

Honoring God

Lesson 26 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the first three of the Ten Commandments and what it means to put God above all things.
- The participants will explore how to live out the first three Commandments.

Content Summary

1. The Ten Commandments teach us how to be in right relationship with God, our neighbors, and all creation. We are able to live out these laws by the grace of God, who is always with us, loving us and nurturing us so that we can live as the people we were created to be—human beings made in God’s image.
2. The first three Commandments concern the love of God. The next seven Commandments concern love of neighbor. These commands are inseparable. We can’t love God unless we love our neighbor, and the opposite is also true.
3. The First Commandment is a summons—a call for us to believe, to hope, and to love God above all else. It comes first because it is the basis for our life and happiness.
4. This Commandment also tells us that we must adore God, pray to God, and offer worship that belongs to God alone. Most of us cannot imagine worshipping idols, yet we may idolize the false gods of power, pleasure, popularity, or money. To idolize these things or anything else is idolatry, a sin against the First Commandment. It is making them more important in our lives than God.
5. God calls each one of us by name. Everyone’s name is sacred. It demands respect as a sign of the dignity of the one who bears it. God’s name is no different, and indeed, should be treated with even more respect.
6. With its origins in the Jewish observance of the Sabbath, Sunday has become the day of rest for Christians. Sunday is also when Christians celebrate the day of Christ’s Resurrection, so Sunday is known as the Lord’s Day.
7. If God rested and was refreshed, we too ought to take time for rest and allow for others to do the same. We need to set aside time to worship our God and to enjoy his creation.

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