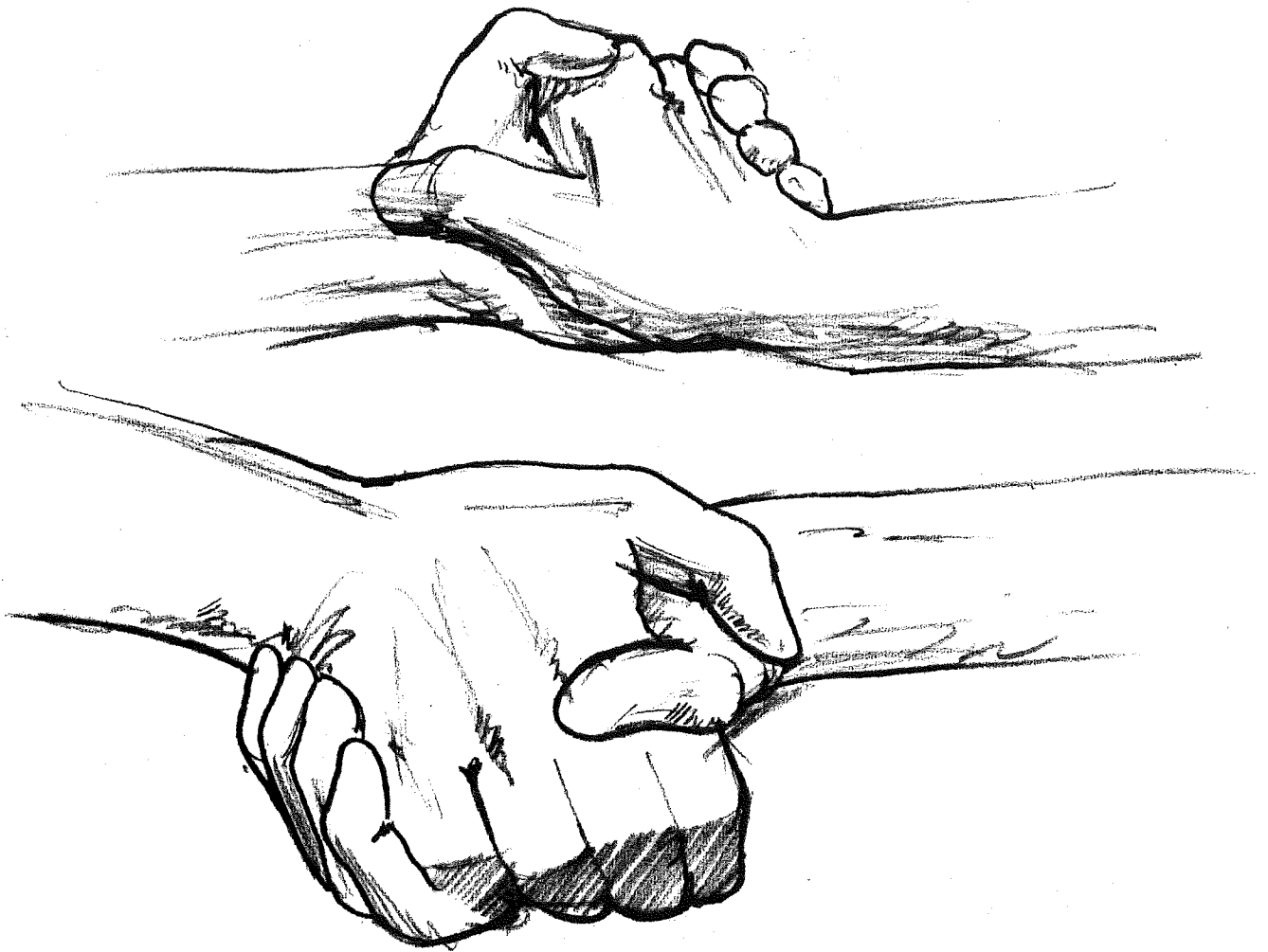


Chapter Five



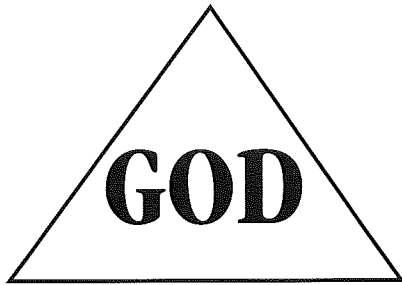
The Law of God *Part Two – Commandments 4–6*

V. THE LAW OF GOD

Part 2

Commandments 4, 5, 6

Introduction: *The first three commandments speak of our duty to God. The last seven speak of our duties toward other people. THE HEART OF ALL THE COMMANDMENTS IS love — LOVE TO GOD, AND LOVE TO OUR NEIGHBOR. JESUS INDICATED THIS WHEN HE SUMMED UP ALL TEN COMMANDMENTS WITH THE TWO COMMANDMENTS REQUIRING LOVE:*



"...You shall love the Lord your **God** with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment."

