His plan, and provision for our lives." (Wade, 47). Our resting on the Sabbath is a declaration to the universe that the Sabbath rest is a sign of a relationship with God based on faith, thereby giving us assurance, peace, and love.

Countless people feel desperate and frustrated with the responsibilities and problems of life. We have so much to do within a short space of time. Despite this, the Sabbath command teaches us to rest on what God has accomplished for us, providing us with restoration and renewal. "It was on Friday when God concluded His work and rested from the finished task of Creation. And it

was also on a Friday when Jesus finished the work of redemption. And as He bowed His head and died, He said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). (Wade, 51). Henceforth, the Sabbath became a sign of creation and redemption.

Entering the Sabbath rest once during the seven-day cycle can be compared to resting from the physical and spiritual storms of life, including our problems and anxieties. We take a break from condemnation, stress, and the pressures of life. Romans 8:2–3, Hebrews 4:9–10. During this time, we worship and celebrate His acts of creation and redemption.

Lessons and Blessings from Sabbath Rest

1. Everything God created was very good, including the Sabbath. The Sabbath reminds us that God is the creator of heaven and earth, and we love and worship Him as our Creator.
2. Sabbath signifies a perfect and complete work. Nothing is to be added or subtracted. Similarly, our salvation was made perfect and complete in Christ. We have nothing to add.
3. Sabbath is a sign of perfect provision. Humanity was created to rest fully on the perfect provision made by God. We celebrate God’s work and provision. We trust Him for the provision of all things in life.
4. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27). It is a precious gift provided for the benefit and protection of humanity.
5. Sabbath rest is a sign of a relationship with God based on faith, not works. It is a sign of sanctification. (Ezekiel 20:12).
6. Sabbath is a parable of life that we will one day come to the end of our allotted time on earth and then rest.
7. Sabbath brings us restoration and renewal.
8. God concluded His work of creation on Friday and rested on the Sabbath. “Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” (Genesis 2:3). Similarly, Jesus concluded the work of redemption on Friday and rested in the grave on the Sabbath. “Thus the Sabbath is a celebration not only of Creation but also of redemption.” (Wade, 52).
9. When we celebrate the Sabbath, we are celebrating our acceptance of salvation achieved by Christ on the cross of Calvary. We ceased from earning salvation through our personal good deeds. We cease from the sea of problems and anxieties in the world.
(Summary by Minkoua Alain and Lambert Owusu-Boakye).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The observance of the Sabbath provides us with some benefits. Can you mention some of them?
2. Can you share your personal experiences as a Sabbath keeper? Is your Sabbath keeping a delight?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Lord, help us to love your Sabbath day and keep it holy.
2. Teach us, Lord, how to communicate your love and the Sabbath message to the dying world.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and Unions & Conferences.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

The Fifth Commandment

*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged
in the land which the Lord your God gives you. Exodus 20:12.*

Parents, especially mothers, will go to great lengths to keep their children safe and secure. This point is illustrated by the story of Eleni Gatzoyiannis, who lived in Greece during the civil war that broke out from 1946-1949. The Communists seized her house for their headquarters, put her to work on community improvement projects, and conscripted her eldest daughter into the army. She complied with all of this, but when they announced they were taking her boys, aged 6 and 8, to another country where they would be trained in communist party principles, she knew it could not be allowed. She began to plan their escape. She sent her sons to the next village where their uncle could help them, but she paid the price by facing a firing squad. She cried out just before the shots rang out, 'My children, my children.'

“The principle laid down in the fifth commandment is a strong foundation for success in school, on the job, and even in marriage. In fact, the first time the Bible mentions marriage it describes it as a man leaving his father and mother and joining himself to his wife (Genesis 2:24). So the Bible sees even marriage as a transference and, in some sense, a continuation of a relationship that started with our parents. People who have unresolved issues with their parents head into marriage with a serious handicap, and they are at extremely high risk for having problems in

other areas of life as well. That is why the commandment says that if we honor our parents our life will be “prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you” (Exodus 20:12). This means that a healthy relationship with our parents is the basis for good relations, peace of mind, and success throughout our life span.” (Wade, 59-60).

