

Compare Exodus 20:2-17 with Deuteronomy 5:6-21

Matthew 22:36-40. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

- Jesus replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.”
- “And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

Love of God

I: Honor God

II: Honor God’s Name

III: Honor God’s Day

Love of Neighbor

IV: Honor Your Parents

V: Honor Human Life

VI and IX: Honor Human Sexuality

VII and X: Honor the Property of Others

VIII: Honor the Truth

Summary

- **Applied Morality**
- **Justice, Truth**
- **Life & Death**
- **Love (Sex & Marriage)**
- **Chastity**
- **Homosexuality**

Compare Exodus 20:2-17 with Deuteronomy 5:6-21

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- Jesus replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)

The First Commandment: I Am the Lord Your God, You Shall Not Have Other Gods Before Me

What is implied in the affirmation of God: “I am the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:2)?

- The faithful must guard and activate the three theological virtues and must avoid sins which are opposed to them.
- Faith believes in God and rejects everything that is opposed to it, such as deliberate doubt, unbelief, heresy, apostasy, and schism.
- Hope trustingly awaits the blessed vision of God and his help, while avoiding despair and presumption.
- Charity loves God above all things and therefore repudiates indifference, ingratitude, lukewarmness, sloth or spiritual indolence, and that hatred of God which is born of pride.

What is the meaning of the words of our Lord: “Adore the Lord your God and worship Him alone” (Matthew 4:10)?

- To adore God as the Lord of everything that exists.
- To render to him the individual and community worship which is his due.
- To pray to him with sentiments of praise, of thanks, and of supplication.
- To offer him sacrifices, above all the spiritual sacrifice of one’s own life, united with the perfect sacrifice of Christ.
- To keep the promises and vows made to him.

In what way does a person exercise his or her proper right to worship God in truth and in freedom?

- Every person has the right and the moral duty to seek the truth, especially in what concerns God and his Church.
- Once the truth is known, each person has the right and moral duty to embrace it, to guard it faithfully and to render God authentic worship.
- The dignity of the human person requires that in religious matters no one may be forced to act against conscience nor be restrained, within the just limits of public order, from acting in conformity with conscience, privately or publicly, alone or in association with others.

What does God prohibit by his command, “You shall not have other gods before me” (Exodus 20:2)?

- Polytheism and idolatry, which divinizes creatures, power, money, or even demons.
- Superstition which is a departure from the worship due to the true God and which also expresses itself in various forms of divination, magic, sorcery and spiritism.
- Irreligion which is evidenced:
 - In tempting God by word or deed.
 - In sacrilege, which profanes sacred persons or sacred things, above all the Eucharist.
 - In simony, which involves the buying or selling of spiritual things.
- Atheism which rejects the existence of God, founded often on a false conception of human autonomy.
- Agnosticism which affirms that nothing can be known about God, and involves indifferentism and practical atheism.

Does the commandment of God, “You shall not make for yourself a graven image” (Exodus 20:4), forbid the cult of images?

- In the Old Testament this commandment forbade any representation of God who is absolutely transcendent.
- The Christian veneration of sacred images, however, is justified by the incarnation of the Son of God (as taught by the Second Council of Nicea in A.D. 787) because such veneration is founded on the mystery of the Son of God made man, in whom the transcendent God is made visible.
- This does not mean the adoration of an image, but rather the veneration of the one who is represented in it: for example, Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels and the Saints.

The Second Commandment: You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain

How does one respect the holiness of the Name of God?

- One shows respect for the holy Name of God by blessing it, praising it and glorifying it.
- It is forbidden, therefore, to call on the Name of God to justify a crime.
- It is also wrong to use the holy Name of God in any improper way as in blasphemy (which by its nature is a grave sin), curses, and unfaithfulness to promises made in the Name of God.

Why is a false oath forbidden?

- It is forbidden because one calls upon God who is truth itself to be the witness to a lie.
- "Do not swear; whether by the Creator or by any creature, except truthfully, of necessity and with reverence." (Saint Ignatius of Loyola)

What is perjury?

- Perjury is to make a promise under oath with the intention of not keeping it or to violate a promise made under oath.
- It is a grave sin against God who is always faithful to his promises.

The Third Commandment: Remember to Keep Holy the Lord's Day

Why did God "Bless the Sabbath day and declare it sacred" (Exodus 20:11)?

- God did so because on the Sabbath day one remembers:
 - God's rest on the seventh day of creation.
 - The liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt.
 - The Covenant which God sealed with his people.

How did Jesus act in regard to the Sabbath?