See Deut. 6:4-5; 10:12-13



"And a second is like it, You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets."

See Matt 22:39-40

Hence, the law requires that we not only do not sin against God or our fellow man, but also that we **love** God, and **love** our neighbor. Every commandment has a positive and a negative side to it. The negative is the "You shall not"; the positive is, "You shall love."

Rom. 13:8-10 Owe no one anything, except to **love one another**; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; **therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.** (NRSV)

I John 3:23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. (NRSV)

The Law of God is broken *WHEN*:

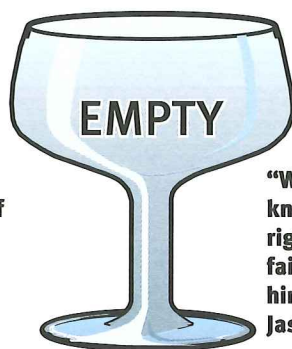
1. Through **willful disobedience** we disobey his commandments (wrong activity).
Transgression
2. Through a **lack of love** we fail to do what God expects of us (inactivity). We sometimes call this a **sin of omission**.
Example: The priest and the Levite in the Parable of the Good Samaritan

The Law is only fulfilled when we act as we should in every situation as love would indicate.



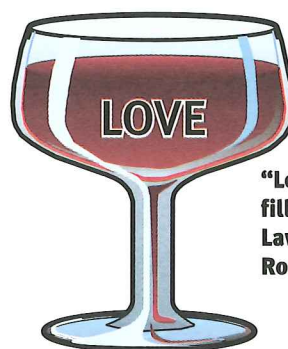
"Sin is the transgression of the Law."
1 John 3:4 (K.J.)

1. Violated, Broken by Transgression



"Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."
Jas. 4:17

2. Violated, Empty by non-fulfillment



"Love is the fulfilling of the Law"
Rom. 13:10

3. Fulfilled by Perfect Love

1 John 3:17-18 But if someone who possesses the good things of this world sees a fellow-Christian in need and withholds compassion from him, how can it be said that the love of God dwells in him? Children, love must not be a matter of theory or talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action. (REB)

Love God and Do as You Please

Attributed to St. Augustine's Mother

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

**** “Honor Your Father And Mother, That Your Days
May Be Long In The Land Which The Lord Your God Gives You”**

(Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-3)

(honor = Hebrew, kavod, ‘give weight to’)**

1. The Fourth Commandment protects authority

God forbids us to despise or disobey those whom He has placed in positions of authority in **the home, the church, the state and school**. (In the Bible, older persons and civil leaders are also called ‘fathers’) (*Acts 22:1*).

2. We are forbidden all disobedience or disrespect to our parents and superiors

Prov. 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. (NRSV)

Prov. 30:17 The eye that mocks a father and despises a mother will be plucked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by vultures. (NLT)
(The **Home**)

Heb. 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (NIV)
(The **Church** and **School**)

Rom. 13:1-2 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (NIV)
(The **State**)

3. **We are commanded to cheerfully obey and honor THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN PLACED OVER US IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY BY GOD. WE SHOULD SEE IN THEM GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES, KNOWING THAT THROUGH THEM GOD RESTRAINS EVIL AND PROVIDES US WITH FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, EDUCATION, PROTECTION, HIS WORD AND MANY OTHER BLESSINGS.**

Prov. 6:20-23 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life... (NIV)

Matt. 22:21 ...Then he said to them, (Jesus to the Pharisees) "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (NIV)

Rom. 13:6-7 For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. (NRSV)

Col. 3:20 **Children, obey your parents** in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (NIV)

Heb. 5:8 Although he (Jesus) was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered... (NIV)

I Pet 2:13-14,16 Submit yourselves **for the Lord's sake** to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right...Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. (NIV)

4. It is only proper to disobey human authorities *WHEN THAT WHICH THEY REQUIRE OF US IS CLEARLY CONTRARY TO THE REVEALED WILL OF GOD.*

Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!" (NIV)
(They had been forbidden by the authorities to preach the resurrection of Jesus - and God had commanded this.)

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

“You Shall Not Kill” (*Deuteronomy 5:17*)

Literally: “Thou Shalt Do No Murder”

(*Exodus 20:13*)

1. This commandment protects human life

If we fear, love and trust God, as we should, we will do nothing that will in any way harm our neighbor, but we will rather seek to do those things that will help and benefit our neighbor in every physical need.

