

## The School of Biblical Law

### Covenant and Law

#### Lesson Thirteen: “The Covenant Model and The Ten Commandments, Part 2”

The Ten Commandments are divided into two categories: loving God and loving one’s neighbor. The first five laws define how to love God and each law correlates to one section of the covenant model. The last five laws define how to love one’s neighbor and each law correlates to one section of the covenant model. The moral code of God is two sets of five laws that reflect and demonstrate the covenant model.

<b><u>Commandments 1-5</u></b> (Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind)	<b><u>Covenant Model</u></b>	<b><u>Commandments 6-10</u></b> (Love your neighbor as yourself)
No other gods before me	Transcendence Do not assault or usurp headship	Do not kill
No graven images	Hierarchy Do not assault or violate the yoke of labor	Do not commit adultery
Do not take God’s name in vain	Ethics Do not assault or misuse personal property	Do not steal
Keep the Sabbath Day holy	Oaths/Sanctions Do not assault or change the reward	Do not bear false witness
Honor your father and mother	Succession/Continuity Do not assault or interfere with covenant transfer	Do not covet

1. The first section of Transcendence identifies the boss, the one with the position of headship, the one with the power to offer a covenant. God is the sovereign over all things – Commandment one; each person is sovereign in his or her own bounded area- Commandment two.
2. The second section, Hierarchy, identifies the one whom the sovereign has chosen to assist him in boundary management. Man yokes with God and woman yokes with man. In Commandments two and six, the course of the yoking may not be tampered with or violated.
3. Ethics is section three and it speaks to the rules set forth by the Head. God alone determines how He will manage His assets (those things to which His name is attached) and each person has the authority to manage his or her assets (those personal property items that bear his or her name). Commandments three and seven direct that no man may steal the property of another and use those possessions as though he had the right to set the rules for the other party’s assets.
4. Section four is Sanctions. Man may work six days a week and receive the reward of his labor but he may not change the reward he is due by working seven. Neither may one may bear false witness against another in an attempt to change the reward his neighbor is due. Commandments four and nine forbid an assault on the reward.
5. The final section of the covenant model is Continuity or Succession. God determines the family line through whom original endowment is transferred. Man must honor God’s choice for succession in Commandment five. In Commandment ten, no one is allowed to covet or seek to confiscate that which a neighbor has laid up as an inheritance for his heirs.

Each Commandment is a category, and other passages in the scripture introduce particular cases into which the Commandment is applied. The covenant model lays a grid for understanding the Ten Commandments and biblical case laws as well as provides a template for application of the law in everyday life.