

The Ten Commandments are only the beginning

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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 to 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.
- Other people erroneously conclude that He was endorsing the last six only commandments, which are summarized by the admonition "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

But it is that phrase ("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 10.

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 specifically what he 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?