THE TEN(DER) COMMANDMENTS

Part 1: "The Zero-eth Commandment"

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The Ten Commandments are often



portrayed as little more than rules that must be followed simply because they were given by divine fiat. But these rules have not only a God behind them, but a loving God behind them. It is out of God's tender heart that he gives us these commandments, wanting what is best for us. In this series, we look not only at the Ten Commandments, but at the loving reason behind them.

Debates have continued between different segments of the Church over how we are to number the Ten Commandments. Some say there are two commandments on idolatry. Others say there are two commandments on coveting. But in Jewish thought, the first commandment is not so much a commandment as it is a declaration: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (Exodus 20:2). Before God tells His people what they are to do, He reminds them of what He has already done. God's work, then, is the power behind our works

3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself." - Exodus 19:3-4

My Next Step(s):

- o I will consider how God has acted on my behalf in the past.
- o I will let God assist me—even lifting me up when I am too weak to go on.
- Instead of resisting God I will draw closer to Him.
- o Before attempting to DO anything for God, I will receive what He has DONE for me.

Memory Verse: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." – Exodus 20:2

(This message uses materials provided by The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)