

# FAITH CHAT

with James & John

## What's The Basis Of God's Moral Teaching?

### Know This...

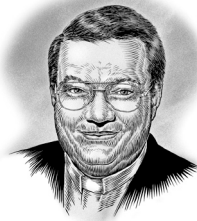
The Ten Commandments shaped the core worship and morals of the Old Covenant. Jesus, through His words and actions, revealed their full meaning in the New Covenant. When He said we must keep the Commandments to enter eternal life, He affirmed that divine truth does not change. The Ten Commandments are the basis of God's moral teaching. The Beatitudes, Virtues, and even Natural Law flow from them. The

Ten Commandments are not ten laws, they are one. They are the one will of God.



**John:** The "finger of God" wrote the Ten Commandments when God gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai. They speak to every aspect of human life.

**James:** The Ten Commandments are called the *Decalogue*: which means 'ten words' or 'ten sayings.'



**John:** The first three shape our relationship with God: you shall have no other gods before Me; you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain; keep holy the Sabbath Day.

**James:** The last seven shape our relationship with each other: honor your father and mother; you shall not kill, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness, or covet your neighbor's wife or goods.

**John:** God places the natural law in our souls. The Ten Commandments express the natural law in words we can understand.

**James:** Jesus says the first Commandment is the greatest. When we obey it, we obey them all.

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"Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill...Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'"

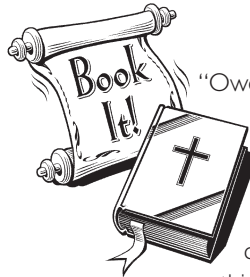
— Mt 5:17, 19 "One of the Pharisees asked Jesus,

'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He 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 greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" — Mt 22:35-39  
Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments." — Jn 14:15



"The gift of the Commandments is the gift of God Himself and His holy will. In making His will known, God reveals Himself to His people." — CCC 2059 "From the beginning, God had implanted in the heart of man

the precepts of the natural law. Then, He was content to remind him of them. This was the Decalogue." — St. Irenaeus "The 'divine and natural' law shows man the way to follow so as to practice the good and attain his end." — CCC 1955 "As charity comprises the two commandments to which the Lord related the whole Law and the prophets...so the Ten Commandments were themselves given on two tablets. Three were written on one tablet and seven on the other." — St. Augustine "The two tablets shed light on one another; they form an organic unity. To transgress one commandment is to infringe all the others." — CCC 2069



"Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,' and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, [namely] 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." — Rom 13:8-10 "If you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law, but falls short in one particular, has become guilty in respect to all of it." — Jas 2:8-10

Jesus, You simplify everything. The Ten Commandments are a perfect example. You condensed them into two: love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. Give me all the grace I need to fully live Your Commandments; for this is Your formula for entering heaven. I so want to join You there. Thus, I pray that I will put You first in everything I think, see, do, and say. I ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

