



when 10 = 2

Today's gospel tells us that by following only two laws we can keep the Ten Commandments that were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. How can this be?

GOSPEL THEME

There are but two commandments: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.

JESUS' TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

1 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

2 You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Carefully study the Ten Commandments, listed for you below, keeping in mind the Two Great Commandments listed above. On the blank

following each of the Ten Commandments note whether it falls under Jesus' first commandment (1) or under his second commandment (2).

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

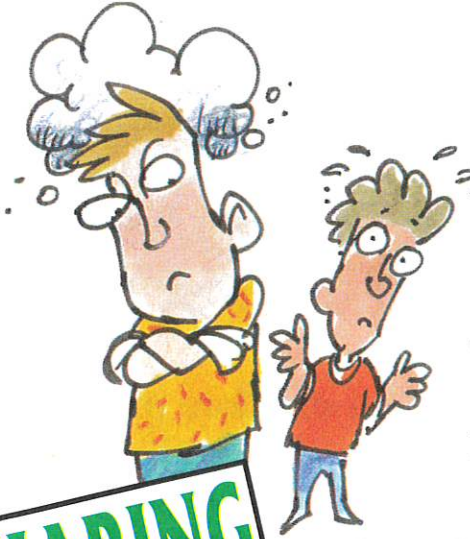
(Ex 20:1-17)

1. I am the Lord your God...you shall have no other gods before me. ____
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. ____
3. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. ____
4. Honor your father and your mother. ____
5. You shall not murder. ____
6. You shall not commit adultery. ____
7. You shall not steal. ____
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ____
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. ____
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. ____

Have you marked every one of the Ten Commandments with either a "1" or a "2"? Do you understand how Jesus could say, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"?



Is Love Folly?



Many people believe that the Two Great Commandments of Jesus are absurd — that they can't work. They say things like: "Why should I love the jerk who broke into my 'Vette and ripped out my stereo?" Or: "Give 'em an inch and they take a mile!" Or: "What about terrorists and rapists and child abusers?" Lots of folks who are down on religion use the excuse that Christianity just doesn't work. After all, look at all the bad in the world. "Good guys" just get pushed around — or worse. "Get real!" they sneer.

reciprocated? How do you keep from being "used"? Seriously, what about terrorists and rapists and child abusers? *Does Christianity work?* G. K. Chesterton, a famous Catholic author, wrote this way back in 1910:

“

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.

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Is Love Wisdom?

These are relevant points to look at. What do you do when somebody actually harms you or someone close to you? How do you handle situations where love isn't

Always remember the three loves of Jesus —
GOD - NEIGHBOR - SELF

How well do you love?

SHARING
the
GOOD NEWS
Activity for Class
or Family

A Love Quiz

- Be sure everyone has paper and pen or pencil. Lined paper would work best.
- At the top of the paper make a scale-line of zero to one hundred:
0 _____ 50 _____ 100.

•Write down names of people in your family, good friends, neighbors, and so forth — one per line. On the last two lines write GOD and MYSELF.

•Now, beginning with the first name, rate your feelings *at this time* for each person on your list, presuming that zero is the pits and one hundred is awesome. Put an X on the name-line at the appropriate point under your scale-line. Remember to be perfectly honest. If you and your friend are not getting along well right now, let your scale reflect this. Rate each person on your list in the same way, including yourself and God.

•When you have finished, look at those names where your mark falls to the left of fifty. What can you do to make your relationship with these people better? How can you love them more fully?

•As a group, pray for the ability to love more freely. Ask God to help you to imitate Jesus in Christian caring.

