

Are 9 out of 10 Enough?

Any baseball player would love to get on base 9 out of 10 times. A quarterback would make the Hall of Fame if he could complete 90 percent of his passes as would a basketball player shooting that kind of field goal percentage. In most school systems 90 percent is an A. But, are 9 out of 10 enough?



The Lord gave Moses the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai, etching them in stone to emphasize their permanence. The first four commandments pertain to our relationship with God, while the remaining six commandments address how the faithful relate to each other.

God asks us to keep *all* 10 Commandments. We can't ignore one and think keeping the other 9 are good enough. We don't live a Godly life by choosing which commandments are convenient for us and ignoring others. Since the 10 Commandments define sin, we cannot choose to set any aside.

It is not an easy task. The pace and pressures of life encourage us to place objects and obsessions ahead of God. We are tempted to covet things others have. We're not always truthful and when we are upset, we are tempted to blame God by using His name dishonorably. Is it OK to slander God's name when you are mad – the same name you call on when you are in trouble and need something?

So, how are you doing on withstanding the temptations of life? For Godly people, some commandments are not much of a challenge. But, can you go 10 for 10? How committed are you on setting aside God's Holy Day? If God rested on the seventh day, who are you to ignore this Holy Day? By what authority do you justify breaking any of God's commandments? Jesus came to us to take away all our sins so that we can be right with God.

Why do we seek to keep the 10 Commandments? We do not keep the 10 Commandments in order to be saved. We keep them *because* we are saved. May your commitment to the Lord be etched in stone as an eternal covenant with a loving God.

A brief summary of the intent of the 10 Commandments:

- I. Loyalty – demonstrating our loyalty by having no other Gods (Exodus 20:2-3).
- II. Worship – God prohibits worship of idols (Exodus 20:4-6).
- III. Reverence – God instructs us to respect His holy name and not use it in vain (Exodus 20:7).
- IV. Sanctification and worship - Remember the Sabbath and set it apart for Holy purposes to draw near to Him (Exodus 20:8-11).
- V. Respect for parental authority – show love for our parents by honoring them (Exodus 20:12).
- VI. Respect for human life – demonstrate love, not hatred, towards others (Exodus 20:13).
- VII. Purity in relationships – demonstrate pure love by not committing adultery (Exodus 20:14).
- VIII. Honesty – God instructs us not to steal (Exodus 20:15).
- IX. Truthfulness – God instructs us not to lie or deceive others (Exodus 20:16).
- X. Contentment – God instructs us not to covet because He knows it can entrap us into greater sins (Exodus 20:17).

Question: What commandments are most difficult for you to keep? How do you combat the temptation to think that keeping *most* of them is enough?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, the 10 Commandments date back to the time of Moses, yet are as relevant today as they were then. They teach us how to be loyal and respectful. They teach us honesty and truthfulness. They encourage us to be content with what we have, and to worship You rather than the objects of our dreams. They teach us to be pure in our relationships with others. Help us to be 10 for 10 on our efforts to keep Your commandments. Amen.