2. We are forbidden by this commandment to take human life BY MURDER, LYNCHING, SUICIDE, CONVENIENCE ABORTION OR CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE.

Gen. 9:6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.” (NIV)

Matt. 26:52 Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.” (NRSV)

3. We are forbidden by this commandment to harm our neighbor IN ANY WAY, TO HARBOR HATEFUL OR MALICIOUS THOUGHTS TOWARD HIM, OR TO SEEK REVENGE.

Lev. 19:17-18 “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” (NIV)

Matt. 5:21-22 “You have heard that the law of Moses says, ‘Do not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you say to your friend, ‘You idiot,’ you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.” (NLT)

Rom. 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NRSV)

Eph. 4:26-27 “In your **anger** do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (NIV)

Col. 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. (NIV)

1 John 3:15 **Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer**, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. (NIV)

4. **Although no individual has the right as a private citizen to take human life, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN GRANTED THIS AUTHORITY BY GOD. THE GOVERNMENT IS GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE TO INFLICT PUNISHMENT UPON THOSE WHO DO EVIL AND TO REWARD THOSE WHO DO WELL. THIS INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO PUT TO DEATH BY CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, AND TO WAGE DEFENSIVE WARS.**

Matt. 5:38-40 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well." (NIV)

Rom. 13:4 ...But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he (the government) does not **bear the sword** for nothing. He is **God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment** on the wrongdoer. (NIV)

See also: *Exodus 21:12-124; Numbers 35:9-34; Deut. 19:4-13; Romans 13:1-7.*
(Death penalty in Old Testament: *Leviticus 20:1-27*)

5. **The fulfillment of this commandment is that we show love, FRIENDSHIP, KINDNESS AND ASSISTANCE TO OUR FELLOWMAN WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**

Luke 6:32-36 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (NIV)

Rom. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NIV)

Gal. 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people**, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (NIV)

Eph. 4:31-32 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (NRSV)

See also: *Luke 10:30-37* (Parable of the Good Samaritan).

The New Commandment

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

"But as the love of Him who is love, transcends ours as the heavens are higher than the earth, so must He desire in His child infinitely more than the most jealous love of the best mother can desire in hers. He would have him rid of all discontent, all fear, all grudging, all bitterness in word or thought, all gauging and measuring of his own with a different rod from that he would apply to another's. He will have no curling of the lip; no indifference in him to the man whose service in any form he uses; no desire to excel another, no contentment at gaining by his loss. He will not have him receive the smallest service without gratitude; would not hear from him a tone to jar the heart of another, a word to make it ache, be the ache ever so transient."

— George MacDonald, Hope of the Gospel.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

"You Shall Not Commit Adultery"
(Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18)

1. This commandment protects sex and marriage

The sexual powers which God has placed within us are good and have their proper fulfillment in marriage and in the procreation of children. All other use of the sexual powers outside of marriage is sinful and forbidden by this commandment. Sex is not sinful; only the misuse of it.

Heb. 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. (NIV)

Note: The Hebrew word translated 'adultery' is "**Na-aph**." **Na-aph** refers to sexual involvement between a man and another man's wife. **Fornication** refers to sexual promiscuity between the unmarried, and "immorality" is a more general term. The Greek words often translated by "immorality" in the New Testament cover a wide variety of sexual misbehavior and deviation, and all of these things are forbidden to Christians.

2. This commandment forbids "**fornication**" (*SEX RELATIONS BY THE UNMARRIED*), AND **ADULTERY** (*THE 'MIXING' OR 'ADULTERATION' OF A MARRIAGE BY UNFAITHFULNESS*). IT ALSO FORBIDS **BIGAMY, POLYGAMY, OR ANY KIND OF SEXUAL PERVERSION SUCH AS HOMOSEXUALITY OR INCEST.**

Mark 10:6-9 "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the **two will become one flesh**.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (NIV) (Hence polygamy is not in keeping with God's original intention.)

Eph. 5:3-5 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (NIV)

3. **Also impure thoughts and desires, DIRTY JOKES AND SUCH THINGS ARE FORBIDDEN BY THIS COMMANDMENT. (SEE EPHESIANS 5:3-5)**

Matt. 5:27-29 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.” (NIV)

4. **Divorce, except when the marriage has already been violated through adultery or malicious desertion, is also forbidden by the Bible. (SOME CASES OF SEVERE NON-SUPPORT MAY CONSTITUTE A FORM OF DESERTION.)**

Matt. 19:3-9 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?” “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man **not separate**.” “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?” Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.” (NIV)

A. DESERTION BY NON-BELIEVING SPOUSE

I Cor 7:12-13,15 ...If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman **is not bound in such circumstances**; God has called us to live in peace. (NIV)

B. WHEN BOTH SPOUSES ARE CHRISTIAN

I Cor 7:10-11 To the married I give this command—not I but the Lord—that the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife. (NRSV)

4. (Cont'd)

C. Non-support

I Tim. 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (NIV)

See also: *Deut. 24:1-4; Matt. 5:31-32; Mark. 10:2-12; Luke. 16:18; Romans 7:1-3*

5. Marriage is a sacred institution MADE POSSIBLE BY GOD AT CREATION. (GENESIS 2:18-24). IT IS THE lifelong union of one man and one woman (MARK 10:7-8), AND IT IS contracted BY THE MUTUAL CONSENT OF A MAN AND A WOMAN TO BE HUSBAND AND WIFE.