None of us had a choice in choosing our parents, where we were born, or how parents should raise us. Nonetheless, the Bible enjoins us to honor our parents. Children have a choice to make, and their attitude will determine the result of their choices. Honor is an attitude of the heart. Therefore, “honor” should be “an intelligent response, an active expression of love and respect, not an automated compliance with authority.” (Wade, 60). Therefore, Proverbs 6:20–22 and 23:25 give good counsel to children.

“Whoever becomes a parent,” asserts Wade, “undertakes a great responsibility.” Parents should teach their children to take up responsibilities as early and as often as possible. They should learn how to be responsible for their choices, including bad ones. They will learn unforgettable lessons for a lifetime when they are allowed to take responsibility for their choices and actions, including their choice to make it to heaven.

Parents have the responsibility to discipline their children in the right way. A system of discipline based on coercion and punishment should be avoided. Ephesians 6:1–4 and Colossians 3:20–21. Honoring parents should come from an attitude of love and respect rather than automated compliance with authority.

Children, what are the lasting memories you want to have about your parents? And what lasting impression do you want your parents to have about you? It is significant to have mutual and pleasant memories between parents and children.”

(Summary by Abraham D. Obaya).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are specific ways you can honor your parents in your current stage of life? Are there particular actions or attitudes that resonate with you as you navigate your relationship with them?
2. How should one approach the commandment to honor parents in cases where there may be a history of conflict, abuse, or neglect? What does honor look like in these difficult situations, and how can individuals balance respect for parents with their own need for boundaries?
3. In what ways do you think honoring parents and authority figures contributes to society's overall health and stability?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Help me, Lord, to honor my parents while they are alive and care for them, and not by displaying expensive and extravagant burial ceremonies when they die.
2. Dear Lord, help parents develop the right attitude in training their children. May God smooth the path where there is conflict between parents and children.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and Local Churches.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

GETTING CONTROL

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not murder. Exodus 20.13

Huck Finn tells the story of the savage murder of two teenage boys that resulted in an ongoing family feud. It is a fictional story written by Mark Twain in 1884 when this was a common practice. This whole tragedy happened because of an argument between two men, in which one kills the other, the brothers are avenging, all the brothers are killed, the cousins are going to take revenge, and the hatred leads to the extermination of the whole family. The author says that he does not understand such an attitude as someone can hate another so much to the point of taking the life of the other. One day, he went to Wal-Mart to do some shopping. The park was very crowded. He went around many times until he found a single space to park. When he thought he had already found the solution, someone surprised him by putting his car there. “Hah! I tell you . . . for a few seconds I could just imagine myself leaping over there like Tarzan and grabbing him by the throat. But of course, I didn’t actually do it.” (Wade, 72). We can imagine doing the worst when we are hurt. But we should apply caution.

The Tiger Inside

The author talks about the sweet and lovely cat he has at home, and he says that the only difference with a tiger is the size, and if the cat were bigger than him, the cat would be interested in him in

the same way that the cat has in the birds that are on the porch, for the cat has a mind and all the instincts of the tiger. With this illustration, he invites us to meditate on the words of Christ in Matthew 5:21-22, warning us about the need to control our emotions to the point of not failing in the face of provocations because otherwise, we would be like the Hatfields and the McCoys if we had lived where they lived. (Hatfields and McCoys had a bloody long war that decimated both families). (Wade, 71-72).

The Perfect Solution

Some people say that this commandment, especially when referring to Matthew 5:47, should not be followed literally and that only some saints who do not live in society but in isolation can live and practice it.

The Only Way

But the author shows that he strongly disagrees, he points out by showing three important reasons Jesus's wisdom is actually the only practical and sensible way to live.

1. *Its is the only way to break the chain of violence.*

He points out that a friend who is a marriage counselor says that some destructive fights start over trivial things. He points out the words of (James 3:5), "*Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.*" He emphasizes that violence cannot be cured by more violence and that it took Hatfields and the McCoys 20 years to figure it out.

