

# The Transcript of God's Character: The Ten Commandments

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Can two walk together unless they be agreed? To have any form of association, there is always need for an agreement. And in any agreement, there are gives and takes, from both parties.

## What next?

For so long, and in many instances, I asked myself the question "What next after this?" And I would invite you to think along with me.

*What next after a lady and a gentleman agree to be friends, and court?* Well, this may be easy to answer – to determine whether it is God's will for them to be married, genuinely.

*What next after the two young people, man and woman, get married? Get children, build a business empire together, preach together, explore the world together?* Well, these and many more were the expectations of those before us. But was and is the desired life realized?

This question lingers in our subconscious minds for almost every decision we make. We are always seeking to know what we shall do when the current step is made. And to those whom it is common, it is still very unclear when we contextualize this question even to faith, and religion as a whole.

So, what should be the next course of action after choosing to believe Christ Jesus? What was your plan? What were your expectations? Have you lived up to that? Did it end in the water, does it always start and stop somewhere, situational?

God has for over the ages called humanity to enter into a love relationship with Him. He has, in many times and in numerous ways demonstrated His love to humanity. And not so small a number has responded to this.

## What is love like?

We may ask, what does it feel to love? But the answer to this question won't be satisfactory! So, we will ask instead, what is love like? This would help us understand what God calls us into.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7** gives a description of what love is, and what it isn't:

- ✓ ***Love is: patient, kind, protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres.***
- ✓ ***Love is not: envy, boastfulness, rudeness, self-seeking, easily angered, rejoicing in evil and keeping record of wrongs.***

**Our great masterpiece: Love Himself.**

**1 John 4:8** states that God is love. So, everything about God is love, what He does and what He asks us to do; including the call that we obey Him. *“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and fourth generation.’ Exodus 34:6, 7.* The description of God by Himself also confirms that God is love, because love is what God told Moses He is.

**Therefore, love is like God;** who He is, what He does and how He does His things. And chief most of His acts of love is the fact that He redeems us from the bondage of sin.

- ✚ *But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).*
- ✚ *The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, ‘Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee,’ (Jeremiah 31:3).*
- ✚ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not die, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*
- ✚ *For it is God which worketh in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).*

### How ought we respond to such love?

Paul asks in **Hebrews 2:3**, *How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation* [if we don't respond to such a love]? It is because God loved us first, that we ought to respond to this love. Because love is better experienced when it is returned back to the lover (**1 John 4:19**).

Chief most, of all that is expected of us, is the need that we respond to God's acts of love toward us. We would love Him, because He first loved and is still loving us (**1 John 4:19**). Love begets or stirs up love in the hearts of those being loved. And this love of God toward us will constrain us to love Him, and those around us.

### And how is it like to love God?

Christ responded to this question over two thousand years ago in a very simple statement; that to love Him is to keep His commandments! Isn't it simple? *If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love (John 15:10).* I would therefore say that: to love God is to obey Him.

Somewhere Christ said that we *“love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind”*. So, if we are to Love God, then it means loving Him supremely above all things and people; it means loving Him by and with the whole of ourselves.

But first, before we love Him, we need to know His character. Let's read the following quotation:

The law of God...is a revelation of the will and the character of its Author. **God is love, and His law is love.** Its two great principles are love to God and love to man. "Love

is the fulfilling of the law." Romans 13:10. **The character of God is righteousness and truth; such is the nature of His law.** Says the psalmist: "Thy law is the truth:" "all Thy commandments are righteousness." Psalm 119:142, 172. And the apostle Paul declares: "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Romans 7:12. Such a law, being an expression of the mind and will of God, must be as enduring as its Author (*Great Controversy 467.1*).

**The law of God is an expression of His very nature;** it is an embodiment of the great principle of love, and hence is the foundation of His government in heaven and earth. (*Steps to Christ 60.2*)

The character of God is therefore expressed in His commandments. And to love God, is to seek to do His will, live up to His character. To love is to give. God gave His commandments for these principal reasons:

- To reveal to us His character (as discussed above)
- To help us know what sin is (*Romans 7:7*)
- To give us pointers of how to love Him and fellow man (*John 14:15, Romans 13:8-10*)

A clear understanding about the character of God – which is love, and a sincere desire to love Him who loves us unconditionally, would lead us to seek to obey (love) Him. We would know that we love God if we do sincerely love our neighbours, which is again the keeping of the commandments. And we would not see this obedience as grievous/burdensome because it is the first love that compels us to live so (*1 John 5:2,3; 2 Corinthians 5:14*).

TO LOVE GOD, IS SIMPLY TO OBEY HIM. To obey is to live out the principles of His love as in the Ten Commandments. A true understanding of the commandments and sincere desire to live out the commandments would be a demonstration of our love to God. *Just as He did all that we've read and know, not so that He may love us, but because He loved us, we would as well obey Him, not because we want to make ourselves likeable to Him, neither to be saved, but instead we do these because we are saved, and lovable because He already loves us.*

### **God's love manual.**

And hereby we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. The only way to express and live our love to Him; and also gratefulness to the much He's done for and to us, is to purpose to live as He lived here on earth (*1 John 2:3,4*).

To love God:

1. Have Him as the only God of your life.  
Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. We are warned against giving any other object the first place in our affections or service. Whatever we

cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god.

2. Is to believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him (**Hebrews 11:6**).

You don't need to create graven images of whatever that is on earth, heaven or below the earth to serve as a representation of Him.