- Jesus recognized the holiness of the Sabbath day and with divine authority he gave this law its authentic interpretation:
 - "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

For what reason has the Sabbath been changed to Sunday for Christians?

- The reason is because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection of Christ.
- As "the first day of the week" (Mark 16:2) it recalls the first creation.
- As the "eighth day," which follows the Sabbath, it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by the Resurrection of Christ.
- It has become for Christians the first of all days and of all feasts.
- It is the day of the lord in which he with his Passover fulfilled the spiritual truth of the Jewish Sabbath and proclaimed man's eternal rest in God.

How does one keep Sunday holy?

- Christians keep Sunday and other days of obligation holy by participating in the Eucharist of the Lord and by refraining from those activities which impede the worship of God and disturb the joy proper to the day of the Lord or the necessary relaxation of mind and body.
- Activities are allowed on the Sabbath which are bound up with family needs or with important social service, provided that they do not lead to habits prejudicial to the holiness of Sunday, to family life and to health.

Why is the civil recognition of Sunday as a feast day important?

- It is important so that all might be given the real possibility of enjoying sufficient rest and leisure to take care of their religious, familial, cultural and social lives.
- It is important also to have an opportune time for meditation, for reflection, for silence, for study, and a time to dedicate to good works, particularly for the sick and for the elderly.

Matthew 22:36-40. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

- Jesus replied, “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.”
- “And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.”

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

Are we commanded to obey our parents only?

- We are commanded to obey, not only our parents, but also our bishops and pastors, the civil authorities and all our lawful superiors.
- While this commandment calls children of all ages to respect their parents, it is also concerned with the necessity of teaching true family values. For adults, this commandment refers to the need to care for parents in their old age.

What is the duty of parents toward their children?

- The duty of parents toward their children is to provide for them, to instruct and correct them, and to give them a good Catholic education.
- The duty of superiors is to take proper care of those under their charge and to enable them to practice their religious duties.

What does the Fourth Commandment forbid?

- The Fourth Commandment forbids all contempt, stubbornness and disobedience to our parents and lawful superiors.

Is it sinful to belong to a Secret Society?

- It is sinful to belong to any Secret Society that plots against the Church or the State, or to any Society that by reason of its secrecy is condemned by the Church. St. Paul says, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore he who resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.” (see Romans 13:1-2)

What are the responsibilities of parents to their children?

- The family is the basic unit of society: parents are heads of the family.
- Parents are strictly bound to **provide** for their children: Life; Food and clothing; Home; Training and fostering their vocation; Make adequate provision for the future (make a will)
- Parents are strictly bound to **instruct** their children.
- Parents are strictly bound to **correct** their children in justice and in prudence.
- Parents are strictly bound to give their children a good Catholic **education.**

How to Keep the Fourth Commandment:

- While this commandment calls children of all ages to respect their parents, it is also concerned with the necessity of teaching true family values.
- For adults, this commandment refers to the need to care for parents in their old age.

Sins Pertaining to the Fourth Commandment:

- Children of all ages sin against this commandment through disrespect, disobedience, or neglect of their parents as it applies to them. We are to imitate Jesus who “went down with (Mary and Joseph) and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them” (see Luke 2:51).

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

What does the Fifth Commandment forbid?

- The Fifth Commandment forbids all willful murder, fighting, quarreling and injurious words, and also scandal and bad example.
- The Fifth Commandment forbids unjust anger; and still more, hatred and revenge.

Why are scandal and bad example forbidden by the Fifth Commandment?

- Scandal and bad example are forbidden by the Fifth Commandment because they lead to the injury and spiritual death of our neighbor’s soul.

Examples of sins forbidden by the Fifth Commandment:

- **Willful murder**, which is one of the sins crying to Heaven for vengeance because it usurps God’s right over life, destroys one who God has made to His own image and likeness, robs him of his most precious possession, and sends a soul into eternity unprepared.
- **Abortion**, which is willful murder committed before a child’s birth. Often disguised as “termination of pregnancy” or a woman’s “choice”, it deprives a child of the gift of life. It is punished by the Church with excommunication.
- **Suicide**, which is willful self-murder – a crime against God, against society, against one’s family and against oneself.
- **Exposing one’s life or health to unnecessary danger without sufficient cause.**
- **Fighting**, which is opposed to the law of charity and which can lead to physical harm to self or others, and which can lead to murder.
- **Quarreling**, which tends toward fighting and even murder.
- **Injurious words**, which lead to quarrels and their consequences. “...whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be liable to the hell of fire.” (see Matthew 5:22)

- **Scandal**, which is any word, deed or omission, wrong or seeming to be wrong, and leading others to sin.
- **Bad example**, which is really scandal of a milder form.
- **Anger**, which leads to quarrels and many other evils. "...every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment;" (see Matthew 5:22)
- **Hatred**, which is enmity (hostility), directly opposed to the love of God and of our neighbor.
- **Revenge**, which is returning evil for evil.

