

what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother."

Romans 13:8-9 -- "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

E. Interpretation of the Decalogue in General

1. Ezekiel Hopkins, "General Rules for the Right Understanding and Expounding of the Commandments" (1701) from A Practical Exposition of the Ten Commandments
2. A. A. Hodge, "Classes of Divine Laws" and "Rules for Interpreting the Ten Commandments" (1869) from The Confession of Faith
3. Thomas Watson, "Some general rules for the right understanding of the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments" () from The Ten Commandments

Rule 1. The commands and prohibitions of the moral law reach the heart.

Rule 2. In the commandments there is a synecdoche, more is intended than is spoken.

1. Where any duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden.

2. Where any sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded.

Rule 3. Where any sin is forbidden in the commandment, the occasion of it is also forbidden.

Rule 4. In relate subintelligitur correlatum. Where one relation is named in the commandment, there another relation is included. Where the child is named, the father is included. Where the duty of children to parents is mentioned, the duty of parents to children is also included. Where the child is commanded to honour the parent, it is implied that the parent is also commanded to instruct, to love, and to provide for the child.

Rule 5. Where greater sins are forbidden, lesser sins are also forbidden.

Rule 6. The law of God is entire. Lex est copulativa. The first and second tables are knit together; piety to God, and equity to our neighbour. These two tables which God has joined together, must not be put asunder.

Rule 7. God's law forbids not only the acting of sin in our own persons, but being accessory to, or having any hand in, the sins of others.

Rule 8. The last rule about the commandments is, that though we cannot, by our own strength, fulfil all these commandments, yet doing quoad posse, what we are able, the Lord has provided encouragement for us. (pp. 34-36)

4. R. Laird Harris on Christ's interpretation of the Law in the Sermon on the Mount, in "The Sermon on the Mount and Verbal Inspiration"