2. *It's the only way to get control.* In the second place, when we respond to ugliness with anger, hatred, and a desire for revenge, we are handing control over ourselves to someone else. We are letting them push our buttons and determine our feelings, attitudes, and reactions. Jesus wants to free us from this tyranny and give us back our autonomy along with our peace of mind. Until we make the tough decision actually to do this, we are only reacting, not acting. And he reminds us of our duty in Luke 6:27-28.
3. *It's the only way to act responsibly.* By saying that we must not allow our enemies to determine our behavior and our attitudes, Jesus reminds us once again of our accountability. If we return anger for anger, ugliness for unkindness, it is our own decision to do this, because the power of choice is ours.

The Word That Makes All the Difference

The golden rule has an often-overlooked word in it. It is “therefore,” and it is the word that makes all the difference. Why? Because it connects us to the power line that lights up the golden rule and makes it actually work. Of course, you remember the golden rule. It says: “All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them” (Matthew 7:12, KJV).

True Love is a Gift from God

The author ends this chapter by pointing us to 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 which gives summary of true love. “True love is a divine gift. It comes only from God Himself.” (Wade, 80).
(Summary by Edson Monteiro).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. After this reflection, do you remember a similar situation that was difficult to deal with?
2. How were you able to control your anger?
3. How easy do you find it to love those who hurt you?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for God to give us a new heart.
2. Pray for God to teach us how to love and show compassion to our enemies.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and General Conference Session.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

SOUL GLUE The Seventh Commandment

You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:13)

Our civilization is reeling in the aftermath of a new revolution or liberation, in which people find excitement in unbounded freedom and joy in unrestrained sexual experimentation. However, the seventh commandment reminds us of God's law not as a barrier to our freedom but as a means of recognizing the uniqueness of how we are built, as well as the repercussions of breaching that uniqueness.

Genesis 2:21-24 describes God's original intent for marriage and the sexual union. In verses 21 and 22, "*The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man and brought her to the man*" (Genesis 2:21, 22). When Adam saw Eve waking up, he identified her as part of him. Hence, he exclaimed, "*This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh!*" (v.24). God's design is for flesh to be united to flesh and spirit to spirit through sexual intercourse. The couple is thus reunited with each other. "God created and designed the sexual union to be a powerful instrument of identification and bonding. In other words, it is soul glue. The psychological concept of identification illustrates this reality further. "To 'identify' with someone involves more than to feel for them or to care about them. It means that in some mysterious way we come to share their identity. Through identification, we can see the world through their eyes, know their joy and their pain..."

Science helps us better understand this process. Research has shown that the release of oxytocin during sex works in our brains to strengthen bonding and identification. Jesus underscored this bonding function of physical intimacy when he referred to God's original purpose for marriage. "*Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said for this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate*" (Matthew 19:4-6). This bonding occurs irrespective of the persons involved. knowing this, Paul cautioned: "Do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? The two will become one flesh". (1 Cor. 6:16). Hence sex cannot just be a physical act, that we engage in and walk away from. Something happens in that union. Engaging in sexual relations with one who is not a spouse creates an entangling web that in one way or the other will come back to haunt the individual (s) involved. Sex is heaven's way of cementing together two hearts, and they cannot afterward be torn apart without causing significant harm to both.

Proponents of the sexual revolution peddle the idea that safe sex is possible, especially through the use of condoms. however, in the light of glaring statistics, condoms have not eliminated the risk of disease. Their increased use over the past 25 years has failed to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus—which causes AIDS—between 15 percent and 31 percent of the time and is a leading cause of death among 25 to 44-year-olds. New cases and new kinds of STDs have grown even more rapidly, affecting teens and younger adults more severely. Overall, at least one-fourth of sexually active teens have become infected. Other STDs include the human

papillomavirus (HPV), with 5.5 million new cases reported each year, and Chlamydia trachomatis, which scars the fallopian tubes and is the fastest-growing cause of infertility. herpes and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS, both of which are still without cure.

Another fallacy of the sexual revolution is that "you have to test-drive a car before you buy it." This idea views cohabitation as a risk-free way to check for compatibility. Counterintuitively, data indicate that couples who start their marriage in this manner are nearly twice as likely to divorce within 10 years as all other first marriages, experience three times more physical aggression, and nearly five times more severe violence than married couples and are more likely to betray each other after marriage. In addition, women in live-in relationships have a significantly higher depression rate than those in married relationships and greatly reduced sexual satisfaction.