How to Keep the Fifth Commandment:

- Obeying this commandment means loving God, ourselves, and others in such a way that we acknowledge the sacredness of life from conception through its course to natural death.
- We are obliged by this commandment to save, protect, and make pleasant human life on earth.

Sins Pertaining to the Fifth Commandment

- **Murder**, the taking of an innocent human life, including **abortion**, and **euthanasia** as well as **disrespect** for human life are sins against this commandment since they display a lack of love for God or others (see Genesis 9:5-6).
- In addition, when Christians deliberately violate this commandment or seduce others to evil, the sin of **scandal** is involved.

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does the Sixth Commandment forbid?

- The Sixth Commandment **in general** forbids all sins of impurity – including adultery, fornication, masturbation, birth control, homosexual acts and bestiality – and **specifically** those sins of impurity committed with another's wife or husband.
- The Sixth Commandment also forbids whatever is contrary to holy purity in words, thoughts, looks or actions.
- It is sinful to look at immodest plays and dances.
- The Sixth Commandment also forbids immodest songs, books, pictures, movies, TV shows, and websites, because they are most dangerous to the soul and lead to mortal sin.

How to keep the Sixth Commandment:

- This commandment requires that sexual intimacy be kept only within the bond of holy marriage (man and woman).
- Furthermore, it emphasizes the holiness of the sexual relationship in which the couple, in union with God, strengthens and builds family life.

Sins Pertaining to the Sixth Commandment:

- Every sexual act performed within or outside of marriage which does not respect the sacredness of the marital covenant and the moral value of the sexual act is a sin against this commandment.
- This includes premarital relations, adultery, homosexual acts, masturbation, sodomy, contraception, pornography, complete oral sex, prostitution, rape, polygamy, and incest.

The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal.

What does the Seventh Commandment forbid?

- The Seventh Commandment forbids all unjust taking away or keeping what belongs to another.
- All manner of cheating in buying and selling is forbidden by the Seventh Commandment, and also every other way of wronging our neighbor.
- It is dishonest for employees to waste their employer's time or property, because it is wasting what is not their own.

Are we bound to restore ill-gotten goods?

- We are bound to restore ill-gotten goods if we are able, or else the sin will not be forgiven.
- We must also pay our just debts.

How to Keep the Seventh Commandment:

- Justice and respect underlie this commandment.
- It requires that we respect others' rights and goods.

Sins Pertaining to the Seventh Commandment:

- The dignity of the human person is rooted in the fact that men and women are created in the image and likeness of God.
- Therefore, **every violation of a person's rights** is a sin against this commandment.
- Sinful too is the failure to share our economic and natural resources with those who are in need.

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does the Eighth Commandment forbid?

- The Eighth Commandment forbids all false testimony, rash judgment and lies.
- Calumny (slander) and detraction (defamation) are forbidden by the Eighth Commandment, and also tale-bearing, and any words which defame our neighbor's character or injure his reputation.

If you have injured your neighbor by speaking ill of him, what are you bound to do?

- If I have injured my neighbor by speaking ill of him, I am bound to make him satisfaction by restoring his good name, as far as I can.

How to Keep the Eighth Commandment:

- This commandment calls us to live with a great love for the truth.
- God desires us to lead lives of true character in which, by telling the truth, we are freed from the deceitful ways of the world.
- Honesty, integrity, and holy respect for others are virtues that spring from a truthful life.

Sins Pertaining to the Eighth Commandment:

- Because we establish relationships with others based on our spoken or written word, deception using these same words by **lying** and speaking in ways which are destructive of human dignity (**slander, calumny, detraction, insults and divulging secrets**) are sins against this commandment.

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

What does the Ninth Commandment forbid?

- The Ninth Commandment specifically forbids **wanting** someone else's spouse in a married way, and by extension, for a married person to **want** a single person in this manner.
- It also forbids all willful consent to impure thoughts and desires, and all willful pleasure in irregular (sinful) sexual promptings or motions of the flesh.

What sins commonly lead to the breaking of the Sixth and Ninth Commandments?

- The sins that commonly lead to the breaking of the Sixth and Ninth Commandments are gluttony, drunkenness and intemperance, and also idleness, bad company and the neglect of prayer.

