

10 Reasons for teaching the Ten Commandments

1. The Ten Commandments were so important that God actually gave Moses a written copy! Moreover, they were written on stone, a fact that suggests permanence.
2. The One who created also gave principles to live by so that things would "go well with you" as is repeated often in the book of Deuteronomy. We do well to inculcate His directions when raising a family.
3. The Ten Commandments were given as the Israelites were about to enter the Promised Land. They form the basis for setting up a civilized society. They are as foundational now as they were then. Our own society has suffered as the Ten Commandments have been forgotten and transgressed.
4. It is easy, even in a Christian home, to neglect the teaching of the Ten Commandments. When life gets busy, we may assume each child has been taught them. This repeated initiative makes sure it happens. Hopefully, appropriate conversations accompany the teaching. As is obvious from the book of Deuteronomy, the process was meant from the start to be one of parent/child interaction. So, no matter how helpful an electronic or a printed aid may be, it should not bypass discussion and explanation with parents and grandparents.
5. It is not just the people of the world, but those coming from Christian homes that are ignoring/contravening the Ten Commandments. This Celebration initiative flags the need for parents to be intentional about teaching them.
6. What we learn well when we are young stays with us later on, and it also serves as an inner boundary to inform decision making throughout our lives. Whether in matters of honesty, fidelity, respect for God's Name, being content with our own possessions, recognizing the value of life, observation of a day of rest, attitude toward parents, or telling the truth, the Ten Commandments are extremely practical and pervasive in their application. To know them is to always have an inner reminder of what is the right thing to do.
7. The character qualities that we are trying to inculcate in our families are rooted in the Ten Commandments. For example, respect for authority flows out of #1 and #5. Perseverance, diligence, work ethic are natural outcomes of believing #8 and #10.

8. The Ten Commandments are a reminder of our need of salvation from sin. Ray Comfort uses the Ten Commandments on his tracts to show that we are ALL sinners in need of a Saviour. Romans 7:7 says " I had not known sin but by the law". The law is a "schoolmaster to bring us to Christ". The Commandments conflict with to our human desires and nature. The grace of God is our only hope.

9. In the days of the Judges, we are told that "every man did that which was right in his own eyes". Our own society has drifted far from the absolutes that were foundational to our laws. Without considerable effort on the part of parents, families will naturally grow up to think like the rest of society, however it evolves. In a society infused with situation ethics, the Ten Commandments form a framework for discussion, a statement of absolutes, a plumb line, to assist us in evaluating the issues and trends that surround us.

10. In the course of teaching the Ten Commandments and in the attending discussions, we can engage our families (at the appropriate maturity levels) on current issues in the community and the world. This process is a significant part of preparing a child for eventual independence and for leaving home when they will make their own decisions without parental guidance. We need occasions when such things are brought up and discussed. For any parent alert to "teachable moments," the Ten Commandments will provide such opportunities.

There are many sermon series, DVDs and books on this topic. The book Pathways to Freedom by Alistair Begg (Truth for Life) explains "How God's Laws Guide Our Lives" and, while inexpensive, it is extremely good. Highly recommended!

Additional Comments Regarding 10 Commandments

We recently gave out medals for the 10 Commandments, so this is not a general entry this year. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE NEW or have young children who did not do this before, we will gladly accept their entry and have a medal prepared for them.

- Please see page of reasons to learn the 10 Commandments.
- Please let Sharon know that you are planning to have children recite them (to a designated person, not to the larger audience) so she can order medals.

Thank you!