

# Native New Day

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## Our Duty to Man

**W**e are proud of the heritage we have as Native people. In our culture, we are taught to care for each other. Whenever people have a need in a village, others watch out for them. In many villages in the past, those who were able to hunt or fish almost always shared their catch with others who could not.

This generosity has been seen by the world in the history of how our ancestors treated the struggling

Europeans when they first came to our shores. Native people helped them by teaching them how to survive during their first years in America.

Native people don't abandon their elderly. In our culture younger people are taught to make certain that aged members in their extended family and village always have housing and food.

Native people respect their elders' wisdom. There are many instances when a young boy is encouraged to live with his aged grandparents to help them and learn from them.



**P**art of the heritage we have as Native people is how we care for each other.

**Key Thought.** When we open our hearts to the Lord in submission to His will, something automatically happens. God puts in our hearts a desire to be a help to others, both materially and spiritually. The last six of the Ten Commandments talk about the Christian's duty to his family and friends.

## BIBLE ANSWERS

**1. How does the Lord want us to relate to our parents? Exodus 20:12.** “\_\_\_\_\_ your father and your mother.” *(All quotations from the Bible in these lessons are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.)*



**O**ur culture teaches us respect for the advice of the older ones.

**NOTE:** The fifth commandment gives a promise to those who obey it. An original Eskimo Yupik saying states it this way: “We should obey our parents, for the One who is watching from above can in turn ensure a long life for us and give to us the pleasant things this earth has to offer, as well as a place in the eternal new earth.”

Our culture teaches respect for the advice of the older ones. Native people have learned that they are preserved from heartache and danger as a result of listening to what the elders teach about handling problems and survival. A willingness to listen to an elder’s advice has many benefits.

**2. What is another important commandment?**  
**Exodus 20:13.** “You shall not \_\_\_\_\_.”

**NOTE:** Murder means intentionally destroying another person’s life. The gift of life is God-given, and we have no right to destroy the life of another human being, be it a man, woman, or child. There are many ways of killing that we may not think about. We can kill someone by influencing them to take up the bad habits of

crime, drinking, and drug abuse. We kill ourselves through addictions. We can destroy people by causing them to turn away from God's right way of living and from eternal life.

**3. In the seventh commandment, what does God ask us to abstain from? Exodus 20:14.** "You shall not

\_\_\_\_\_ ."

**S**o many stresses and heartaches in life are caused by breaking the seventh commandment. The effect of adultery is devastating for children.

**NOTE:** What does adultery mean? It means having sexual relations with someone who is not your husband or wife. This includes pre-marital sex. Thousands of men and women are experiencing the ravages of diseases such as AIDS, herpes, mental illness, and other sicknesses. So many heartaches in life are caused by disobedience to this seventh commandment.

The effect of adultery is devastating to children. Many children become dysfunctional in life because of the heartache they experience from the breakup of their family by a divorce. It is God's design that a child should grow up with both a mother and a father who, with God's help, are learning to live happily together.

In the Bible, the story of Joseph who resisted the temptations of Potiphar's wife is a lesson for all of us. Joseph knew he would mess up every great plan that God had in mind for his life if he yielded to this temptation.



Though he was thrown into prison because of his refusal to sin, he later became a great leader in Egypt. God was able to do great things for him and through him.

4. In the eighth commandment what does God ask us not to do? Exodus 20:15. “You shall not \_\_\_\_\_.”

**P**eople who steal hurt not only those affected by the theft, they also hurt themselves.

**NOTE:** We are not to take from another person any money, wood, fish, or anything that is not freely given to us by the owner. People who steal hurt not only those affected by the theft, but they hurt themselves. They lose respect for themselves. There are many ways of stealing. For example, if a person runs up a bill at a store and doesn't pay it, that is also stealing.



person's reputation can be easily hurt by false witness, gossip, or putting them down.

**5. What does God forbid us to do against our neighbor? Exodus 20:16.** “You shall not bear \_\_\_\_\_ against your neighbor.”

**NOTE:** To bear false witness means to tell an untruth about another person or to spread gossip about someone, which would make others think less of them. No one appreciates a person who is always saying something unkind about another person, especially if it's untrue. A good reputation is important to every person. It is something he or she has earned through years of right living.

If you steal a man's horse, burn his house down, or run off with his snow mobile, these things can be replaced. But when a person's reputation is ruined, it is difficult, even in a lifetime, to get it back. It is so easy to hurt a person's reputation by bearing false witness or saying something untruthful that puts that person down.

The Bible reminds us that “Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight” (Proverbs 12:22).

**6. What are things we should not covet? Exodus 20:17.** “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; . . . wife, . . . nor \_\_\_\_\_ that is your neighbor's.”

**NOTE:** To covet means to badly want something that



*The last six of the Ten Commandments speak of our duty to our fellow man. Like a chain the Ten Commandments are linked together. Breaking one link will cause you to break another.*

belongs to someone else. It is a feeling of envy that can allow evil to grow in our minds. A man may see the wife of another man and allow himself to want her more than anything. That feeling grows until he is willing to do whatever he can to break up that marriage. He made up his mind to steal because he continually coveted, which destroys regard for the other person's rights.

Coveting goes further than another person's spouse. The commandment says one should not covet another's house, or anything he owns.

Coveting leads to adultery and stealing. Like a chain, the Ten Commandments are closely linked together. The breaking of one link will cause you to break another. A broken chain is of little value.

This tenth commandment is designed to help keep our thoughts under control.

**7. How important is it for us to obey the Ten Commandments? Ecclesiastes 12:13–14.** “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, . . . For God will bring every work into \_\_\_\_\_, including every secret thing.”

**NOTE:** Solomon, the wise man, wrote these verses. He knew that a saved person chooses to obey God's commandments because he/she appreciates God's plan for

their lives. When we allow God to lead us, the Holy Spirit will put the desire into our hearts to obey the commandments of God. A person who loves Jesus will trust Him to be the ruler of his/her life. Change begins when we invite Jesus into our hearts. If we have accepted Him as our Savior, we will want to follow Him by keeping His commandments.



**T**he principle of respecting others is part of our Native culture. It is a heritage to be proud of.

**Closing Thought.** If we love and respect other people, it is an indication that we have chosen to let God lead us in our daily living. God wants us to be complete people who are mature in every respect. This principle of respecting others, which our Native culture has taught, is a heritage we can be proud of. It is one of God's principles of Christian living that is for all people.

**Next Lesson.** Does being forgiven and accepted by God make His Ten Commandments no longer important in our lives?



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