The impact of the sexual revolution on children is equally devastating; there is reportedly a five-fold increase in the number of children living in single-parent homes, with higher rates of out-of-wedlock births since the 1960s. Children in single-parent homes are more likely to be abused by their parents; end up in jail; have to repeat a grade, drop out, or be expelled from school; use marijuana, cocaine, and tobacco; carry weapons; have serious emotional and behavioral problems; suffer from physical health problems; be sexually active; become unwed parents; or suffer depression or commit suicide.

Against this bleak background and the pervasive sexual contamination in our environment, there is hope of overcoming it. This victory begins with recognizing the root of the problem. It all begins from the heart, that is to say, from the mind. The battle for self-control can be won for old and young by making daily choices not to be drawn into the web of sexual pollution around us. By choosing what to watch, listen to, focus our attention on, and who to relate with, we can win the battle for purity. *"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything, worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things"* (Philippians 4:8). Despite the painful and far-reaching consequences of breaking the seventh commandment, there is hope for healing and restoration in Christ. His words to the adulterous woman: "I don't condemn you either. Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11) are the lifeline for anyone who, having found themselves overtaken by sin, is repentant and seeks to be restored.

(Summarized by Ngo Ikouba epse Nfor, Samuelle).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we empower young people to live chaste lives through sex education?
2. What practical suggestions and actions can we undertake to mitigate the adverse effects of single-parent homes on children?
3. How can we support those who genuinely seek restoration from violating the 7th commandment?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Let us pray for God to help us honor our marital vows
2. Let us ask God to grant us the capacity to choose what we hear, see, and think.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and Revival & Reformation.
4. 4. Participants share their prayer requests.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

The Eight Commandment

"You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

Some time ago, the author went to Mexico City for a brief vacation with his wife and son, David. One evening, they drifted off to sleep, having left their guest room window open to catch the breezes. It was a third-story window that opened onto an inner courtyard, so it seemed safe enough. A sudden sight caused the wife to scream, "There is a man at the window." The author could not recall ever being jerked from sleep so abruptly. For a few long seconds, he stared at the vague shadow in the window but could not think of any logical way that it could actually be a man. A few minutes later, the shadow began to move. It was indeed a man. Then, carefully and deliberately, the man backed out and retreated. What was the intention of the man at the window? What do you think he wanted? Without mincing words, he came to steal: to relieve them of some of their possessions.

There are many kinds of stealing; these include theft, illegal copying, plagiarism, information manipulation, slander/ defamation of character, slacking off on the job, waste, carelessness, and overcharging. Others are underpayment, abuse or neglect of children, marital unfaithfulness, kidnapping/slavery/wrongful imprisonment, and withholding tithe,

The first biblical rule against stealing, found in Gen. 3:19, is "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread." The apostle Paul echoes the same sentiment when he wrote: "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with those who have need." (Eph .4:28). The Bible prescription for stealing has two parts: self- support and love. The Holy Writ encourages self-support: "When you shall eat the fruit of your hands, you will be happy, and it will be well with you. . . ." "The hand of the diligent maketh rich (Ps. 128:2; Prov. 10:4 KJV). God designed the sweat

component of life to be a blessing - to bring relief from stress, to add years and good health to the body, and to bring peace and order to the mind.

An American Founding Father who served as the third President of the United States of America from 1801 - 1809, Thomas Jefferson (1743- 1826) once wrote: "The worst day of a man's life is the day he sits down and plans how he can get something for nothing. Jefferson was thinking not of the damage that burglars can do when they crawl into our window at night, but of the devastating effect this mindset has on the people who indulge in it. This is the essential reason for the warning given in the eighth commandment. The "smart" people who take the part to easy street are making a terrible trade-off. They are bartering away their personal integrity, values, and self-esteem, and what are they getting in return? (i) Dishonesty is destructive to our sense of personal satisfaction. We may have gotten whatever thing we wanted, but in the process, we have given away the wholesome joy that comes from a sense of accomplishment: the satisfaction of personal achievement and a job well done.

