

# Only the Last Six Commandments?

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BIG SANDY, Texas—We as believers are thankful that we are saved by grace. In fact, we should reflect our appreciation by giving much thought and attention into recognizing God's expectations for us.

A young man once asked Jesus Christ the following question: "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16).

Christ replied (in verse 17): "If you will enter into life, keep the commandments."

## **Only five Commandments?**

The young man asked (in verse 18): "Which commandments?"

In verses 18-19, Christ listed five of the Ten Commandments.

Some people erroneously conclude that Jesus was endorsing only those specific five Commandments.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ was endorsing only these five Commandments and thereby eliminating all the other of the Ten Commandments?

For the record, I don't believe that Jesus Christ was eliminating any of the Ten Commandments.

But, for any individual who may believe that God intended to eliminate any of the Ten Commandments, that person should not consider citing this section of Scripture in an attempt to "prove" his point.

## **Only six Commandments?**

Other people erroneously conclude that He was endorsing only the last six Commandments, which are often summarized by the statement "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

But it is that statement ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself") that helps believers accept all of the Ten Commandments. Why do I say that?

In Matthew 22:36-40, Jesus reiterated the “great commandment in the law” by mentioning the expectation to love God completely and to love people earnestly.

When people seek to use the phrase (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”) in Matthew 19:19 as an effort to eliminate some Commandments, they are actually proving the value of the Ten.

When Jesus used the phrase (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”) in both Matthew 19:19 and Matthew 22:39, He was not only showing the importance of the five individual Commandments mentioned in Matthew 19:18-19.

He was also showing the value of the other five of the Ten Commandments that support the concept of the phrase “You shall love the LORD your God with all you heart, with all your soul and with all your mind” (mentioned in Matthew 22:37).

### **Personalized instruction**

Back to the account in Matthew 19. Do you remember the young man’s response to Jesus’ listing of the Commandments?

He said (in verse 20): “I have kept the Commandments from my youth. What else should I do?”

Verse 21 showed Christ’s answer and verse 22 revealed the young man’s response.

Christ mentioned the young man’s weakness to him. Jesus showed the young man what he specifically needed to address in his life.

The young man conscientiously lived by the Ten Commandments. Yet Christ gave him personal instruction to do more.

When you conscientiously live by the Ten Commandments, what personal instruction would Christ give to you to do more?

What would Jesus Christ say to you?