THE PURPOSES OF MARRIAGE ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. Companionship and Helpfulness:

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make a helper suitable for him." (*Gen. 2:18*) (NIV)

B. The Procreation of Children:

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it..." (*Gen. 1:28*) (NRSV)

C. The Prevention of Immorality:

But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. (*I Cor. 7:2*) (NIV)

...I would have younger widows marry, bear children, and manage their households, so as to give the adversary no occasion to revile us. (*I Tim 5:14*) (NRSV)

6. Marriage is normally terminated only by death

Rom. 7:2-3 ...a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man. (NIV)

7. **The commandment is fulfilled WHEN THE UNMARRIED LIVE A CLEAN LIFE IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED, AND the married are faithful to one another, AND LIVE TOGETHER IN LOVE AND UNSELFISH DEVOTION. MARRIAGE INVOLVES CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY IN A RELATIONSHIP. WHATEVER STRENGTHENS AND IMPROVES CHARACTER, STRENGTHENS AND IMPROVES THE MARRIAGE. HENCE, WHEN BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE GROW AS CHRISTIANS, THE MARRIAGE IS STRENGTHENED.**

A. TO ALL IN GENERAL

I Cor 6:18-20 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (NIV)

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (NIV)

See also: *I Thessalonians 4:3-8*.

B. DUTIES OF HUSBANDS TOWARD THEIR WIVES

Eph. 5:25 **Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. (NIV)

Col. 3:19 **Husbands**, love your wives and never treat them harshly. (NRSV)

I Pet. 3:7 **Husbands**, in the same way, show consideration for your wives in your life together, paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life... (NRSV)

C. DUTIES OF WIVES TOWARD THEIR HUSBANDS

Eph. 5:22-23 **Wives**, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. (NIV)

Titus 2:3-5 Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to **love their husbands**, to **love their children**, to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. (NRSV)

I Pet. 3:1-4 **Wives**, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. (NIV)

WORKSHEET FOR CHAPTER V (page 1)

I. *ON THE BASIS OF THIS LESSON, CAN YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?*

1. What is absolutely essential in order to fulfill the Law of God?

2. What is meant by a "sin of omission"? Can you give an example?

3. What does the Bible have to say about revenge?

4. What does the Bible teach about capital punishment?

5. What is the Christian attitude toward sex?

6. What are some of the purposes of marriage according to the Bible?

7. What does the Bible say about someone who refuses to provide for his own relatives?

II. *PROBLEM FOR FURTHER STUDY:* The following Bible references speak of temptations. Look up the references and write on the lines the way in which the temptation is overcome.

1. Psalm 119:11 _____

2. Psalms 19:67 _____

3. Proverbs 1:10 _____

4. Matthew 26:41 _____

5. Ephesians 6:11 _____

6. James 4:7 _____

7. James 1:12 _____

8. I Peter 5:9 _____

WORKSHEET FOR CHAPTER V (page 2)

III. At whatever stage of life we may find ourselves, we all have certain duties to perform. Look up the following references and write on the blank line the duties required.

1. **Children**

Colossians 3:20 _____

Proverbs 23:22 _____

2. **Church Members**

Hebrews 13:17 _____

I Corinthians 9:11-14 _____

I Thessalonians 5:12-14 _____

3. **Parents**

Ephesians 6:4 _____

I Timothy 5:8 _____

II Corinthians 12:14 _____

Proverbs 29:15 & 17 _____

4. **Employees (On the Job)**

I Thessalonians 4:11 _____

II Thessalonians 3:8-13 _____

Ephesians 6:5-8 _____

5. **Citizens of State and Country**

I Peter 2:13-14 _____

Romans 13:7 _____

Jeremiah 29:7 _____

IV. There are many things which we, as Christians, should not do. Look up the following references, and write on the line, the things a Christian should **not do**.

Matthew 6:1 _____

Matthew 6:34 _____

Matthew 5:39 _____

John 7:24 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

Romans 12:3 _____

Romans 12:16 _____

Romans 12:19 _____

Philippians 2:3 _____

Philippians 4:6 _____