How to keep the Ninth Commandment:

- Chastity is faithfulness to marriage vows, or sexual abstinence in the case of unmarried persons.

- It requires purity of heart that leads to a proper use of sexuality.
- All are called to live chaste lives in response to God's faithful love.

Sins Pertaining to the Ninth Commandment:

- Sins against this commandment take the form of lustful thoughts, more than bodily behavior.
- Jesus referred to this type of sin when he warned against committing adultery in the heart by looking at a woman lustfully.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

What does the Tenth Commandment forbid?

- The Tenth Commandment forbids all envious and covetous thoughts of and unjust desires for our neighbor's goods and profits.

How to Keep the Tenth Commandment:

- In a world where millions are starving while others accumulate extravagant wealth, this commandment provides the basis for the Church's social teachings.
- We have a responsibility to offer our time, talent, and treasure to those who are less fortunate in order to truly live the Christian life.

Sins Pertaining to the Tenth Commandment:

- Greed (the desire to amass goods), avarice (a passion for riches and the power that comes from them), and envy (an immoderate desire to obtain another's goods) are the sins against this commandment.

Four Pillars of the Catholic Faith

- **The Ten Commandments (Life in Christ)**
- **The Creed (the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed)**
- **The Seven Sacraments**
- **The Our Father (Prayer)**

Applied Morality

Morality = Referring to the goodness or evil of human acts. Human freedom makes a person a "moral subject" or agent, able to judge the morality (goodness or evil) of the acts which are chosen. The morality of human acts depends on the object (or nature) of the action, the intentional or end foreseen, and the circumstances of the action (CCC 1749; cf. 407).

Contraception

Genesis 1:27-28 (Genesis 9:1; 35:11) - "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth"

Genesis 38:9-10 - (Onan killed for spilling his seed on the ground, not for disobeying Levirate law whose penalty was not death. See Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

Exodus 23:25-26 - blessings promised; no miscarrying, no barrenness, I shall give you your full term of life

Deuteronomy 7:13-14 - you will be blessed: no male or female barrenness

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 - penalty for defying Levirate law: not death

Leviticus 20:13 - if man lies with man, put to death (wasting seed)

Leviticus 20:15 - if man lies with animal put to death (sterile sex)

Leviticus 20:16 - if woman lies with animal put to death (sterile sex)

Leviticus 21:17-20 - crushed testicles are called a defect and blemish

Deuteronomy 23:1 - no one who is castrated shall enter the assembly

Deuteronomy 25:11-12 - punishment for potential damage to genitals

Psalms 127:3-5 - children are a gift from God; How blessed is the man who has filled his quiver with them

1 Chronicles 25:4-5 - God gave 14 sons and 3 daughters to exalt him

1 Chronicles 26:4-5 - (God blessed Obed-edom with 8 sons.)

Hosea 9:10-17 - Israel is punished with childlessness

Matthew 21:19, Mark 11:14 - Jesus cursed the fruitless fig tree

Luke 18:16 - "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them"

Acts 5:1-11 - Ananias/Saphira slain withholding part of gift

Romans 1:25-27 - the natural function of women is child bearing

Galatians 5:20; Revelation 9:21, 21:8 - Greek *pharmakeia* = abortifacient potions

Galatians 6:7-8 - God is not mocked - accepting pleasure, denying fruit

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, glorify God in your body

1 Timothy 2:11-15 - women saved through the bearing of children

See also: - References in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CCC 2366-2372

Justice, Truth

Justice = The cardinal moral virtue which consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and to neighbor (CCC 1807).

Original justice refers to the state of holiness in which God created our first parents (CCC 375).

Commutative justice, which obliges respect for the rights of the other, is required by the seventh commandment; it is distinguished from legal justice, which concerns what the citizen owes to the community, and distributive justice, which regulates what the community owes its citizens in proportion to their contributions and needs (CCC 2411).

Social Justice = The respect for the human person and the rights which flow from human dignity and guarantee it. Society must provide the conditions that allow people to obtain what is their due, according to their nature and vocation (CCC 1928, 1931).

Truth = Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

See also John 1:14, 17; 8:31-32; 16:13; 17:17; 18:37-38;

Life & Death

The Fifth Commandment (see CCC 2258-2330).

See also Catholicism for Dummies pp 190-191.

"You shall not kill." (Ex 20:13; cf. Deut 5:17)

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill: and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment." (Mt 5:21-22)

Morality: Abortion

God knows and loves us from the womb

Job 10:8 - "your hands have formed me and fashioned me; will you then turn and destroy me?"

