

# Study Notes on the Decalogue

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1. Outside the law: Eden
  - a. Compare Gen 2:1-4 and Exod 20:8-11.
  - b. The law is about relationships.
    - i. The Sabbath: Prototype for the first table.
      1. God and humankind. (Primarily)
      2. Among equals.\* <This is the commandment that brings us closest to a horizontal relationship with God.>
    - ii. Marriage: Prototype for the second table.
      1. Relationship between equals. (Primarily)
      2. Relationship between God and mankind (see 1 Cor 6:16-17).
    - iii. Our need not to be alone (see Gen 2:18).<sup>1</sup> <Sabbath, marriage.>
      1. Undiminished by the fall.
      2. The basis for the gospel's visceral appeal.
  - c. The law is about giving, not demanding.
    - i. The Sabbath and marriage were both gifts. No restrictions are mentioned. This should give us insight into God's original intent.
    - ii. The only limitation, apart from the tree, was God's dietary gift of fruit, nuts, and grains (see Gen 1:29-30).
2. How to divide the commandments?
  - a. Commandments.
    - i. What is the first commandment?
    - ii. What is the last commandment?
  - b. Tables.
    - i. Where does the first table begin?
    - ii. Where does the second table begin?
3. The text of the law clarifies its structure.
  - a. The explanation clauses answer both questions.
    - i. The first table begins at vs. 2. This is the explanation clause for the first commandment.
    - ii. The second table begins with the sixth commandment. This is the first commandment that lacks an explanation clause.
  - b. Compare Exod 20 and Matt 5.
    - i. Explanations: First 5.
    - ii. Hierarchy: Last 5.
4. Other points
  - a. Symmetry
    - i. 1 2 3 4 5 | 6 7 8 9 10
    - ii. This argues against Philo's order (7 6). (But see Rom 13:9.)
  - b. The weekly cycle
    - i. Rest day last (right hand, palm up).
    - ii. Rest day first (right hand, palm down). This reverses the pattern.
  - c. Who is the Creator?

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.historicism.org/Documents/Jrnl/Augustine.pdf>.