(i) The something-for-nothing syndrome has a depraving, degrading effect on the character. It is an addictive behavior that can degenerate into serious mental health challenges.

(ii) Something-for-nothing degrades our relationships with other people. Dishonesty pits one person against another because there is "no such thing as a free lunch."

The something-for-nothing syndrome turns other people into objects to manipulate for their selfish interests.

The second element in the biblical prescription for dishonesty is love. The text says: "He must labour , performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will always have something to share with him who has need." (Eph. 4:28). The opposite of stealing is giving. It impartially reaches out to others, serving them with love, expecting nothing. The parable of the good sower is a good illustration of this principle (Luk10:30-36). Whereas the thieves had taken away, the Samaritan gave. Because he loved, he gave. Without the love component, the sweat component (that is, earning your own way and paying for what you get) is not really a complete cure for the something-for-nothing syndrome. In fact, it can lead us to compare ourselves with others and to harbor pride and greed. To personal effort and integrity, we must add compassion and impartial love that gives off itself in service to others.

The most dangerous kind of something for nothing is the kind we try to bring into our relationship with God. The Bible says that salvation is free. It is the essential message of the Gospel. Unfortunately, this has been misinterpreted by some people to mean that good works don't matter, all that is necessary is to have faith. Of course, good works will never earn salvation for anyone. We cannot observe some commandments we like and consider others abolished by grace. We cannot tell people we are saved while continuing to overlook what God told us in His ten commandments and Holy Book. God's words tell us that faith without works is dead. Faith and work go hand-in-hand. God's promises are made upon conditions: if we do His will, if we

walk in the truth, then we may ask what we will, and we shall receive accordingly. Our salvation depends upon our course of action. However, our works will never save us; It is the merit of Christ that will avail on our behalf. Through faith in Him, Christ will make all our imperfect efforts acceptable to Him. There is no excuse for sin and indolence.

(Summary by Edmons Chijioke Adindu).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Will our good works earn us salvation?
2. What are the consequences of something-for-nothing syndrome?
3. Without the love component, the sweat component is not really a complete cure for something-for-nothing syndrome. Discuss.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Lord, You hate the life of indolence. Your will is that I should labor, performing with my own hands what is good. You designed the sweat component of life to be a blessing. Strengthen me to be self-supporting.
2. Give me an honest and loving heart to obey you in all things.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and West-Central Africa Division.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF

The Ninth Commandment

"You shall not bear false witness against you neighbor." Exodus 20:16.

One day, around 1870, the manager of a large railroad company in the Eastern United States received a surprise visit from one of his competitors in business. The visitor described a scheme by which their mutual competitor could be edged out of business, which would translate into millions of dollars for both companies. The manager informed the visitor that the company did not do business that way and that the owner would not approve of such. A discussion ensued thus:

Visitor: "We have a draft for \$10'000 in your name if you agree."

Manager: "Sorry, it's out of the question."

Visitor: "I must have misspoken. Actually, it's twice that amount."

The manager edged further away from his table.

The visitor mistaking his reaction hastily added: "We possibly could find a way to make it up to \$30'000".

At this, the manager roared: "Get out of my office, you scoundrel."

After the visitor left, the manager was visibly shaken when his secretary came in.

Secretary: " Sir, he said, I can not begin to tell you how much I admire you for"

Manager: "Don't even say it." The truth is, I had to get him out of here in a hurry. He was getting close to my price." What do you think? Is it true that everybody has a price at which they sell out?

We All Do It, Don't We? What about a lie:to avoid embarrassment? to keep from hurting someone's feelings? to save money at Customs check? Hey, but wait, we're talking about lies that could ruin a big railroad business and not these "small lies." According to Anglican priest Joseph Fletcher in his famous book, "Situation Ethics," Fletcher claims that lies can be deemed justified if the motive is right. Hmmmm, coming from a religious leader, it is easy to understand how Fletcher's ideas have influenced a lot of people, making lying socially acceptable or even essential.

