

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

(“Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments  
will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.”)

(Matthew 5: 19)

Jesus references the ten Commandments and other mandates that flow from them. He says that He has not come to overthrow the Commandments but to bring them to fulfillment. So, what exactly does that mean? It means that we cannot pick and choose which commandments we will obey. It means that there is a meaning in the heart of God and that these Commandments reveal that meaning.

The Commands of God were first given to Moses for the people of Israel to point out to them what their sins actually were. The Law did not have the power to right any wrong or overcome any sin but served as a sentinel to the people so they would know what to be on the lookout for and what to avoid. This included making up false gods of their own liking and disrespecting the name of the Living God. It included giving God what was due to Him and to our parents what was properly due to them. It included not killing. Not breaking marital vows. Not stealing or lying or being greedy for what others had—either relationships or possessions.

None of these Commandments is to be done away with. But look at our society today. We have most definitely picked and chosen. We have substituted our own virtues for the divine virtues of humility, faithfulness and love. We have exalted the virtue of tolerance. Look at the life of Jesus. Tolerance is not on any of his lists. He was kind and gentle. But he also called to repentance. He ate with tax collectors and prostitutes. But he also says to the woman caught in adultery. “I do not condemn you but in the future avoid this sin.” Jesus knows that sin is real and that it destroys us whether we want to admit that or not.

When we embrace our own made-up commandments, we break the divine commandments. The Lord knows when this is happening and where this is happening. It is not in harmony with the divine will. Only that will saves us. Will you think about and ponder this truth this week? That is the question of the week.