

## 50 Commands of Christ - 1 - (#1-6)

Among Jesus' last commands to us are those given in the verses known as "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20) in which he says, "therefor go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and *teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." The word disciple itself means "learner or pupil." Thus, it is with this spirit of being a disciple or a learner that we approach these commands.

Before we get to the commands themselves, let us look at two things that Jesus said about obeying his commands.

John 14:15 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:21, 23 \_\_\_\_\_

Another question: Why should we obey Christ's commands? *Psalm 103:17-18, John 15:10-11*

Now, the commands themselves:

**1. Repent**—*Matthew 4:17, Proverbs 1:23, Psalm 51:1-4, Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19, 8:22, 26:20, Revelation 3:19*

**2. Let not your heart be troubled (don't worry)**—*John 14:27, John 16:33, Matthew 6:25-26, Philippians 4:6-7*

**3. Follow me**—*Matthew 4:19*—so you can \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Rejoice**—*Matthew 5:12, 2 Corinthians 6:10, 12:10, James 1:2-4*. When should we rejoice the most?

**5. Let your light shine**—*Matthew 5:16*. There are two parts to this command

which are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Is this command a contradiction to Matthew 6:3-4?

**6. Honor God's law**—*Matthew 5:17-19*. How do we occasionally encourage others to break God's rules? Why is it difficult to practice what we preach?

## 50 Commands of Christ - 1 - (#1-6) - Leader's Guide

What did Jesus say about obeying his commands?

John 14:15 If you love me, you will obey my commands

John 14:21, 23 Obey my commands and the Father and I will love you

Why should we obey Christ's commands?

Psalms 103:17-18 - <sup>17</sup> But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—<sup>18</sup> with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

John 15:10-11 - <sup>10</sup> If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

**1. Repent** if Jesus' very first command—before he called his disciples, before he did any miracles, and before he preached a message. It is found in Matthew 4:17: From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Jesus' command to repent is repeated in a number of other places in the New Testament. However, it is not a new command and we find the call to repent at least 60 times in the Old Testament and more than 15 times in the New Testament.

**3. Follow me**—*Matthew 4:19*—so you can be fishers of men

**4. Rejoice.** Jesus says specifically that we should rejoice most when we are persecuted. This is explained further by both Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 and especially in James 1:2-4.

**5. Let your light shine**—*Matthew 5:16*. There are two parts to this command

which are Let your good deeds be seen and so the Father will be praised

Is this command a contradiction to Matthew 6:3-4? <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus says to let your good deeds to the needy be seen but in Matthew 6:3-4 he says to let your giving to the needy be done in secret. They would seem to contradict each other except for the second part of the first

command which says that your deeds should be seen *only* so the glory goes to the Lord, i.e., that others would see your deeds and praise the Father. Your deeds and your giving should not be to impress others or build your ego.

**6. Honor God's Law.** Matthew 5:17-19 could easily be a Bible study by itself. Here are some things to think about when considering these verses:

In discussing sin, why did Jesus make a point of saying, "one of the least of these commandments?"

How do we occasionally encourage others to break God's rules?

What level of reverence and submission do you think most people have toward the Bible?

What does it mean to "practice" the commandments of God?

What are some ways to teach others about the righteousness of God?

Why is it difficult to practice what we preach?

What ideals are most difficult for you to uphold?