We are not to worship the true God by images or similitudes. *The attempt to represent the Eternal One by material objects would lower our conception of God.* The mind, turned away from the infinite perfection of Jehovah, would be attracted to the creature rather than to the Creator.

3. Is to take and use the name of God with reverence. And being called by His name, then live up to the character of the owner of the name.

Use His name in all honesty – oath taking and swearing; in all respect – in our discussions; because “Holy and revered is His name” (**Psalms 111:9**). We should meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness, that our heart be impressed with a sense of His exalted character. This holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity.

4. Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. It is a reminder that God is the creator of all that is, and a sign that He is our sanctification. Just as He did rest, we ought to rest (**Exodus 20:8-11, Ezekiel 20:12, Genesis 2:2,3**).

The Lord Sabbath is distinguished as the true God from all false gods, the only one that created. We are to also work, for the six days as He did work in creating us. Resting the Sabbath is a celebration for our creation, and salvation that we have of God.

5. Is to honor the parents; father, mother and all those in authority.

We are not only to yield respect, submission, and obedience to our parents, **but also to give them love and tenderness, to lighten their cares, to guard their reputation, and to succor and comfort them in old age.** This is also due to ministers and rulers and for all others to whom God has delegated authority.

6. Is to respect and do everything we can to preserve the life of our fellows. Be just in all your dealings; do not indulge the spirit of hatred and revenge, instead forgive and leave vengeance to God. Meet the needs the needy and suffering; be selfless – consider the needs of others first. Take proper care of our bodies – avoid excessive labor that tends to injure health (**Ephesians 4:26-27, Matthew 5:21-23, Matthew 22:39**)

7. Relate with others with purity of mind and purpose.

Shun any acts of impurity, and sensual thoughts and desires, or any practice that tends to excite them. Purity is demanded not only in the outward life but in the secret intents and emotions of the heart (**Matthew 5:27-28**).

8. Respect that which does not belong to you. Use it well, and only make it yours with the consent of the owner.

Be persons of strict integrity in the minutest details of the affairs of life – whether in public, and private.

9. Only speak that which is true of and about fellow man.

False speaking in any matter, every attempt or purpose to deceive our neighbour, is here included. An intention to deceive is what constitutes falsehood. Even by a glance of the eye, a motion of the hand, an expression of the countenance, a falsehood may be told as effectually as by words – these avoid. All intentional overstatement, every hint or insinuation calculated to convey an erroneous or exaggerated impression, even the statement of facts in such a manner as to mislead, is falsehood. This principle forbids every effort to injure our neighbour's reputation by misrepresentation or evil surmising, by slander or tale bearing. *Even the intentional suppression of truth, by which injury may result to others, is a violation of the ninth commandment.*

10. Be content with the little you have. Everything is never enough.

From selfish desire springs sinful acts. For your betterment, work honestly and diligently to get what is truly and rightly yours.

Exodus 20:1–17

And thus it is to love God, even by loving the neighbours that we meet every day.

Reality check:

We have, for so long, tried to love God, it is proving hard! There more we try, the more we feel wasted and used! And that, doesn't sound and feel and look like love. Notice that obedience is not a mere outward compliance, but the service of love.

**The Promise –**

The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God (the how to love God ways), neither indeed can be (**Romans 8:7**). Thereby, to love God, something needs to be done is us, for God Himself regards our futile efforts to love Him as filthy rags (**Isaiah 64:6**).

From the word SPEAK, as used in Exodus 20:1 translated from 'XAC' in Hebrew means, among others to command and, to promise. The ten commandments, Thou shalt, and Thou shalt not, **are TEN PROMISES**, assured to us if we render obedience to the law governing the universe. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Here is the sum and substance of the law of God (1BC 1105.1). That law of ten precepts of the greatest love that can be presented to man is the voice of God from heaven speaking to the soul in promise, "This do, and you will not come under the dominion and control of Satan." ***There is not a negative in that law, although it may appear thus. It is DO, and Live.***

Our hearts need renewal in the likeness of God, divine love is implanted in the soul, then the law of God will be carried out in this life? When the principle of love is implanted in the heart, when man is renewed after the image of Him that created him, the new-covenant promise is fulfilled, "I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." (**Hebrews**

**10:16**). And if the law is written in the heart, will it not shape the life? (*Steps to Christ 60.2*) THIS HE COVENANTED TO DO IN US, AND FOR US.

### **My duty –**

Thus, the Scripture says, *"This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments." "He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 5:3; 2:4.* Instead of releasing man from obedience, it is faith, and faith only, that makes us partakers of the grace of Christ, which enables us to render obedience (*Steps to Christ 60.2*).

We do not earn salvation by our obedience; for salvation is the free gift of God, to be received by faith. **But obedience is the fruit of faith.** *"Ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him." 1 John 3:5, 6 (Steps to Christ 61.1).*

Our duty to obey this law is to be the burden of this last message of mercy to the world. God's law is not a new thing. **It is not holiness created, but holiness made known.** *It is a code of principles expressing mercy, goodness, and love.* It presents to fallen humanity the character of God, and STATES PLAINLY THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN (**1BC 1104.9**).

### **Final thoughts**

Therefore, friend, arise and shine for your light has come, the glory (his character) is risen upon you (made known to you). Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your works (lifestyle of loving others as ourselves through obeying God's commandments), and then they would also join you in glorifying the Father.

***It is a love relationship; it is a call to a different lifestyle in which there's no condemnation or strain.***

*There's the description, there are the opportunities;*

*There's the motivation, there are assurances.*

**GO OUT AND LOVE JESUS TODAY, this is our duty.** God bless you abundantly.