The Problem With lying

King Solomon says: "Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord " (Proverbs 12:22). Apostle Paul also emphatically puts liars on the same list as murderers, immoral men, kidnappers, lawless, and rebellious" (1Tim. 1: 9 10).

The book of Revelation joins in the solemn warning that "no one who practices abomination and lying" will have a part in God's eternity (Revelation 21:27).

What's All The Fuss About, Anyway?

Why does the Bible insist so much on telling the truth?

1. Lying destroys the victim's freedom and dignity because it is manipulative. It robs others the ability to take rational choices if the facts are accurate and not distorted.
2. Lying damages the personal freedom of liars themselves because they are entangled in their own web of lies. Liars have to tell more lies to cover their previous lies. Abraham Lincoln said: "No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar." (Wade 111).
3. Lying damages the liar's self-worth. Even if others do not know, the liar knows that he is a fake, a hypocrite.
4. Lying destroys trust when people find out.

5. Lying destroys our relationship with God. This may be of least concern to someone trying to get away from trouble, but this separation from God is devastating.

The God Who Is

The God who spoke to Moses from the burning bush declared His name as "I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14). He is the self-sufficient, unchanging, ever-present One. Psalm 31:5 refers to Him as "the God of truth. God is the reality of truth itself. When we are truth-telling, we derive from Him, who is truth by Himself and of Himself.

Anything outside of truth (lying, falsehood), therefore, is anti-God. Jesus said: "The devil does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and father of lies" (John 8:44). We block God from our radar and align with the Devil when we tell lies.

The Time of the Big Lie

Jesus warned of the time when millions of people would be overwhelmed by the most powerful and sophisticated deception ever known. Highly convincing, sweet-talkers, religious leaders will "show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect." (Matt. 24:24; 2 John 7). We call this movement "Anti-Christ" because Jesus' mission from the beginning was to tell the truth about God (John 18:37).

Why will millions be overwhelmed by this last great deception? Because they did not love the truth. What will people who love truth do? Jesus' story of the man who hit a chest of ancient treasures while digging a field encapsulates how not to be caught in this last deception. The man sold all he had to purchase the field (Matthew 13: 44, 45)

People who love truth will search for it (in the Bible), and when they find it, they will cherish it (obedience), even giving up all (old nature-lying, falsehood) to get it. "Buy the truth and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23).

The No Lie People

Not everyone will be overwhelmed by the last-day deception. Hallelujah!

John the revelator saw in vision a group of individuals living in the last days who "follow the Lamb wherever He goes no lie was found in their mouth." (Revelation 14:4,5).

They are people who loved the truth, searched for it, and when they had found it, valued it, allowing it to change their lives. They can not selfishly keep the truth to themselves but eagerly share it with others. Not bearing false witness for them meant bearing a fearlessness witness to the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).
(Summary by Foluke Oyedeji).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How much is your honesty worth? Would you sell out for \$30'000, or maybe more?
2. What is the fuss about telling some "white lies" in "difficult" situations to save face or keep from hurting people's feelings?
3. Surely God understands that it is not habitual?

PRAYER POINTS

Dear Jesus:

1. Help me to know You - The Truth, that I may be free, indeed.
2. Help me in my everyday life to be a harbinger of You - The Truth to others.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and Unions & Conferences.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

OUT-OF-ORDER ATTACHMENT

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor. Exodus 20:17.

Most of us do not realize that we are covetous until we take a critical look at our lives. The Tenth Commandment warns, "Thou shalt not covet."

To illustrate the essence of covetousness, Loron Wade recounted his experience with a portable radio he deeply admired. A charming, smiling lady walked past him with the radio, and he instantly desired to own one. Determined, he denied himself many things to save up for it. Finally, he purchased the brand-new radio for \$43. However, on the very same day, it crashed and shattered. This unfortunate event reminded him of his mother's adage: "*Wait till the new wears off.*" This saying highlights a profound truth—no matter how exciting or desirable something appears at first, the novelty soon fades away.

Another illustration of covetousness is found in the life of Christopher Reeve. He "acquired a luxurious mansion, a private yacht, several airplanes, and a passion for sailing farther, flying

higher, and pushing himself harder than anyone else.” As an actor, he moved from one adventure to another, constantly seeking more.

