

Matthew 22:36-38

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment."

Have you ever thought of the fact that in order to break any of the Ten Commandments, you must break the First Commandment? *'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*

One example would be what we read in **Romans 13:9**, which are not all Ten Commandments, but gives us a good starting point as we think about this. Let's look at each one.

† **Romans 13:9** *For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

"You shall not commit adultery" in order to do this, we have to put that man or woman and even our own fleshly desires before God, and by doing so, we have broken the First Commandment.

"You shall not murder" when we do this (even in our hearts and minds), we have to hate the one God created in His own image, so much so that we have determined his or her fate in life, putting ourself above God; Therefore, breaking the First Commandment.

"You shall not steal" when we do this, we have to say to God that He is not taking care of us properly; therefore, we make ourself a god and use our own means, not caring about others as we take what is theirs for ourselves, so that we can supply for our lusts, breaking the First Commandment.

"You shall not bear false witness" when we lie, it shows God and us that we must not care about others, and we are only thinking of ourselves. Once again, not having God as our provider or protector, but rather causing others to be judged incorrectly as we lie against him or her, not realizing that God knows the truth, putting ourselves above God and breaking the First Commandment.

"You shall not covet" as we said earlier, this would include coveting another person, like when someone commits adultery or fornication, physically, or in their mind, or watching others perform the act on the internet, movies, TV etc. But we also say to God that He is not providing for us properly as we desire what others have and are not happy with what God has already provided for us. We are saying in a sense that we know what we need better than God knows what we need, placing ourselves above God and breaking the First Commandment.

Last one (Which is not one of the Ten Commandments), *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"* think of what James said:

† **James 3:9 (MSG)** *With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image.*

How can we say that we love God, yet curse others with the same mouth? How can we say we love God yet bad mouth others whom “**He made in his image?**” When we do that, we are putting ourselves above that person(s), and even above God, breaking the First Commandment.

So, what’s the answer? First off, we can not keep the First Commandment, let alone any of the other Nine, and God knows that. So, we can’t beat ourselves up because we can’t. Yet, God has given us the Helper, the Holy Spirit to help us to break them less and less each day.

† **Romans 5:5 (NLT2)** *And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.*

† **Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT2)** *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

I also think God summed up the answer in the First Commandment, which is to “**Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**” And if we focus more on doing that each day, then keeping the other Nine Commandments will be a piece of cake.

† **John 14:21** *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*