



Key Notes

The Ten Non-Negotiables A Personal Paraphrase of Exodus 20:1-17

Let's get this straight: I'm God and you're not. I'm the One who rescued you and set you free. I gave you a brand new start. This means that I make the rules, not you.

First, don't give your affection to anyone or anything ahead of me. I don't tolerate rivals. So don't mess around with other deities. That makes me really jealous.

Second, don't expect me to conform to your desires or fit your theological categories. I created you in my image so don't try to make me into yours! If your concept of me is wrong, the consequences will be disastrous for you, your children, your grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren. But if you worship me as I truly am, you'll be blessed for a thousand generations.

Third, don't misuse my Name. Don't use it for cursing or for punctuating sentences. Treat it with respect. If you trivialize my Name, I'll hold you guilty of contempt.

Fourth, remember that Sunday is a special day. I've given you six days to get all your work done. So don't work on Sunday: not you, or your children, or your employees, or your animals or even the immigrants among you. Look, I created the entire universe in six days. Then even I took a break! Sunday is my gift to you. It is for rest and worship. Enjoy!

Fifth, show respect to mom and dad. Even if they sometimes act like jerks, give them the honor their position demands. Trust me on this. Life will go a whole lot better for you if you honor your parents.

Sixth, no killing. I'm not just talking about murder, abortion and euthanasia. I mean don't harbor hatred and malicious intent toward anyone.

Seventh, no sexual promiscuity. I'm the One who created sex, and I know where it belongs: in marriage (one man and one woman). All other forms of sexual behavior will bring destructive consequences into your life, so save sex for marriage.

Eighth, no stealing. If it belongs to someone else, don't pretend it's yours. Don't take money, possessions, reputation, copyrights, or the answers on an exam if it belongs to someone else.

Ninth, no lying. Don't say things about your neighbor that aren't true. When it comes to gossip and slander, stifle it!

Tenth, don't set your desire on things you shouldn't have: your neighbor's house, his wife, his job, his car, his boat, or anything else your greedy little heart might think of. If you are lusting after stuff like this, it means you are not lusting after me!

Pastor Stan