However, his pursuit of thrill and achievement took a tragic turn when he crashed during a horse race, suffering a severe spinal cord injury. This accident changed everything. “Christopher Reeve went from being one of the brightest stars and top-earning actors in the world to a man who was dependent on others and on machines for every breath.” The man who once thrived on perpetual activity now found himself in what he later described as “the perpetual stillness.”

“Not many people have the particular combination of talents and opportunities that brought wealth and celebrity to Christopher Reeve. But there are millions who, on their own level, are following the ethic he lived by. Things clutter their houses. Living beyond their means, they find themselves heavily in debt, many of them teetering on the edge of financial ruin. Harried and hurried by their get-more lifestyle, they have little time to spend with their children, and none at all for helping others or having a meaningful devotional life. It is hardly surprising that in 2005 nearly 2 million people had to file for personal bankruptcy—by far, the greatest number in history.” (Wade, 123).

“Coveting is love that is out of proportion, out of order, and out of place. It means placing our devotion where it doesn’t belong, putting “things”—money, success, personal achievement—in the center of our existence, and believing that they are the foundation on which we can build happiness. “Things” become more important than people and their needs.” (Ibid, 123).

“Like the other nine commandments, this one talks not only about specific acts but also values and attitudes. And this one, too, is not only prescriptive but descriptive--that is, it not only tells us how to behave, but describes how things should be, and reveals to us what God is like. He, above all, is the one who serves, the one who gives, with unselfish, self-sacrificing love. As we’ve noted already, the apostle Paul urges us to “do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,” but “with humility of mind” not only “look out for [our] own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” In the next verses, he reveals the source and inspiration for such an ideal.” (Philippians 2:5-8). (Ibid, 123).

“Jesus Christ is the supreme example for us. His was a life of humble service. He “emptied Himself” and poured Himself out on the altar of service and sacrifice. By doing so, He showed us an example of compassion for the lost, of practical love in action. This is what moves Christians and inspires their values. The closer we come to truly obeying the Ten Commandments, the closer we are to imitating His character and being like Him.”

And this, after all, is their purpose. (Ibid, 124).

(Summary by Abraham D. Obaya).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible for one to be covetous and not know it?
2. How can we learn to live within our means and not run into debt perpetually?
3. Is it possible to truly live the principles exuded in Philippians 2:5-8?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Dear Lord, help me to know the true state of my heart and save me from covetousness.
2. 1 Timothy 6:6 says, “But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.” (NASV). Please, Lord, help me to be contented in life.
3. WAD Impact 2025 and Local Churches & Members.
4. Participants share their prayer requests.

The Conclusion of the Matter

Benjamin Franklin once created a list of virtues to improve himself—an idea that some might consider applying to the Ten Commandments as a kind of self-improvement guide. However, the apostle Paul warned against this approach, describing it as a “ministry of death” because it reduces faith to mere rule-keeping. True religion, as revealed in the new covenant of Jeremiah 31 and echoed in Paul’s writings, is not based on external obedience but on a deep, living relationship with God. Instead of being a ladder to climb into heaven, the commandments are meant to guide us away from pain and towards a life of freedom and wisdom.

Under the new covenant, God promises to write His laws on our hearts through His Spirit, transforming obedience from duty into a loving response. This shift from rule-following to heart-driven devotion makes all the difference. As God renews our hearts, obedience becomes a natural expression of love and gratitude. The conclusion invites us to enter into this covenant of peace—a relationship with God where His Spirit empowers us to live according to His will, as promised in Ezekiel 36:25–27.

(SOURCE: *What if We Did It God’s Way? THE TEN COMMANDMENTS* by Loron Wade. H&HPA, 2006).

SUGGESTED GROUPING

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| DAY 1 | – | 1 & 2 Commandments |
| DAY 2 | – | 3rd Commandments |
| DAY 3 | – | 4th Commandment |
| DAY 4 | – | 5th Commandment |
| DAY 5 | – | 6th & 7th Commandments |
| DAY 6 | – | 8th Commandment |
| DAY 7 | – | 9th & 10th Commandments |