

# The Ten Commandments (as understood by the Anglican church)

## Exodus 20:1-19

20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying,

2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19 and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”

Is what is moral  
commanded by God  
because it is moral, or  
is it moral because it is  
commanded by God?

The “Euthyphro Dilemma”

From Plato’s *Euthyphro* (399 BC)

## Euthyphro Dilemma

### Plato (399 BCE)

What makes God's rules good?

2 options:

- a) God chose the rules because they were good.
- b) The rules are good because God chose them.

If a) is true:

- **God is unnecessary.** The rules are already objectively good. God is simply the messenger.
- We still need to know why the rules are good.

If b) is true:

- The concept of good seems very arbitrary and unstable. God could have chosen any rule and it would have been god.
- When we say "God is good" we are saying nothing more than "God says He is good"

**Neither of these options is particularly attractive!**