



Thinking Like a Christian Autumn 2020

The Ten Commandments: Image Blueprint

Romans 12:2: Thinking Like a Christian

1. Why the Ten Commandments?

For centuries, standard basic Christian instruction – for new Christians, and for Christian children – has included three things:

The Apostles' Creed

What Christians believe

The Ten Commandments

How Christians should live

the Lord's Prayer

How Christians should relate to God

That's the basic structure for these TLC sessions too. If you come for three years, you'll get all three. Sometimes looking at them directly, and the rest of the time applying them to other issues.

2. Putting the Law in its place

Exodus 20:1-21

19:16-20 Where are we, and what is going on?

20:1 What is special about these laws?

20:2 When is all this happening? Why might that matter?

The Lord *your* God – *Covenant*

Who brought you out – *Rescue*

Of the house of slavery – *Freedom*

A quick look at Paul's letter to the Romans...

Romans 7:6

7:7

7:12

7:22-23

8:3-4

So the law is **God's design for God's images**

cannot save you

is what Jesus saves you for

3. The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods

The master commandment.

What other gods are there on offer? Brainstorm some.

v2 Why are these pretty good reasons why we should have no other gods:

I am the LORD

your God

Who brought you out of slavery

So our devotion to God needs to be

to *this* God – the God who has revealed himself in the Bible, and principally in Jesus Christ. Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Total

Undivided

Wholehearted

4. Before me

Literally 'before my face'

Is the commandment saying you can have other gods, provided they come second?

The point is that other gods are a flagrant insult to the God before whose face we live our lives.

What would you say if someone said to you:

I'm a Christian, but not a very serious one.

Christian values are really shared by people of all religions.

What matters is you believe in the God you want to believe in.

God's not really interested in my sex life.

I'll never be happy till I find the right partner for me.

Religion is really good; but it can't deal with all the problems of the world.

I know I shouldn't get drunk on Fridays, but then God always forgives me on Sundays.