

## International Conversation Cafe

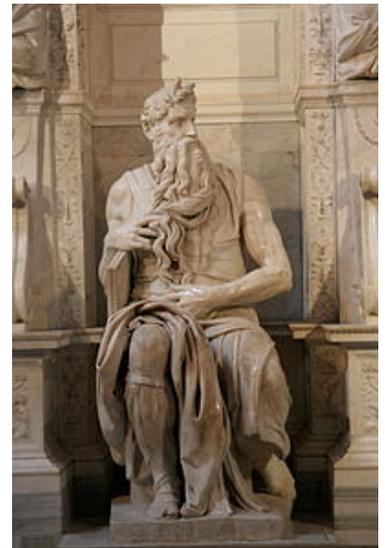
Old Testament: Moses and the Ten Commandments, Exodus 20

Relationships thrive when each person knows what is expected of them. When you know what a professor expects, your job becomes clear. If a teenager knows he is expected to be home at 11 PM, then there is no doubt about how to make his parents happy. God gave Israel the 10 commandments because he loved them. He knew that when people live up to these expectations their lives are easier and happier. These commands also reflect something about God's character.

### The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20

<sup>1</sup>God said to the people of Israel: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.

- 1) <sup>3</sup>Do not worship any god except me.
- 2) <sup>4</sup>Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. <sup>5</sup>Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the LORD your God, and I demand all your love.
- 3) <sup>7</sup>Do not misuse my name. I am the LORD your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.
- 4) <sup>8</sup>Remember that the Sabbath Day belongs to me. <sup>9</sup>You have six days when you can do your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No <sup>11</sup>In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.
- 5) <sup>12</sup>Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.
- 6) <sup>13</sup>Do not murder.
- 7) <sup>14</sup>Be faithful in marriage.
- 8) <sup>15</sup>Do not steal.
- 9) <sup>16</sup>Do not tell lies about others.
- 10) <sup>17</sup>Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.



Michelangelo. C. 1513-1515.  
.Marble. 235 cm. San Pietro  
in Vincoli, Rome

## Questions

- 1. How many laws have to do with our relationship with God?*
- 2. How many laws have to do with our relationship with people?*
- 3. What is an idol? Why do you think God does not want us to worship an idol? What does this have to do with God as the Creator?*
- 4. How do you show respect for parents? How is this different in other cultures? Give an example.*
- 5. How does law 7 protect us from harm?*
- 6. How does law 10 help us in our relationships with people?*
- 7. Pick one of the laws. Explain how keeping this law keeps our lives happy.*
- 8. What do you think these laws say about God's character?*

The next four statements name the four themes found in the Bible.  
Where do you think the law fits with the four themes?

God Loves People.

People turn away from God.

God makes it possible for relationship to be restored.

People choose to follow or not follow God.

Jesus summarized the 10 commandments into two parts, found in Mark 12.

<sup>30</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.<sup>[1](U)</sup> <sup>31</sup> The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'<sup>[g](V)</sup> There is no commandment greater than these."

*What do you think it means to love God with your soul, mind, and strength?  
Can you give an illustration of loving your neighbor as yourself?  
Do you think it is possible to live up to these expectations?*