Psalms 22:11 - "from my mother's womb you are my God"

Psalms 139:13-15 - "you formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb"

Isaiah 44:2 - "the LORD formed you from the womb"

Isaiah 49:1-15 - "formed me as his servant from the womb"

Luke 1:41 - "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb."

See also: - Ecclesiastes 11:5, Isaiah 44:24

Children have identity and purpose from the womb

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 49:7 - "Jeremiah ... even in the womb had been made a prophet"

Wisdom 7:1 - "in my mother's womb, I was molded into flesh"

Jeremiah 1:5 - "before I formed you in the womb I knew you ... dedicated you"

See also: - Jeremiah 20:15-18, Hosea 12:2-4

Love (Sex & Marriage)

Sixth and Ninth Commandments (see CCC 2331-2400 and 2514-2533)

“You shall not commit adultery.” (Ex 20:14; Deut 5:18)

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” (Ex 20:17)

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Mt 5:27-28)

Chastity

Chastity = The moral virtue which, under the cardinal virtue of temperance, provides for the successful integration of sexuality within the person leading to the inner unity of the bodily and spiritual being (CCC 2337). Chastity is called one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1832).

Praised

Proverbs 22:11 - "The LORD loves the pure of heart"

Wisdom 3:13 - "blessed is she who ... knew not the transgression of the marriage bed"

Wisdom 4:1 - "Better is childlessness with virtue"

Chastity, Virginitly held in high esteem

Matthew 19:10-12 - (Jesus specifies only some are called to this vocation)

1 Corinthians 7:8-9 - (Paul says the unmarried and widow should stay as they are)

1 Corinthians 7:32-35 - (Married are anxious about their spouses; unmarried/virgins are free to focus on God)

Revelation 14:4 - "they are virgins and these are the ones who follow the Lamb"

Chastity, Virginitly preferable to marriage

Psalms 45:15 - "In embroidered apparel she is led to the king"

Matthew 22:30 - "at the resurrection they are neither married nor are given in marriage"

Titus 2:4-5 - "train younger women ... to be ... chaste"

Better for ministry

Matthew 19:12 - "some ... have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom"

1 Corinthians 7:25-28 - (St. Paul recommends virginitly/single life in ministry work.)

Recommended to ministers of the Church

1 Timothy 3:2 - "bishop must be ... married only once"

1 Timothy 3:8 - "deacons must be dignified"

Chastity, Fornication provokes God's anger

Deuteronomy 22:21 - (Law calls for stoning of girls who fornicate in their father's house)

Proverbs 6:29 - "[your] neighbor's wife - none who touches her shall go unpunished"

1 Corinthians 6:9 - "neither fornicators ... nor adulterers ... will inherit the kingdom of

God"

Hebrews 13:4 - "God will judge the immoral and adulterers."

See also: - Jeremiah 5:7, Hosea 4:14

Chastity, Fornication should be avoided

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 42:12 - "Let her not parade her charms before men"

Deuteronomy 5:18 - "You shall not commit adultery"

Chastity, Impure thoughts should be forbidden

Exodus 20:17 - "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife"

Matthew 5:28 - "one who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery"

See also: - Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 9:4, Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 42:18-21, Proverbs 6:25

Homosexuality

Scripture clearly describes homosexual acts as abominations. The city of Sodom (Genesis 18-19) was not destroyed for its lack of hospitality to the angels of the Lord. It was destroyed for its homosexual depravity. The Church teaches that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2357), yet the Church also calls us to embrace homosexuals with love and to encourage them to live life's of chastity. Regardless of the source of homosexual inclinations, which the Church says are "objectively disordered", the "urges" themselves are not sinful. For most people, these urges constitute trails which must be resisted like any other temptation. In short, the Church teaches us to hate the sin of homosexual acts, but to love the sinners who engage in those acts. See more about the Church's teachings in CCC 2357-2359.

Genesis 1 - complementarity of sexes reflects God's inner unity

Genesis 2 - transmission of life through total self donation where the two become one flesh

Genesis 19 - God destroys Sodom for its homosexual perversions.

Leviticus 18:22 - "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman." (cut off from people {verse 29})

Leviticus 20:13 - (If man lies with a man, they shall be put to death for their abominable deed.)

Romans 1:24-27 - "... handed them over to impurity ... mutual degradation of their bodies" ... "female exchange natural relations for unnatural ... Males did shameful things with males"

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - "neither ... boy prostitutes nor sodomites ... will inherit the kingdom" (active homosexuals won't inherit the kingdom of God)

1 Timothy 1:10 - those who engage in such acts called "sinners" ...are opposed to sound teaching."