

COMMANDMENT

A divine rule or directive given by God



The 10 Commandments seem to be viewed as passé in today's culture - something outdated. Yet God's word is for *all people* for *all time*. The problem is that like Pharisees, people tend to be focused on the external - *doing* all the right things, yet living with hard, judgmental hearts. Jesus said that He didn't come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it. The law is still there, but Jesus made it a matter of the heart. His interaction with the "rich young ruler" illustrates this point. The young man had kept all the *commandments*, but missed the point that life is not about the external, but about the heart. When asked which was the most important commandment, Jesus responded to love God with all our heart, soul and mind and the second one, like it, is to love our neighbor as ourselves. While God did give commandments; rules and directives to live by, Jesus always brought it back to the heart and the agape, unconditional love He demonstrated so perfectly.

Living out God's commandments in our marriage means that we are to implement Biblical and Jesus's teaching into our lives and marriage. Jesus made it all about love - love for God and love for others. The Apostle John defines love by what Jesus did for us - giving His life, literally, for us (1John 3:16). We are commanded to do the same for our "brothers" - of whom, our spouse is our closest. Jesus stated multiple times in the Gospel of John that His command was to love each other. (John 13:34-35, 15:12-14, 15:17) He went as far to say that if we profess to love Him, we *will* obey what He commands. (John 14:14) John reiterates this thought in 1John 3:10 when he wrote that those who do not love his "brother" is not a *child of God*.

Friends, God's commandments all boil down to one thing: *loving others*. Giving of ourselves for others: in marriage, it is a mutual dying to self that will change the direction of any marriage. Loving our spouse; giving our self for him or her is *the* commandment for marriage. Are you willing do that? Are you willing to set aside your pride and *your* way of doing things to love your spouse as Christ commands you to love him or her? Will you quit trying to change your spouse and love him or her as they are? Demonstrate your Christianity by loving your spouse as you are commanded to love him or her.

Helpful Resources:

Fortified Marriages Resource page: www.fortifiedmarriages.com - The Fortified Marriages Manual & Workbook is a great resource to help you and your spouse understand God's plan for your marriage.

Article to check out:

Marriage Commandments by Christian Family Institute - www.christianfamilyinstitute.net