

- Q44. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?
A44. **The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.**

Deuteronomy 11:1; 1 Peter 1:17-19; 1 Corinthians 6:20

- DQ1: What is the lesson of the preface to the Ten Commandments?
- DQ2: Which part of the preface teaches that God is the Lord?
- DQ3: Which part of the preface teaches that God is God?
- DQ4: Which part of the preface teaches that God is a redeemer?
- DQ5: What is the reason why we must obey God's commands?
- DQ6: Jesus taught His disciples at the Last Supper. What did Jesus command the disciples? (1 Corinthians 11:24, 25)

Notes:

According to QA 44, the lessons of the preface to the Ten Commandments are that (1) God is our Lord, (2) Jehovah is God, (3) God is the Redeemer, and (4) we must obey God's command.

Does this sound like a vein repetition? It may, but it is well worth repeating! Here is the reason why. The reason is found in sin and sin nature in man. Left alone, man's sin nature does not permit proper obedience to God's command even when God and God's commands are clearly known to him. Unfortunately, this is true and following God and God's law is not really a natural tendency at all. The natural tendency of man is to be disobedient.

Man will inevitably evaluate and measure God's commands from his perspectives. Man desires to if God and God's laws are in line with his thoughts, reasons, experiences and philosophy. Man wants to if God's law makes any sense.

There is a simple reason why man must obey God. God is God and His commands are God's commands. Whether God's commands meet with man's approval or not makes no difference. It is simply because of the authority of "who God is" that commands our obedience. God is sovereign and is the Creator. We are His created beings. God's laws were given to His people. His commands must be our wish. It is totally irrelevant that God's law makes sense or not. God's authority demands our obedience. We are in position to criticize God. He is our Sovereign!

"I am the Lord (Jehovah) your God" is a dead giveaway that teaches us that God is our Lord and God. He also makes it very clear in the preface that He is the Redeemer.

Deuteronomy 11:1 explains that if we love the Lord God, then we will obey His commands. "Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always." Loving God and obeying God go hand in hand. One cannot exist without the other. We must obey because we love God. Who could challenge God on his positions and authority? Yet,

God teaches us that we should lovingly obey His commands. God showed his love of His people in redeeming them out of the bondage. And, God desires His people to remember His acts of love for them in keeping His commands.

Exodus 20:20: “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” To disobey God is to not fear God. The one who disobeys God does not really know Him. So, the preface is a clear reminder to God’s people of who He is by reminding them of all the powerful and miraculous things that He had done.

It would be inexcusable for a son not to remember and honor his own father. It would be inexcusable for God’s people not to remember and honor God. The Ten Commandments are given for the purpose of causing God’s people to remember God and what He has done. At the Last Supper, our Lord instructed us to “Do this in remembrance of me.” God desires His people to remember Him. As we obey the Ten Commandments, we are indeed engaged in remembering our God.