



*If you love Me,  
you will keep  
My commandments*

**Jn 14:15**



# Keep My Commandments

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Generally used to show relationship between love and obedience

A launching point for arguing obedience to Apostolic teaching...

- The Spirit empowered them to teach Jesus' commands (**Jn 14:26; 16:13**)
- *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”* (**Mt 28:18-20**)
- *“If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord.”* (**1 Cor 14:37**)

# Keep My Commandments

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**What about the specific, personal commands of Jesus?**

**Not just “the greatest commandment”**

- *“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.”* (Mt 22:37-39)

**Not only “the golden rule”**

- *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.”* (Mt 7:12)

**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (Jn 14:15)**

# The Commands of Jesus

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~38 times Jesus gives a command in the Gospels

In His directives, He shows grace, but also expectation

For those who love Jesus enough to do what He says, obeying the commandments of Jesus will bring great reward:

- Jesus told Nicodemus: *“You must be born again”* (Jn 3:7)
- He concluded: *“that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”* (Jn 3:15)

# Keep My Commandments

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*"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* (Mt 5:16)

- Reflect the Light in your life for others to see
- *"Diffuse the light of heavenly knowledge, and the warmth of Divine love"* by being eager to do good works
- Deflect the glory to your Father in heaven

# Keep My Commandments

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***"Come to terms quickly with your accuser"*** (Matt 5:25)

- Do what you can to speedily resolve personal conflict
- *"If at all possible, as much as it depends on you..."* (Rom. 12:18)
- We can't come to terms with sin, error, or dishonesty, but...
- We must *"esteem others greater than self"* in matters of preference
- Pursue reconciliation

# Keep My Commandments

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Get rid of whatever causes you to sin (Matt 5:29-30)

- **29 *If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.*** **30 *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.***
- **We must take pro-active steps to avoid sin**
- **It is better to use a flip-phone than go into hell**



# Keep My Commandments

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***"Do not take an oath at all"*** (Matt 5:34-37)

- Be so honest that you don't feel compelled to "promise"
- Be so trustworthy that no one would require you to "promise"
- Keep your word – don't excuse dishonesty with semantics

# Keep My Commandments

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***"Do not resist the one who is evil."*** (Matt 5:38-39)

- There is no right of personal vengeance
- Overcome desire for personal revenge
- Turn the other cheek
- Vengeance belongs to God and His agents (Rom. 12 & 13)

# Keep My Commandments

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Give More than is Demanded (Matt 5:40-41)

- **40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.**
- Go the extra mile
- Refuse resentment
- Embrace the chance to be a *“suffering servant”*

# Keep My Commandments

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***“Love your enemies”*** (Matt 5:43-48)

- Everyone loves their neighbor
- That is the standard for tax collectors and Gentiles
- Does not require an emotional connection
- Pray for them
- Do good to them
- ***“so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven”***

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