

The Foundations of the Community of the Lady



Sister Chantal
Buyse

According to the definition Marie-Paule gave us of the Community of the Lady, God's commandments are at its very heart along with the Gospel of the Redeemer, to which is to be added today the Gospel of the Co-Redemptrix, that is, *Life of Love*. They reveal the Man and the Woman who lived in complete conformity with the divine laws and who, as a consequence, perfectly accomplished God's will.

But what is the significance of these commandments, some of which are sometimes perceived to be constraining? In reality, they correspond to the natural law written in the hearts of men, and if they sometimes seem restrictive, that is because the Fall of our first parents introduced the concept of sin within humanity. This concept obscured our understanding, even "reversed" our perception so that the single law of Love, positive in its very nature, had to be replaced by negative orders, that is, everything that one must not do if one wants to regain the state corresponding to the Paradise that was lost.

Let us consider the following:

- By refusing to follow the law of Love, Adam and Eve listened to and preferred a voice other than that of God. From this comes the necessity of the first three commandments related to the attitude the human being must have towards God.
- In disobeying, they denied their Creator, the One to whom they owed their life. That is why the fourth commandment asks that we honor our parents.
- In disobeying, Eve and then Adam gave free reign to their desire for the forbidden fruit. That is why the tenth commandment reproves covetousness.
- In disobeying, they took for themselves a possession that did not belong to them. That is why the seventh commandment denounces stealing.
- In disobeying, they seriously violated the laws related to their body adapted to the Garden of Eden, as a consequence of which two commandments, the sixth and the ninth, bear on

the respect the human being must have for his own body and for that of others.

- After having disobeyed, Adam and Eve tried to justify themselves by rejecting the fault, Adam upon Eve and Eve upon the Evil One. That is why the eighth commandment exhorts us not to lie and not to bear false witness.
- Finally, after having disobeyed, they experienced death. More than that, their eldest son killed his brother Abel; hence, the necessity of the fifth commandment which prohibits killing another human being.

Thus, the ten commandments are really an intervention by Heaven as a result of the refusal of the law of Love. They are all bound together to such an extent that violating one single one of them is equivalent to transgressing the entire law of Love.

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It was to eliminate these disorders caused by men's disobedience that Jesus Christ brought the obedience to God's laws to its perfection, as the Gospel reminds us in many places, and that He formulated in a positive manner His single commandment, telling us to love one another as He loved us.

As for Marie-Paule, she did not only subject herself to the law of absolute obedience, but she regularly emphasized this obedience so that it might inspire us. That is why she wrote:

"Obedience alone was and always is a must."

or:

"Obedience, always obedience, and without understanding!"

or again:

"I am the useless handmaid whose only merit is obedience."

and finally:

"My only merit is to have lived in the path of obedience under

Mary's maternal regard."

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Thus, submitting oneself to all the commandments is acquiring the spirit of the Kingdom; it is preparing oneself, like the Redeemer and the Co-Redemptrix, to live in a great intimacy with the eternal Father and Mary Immaculate.

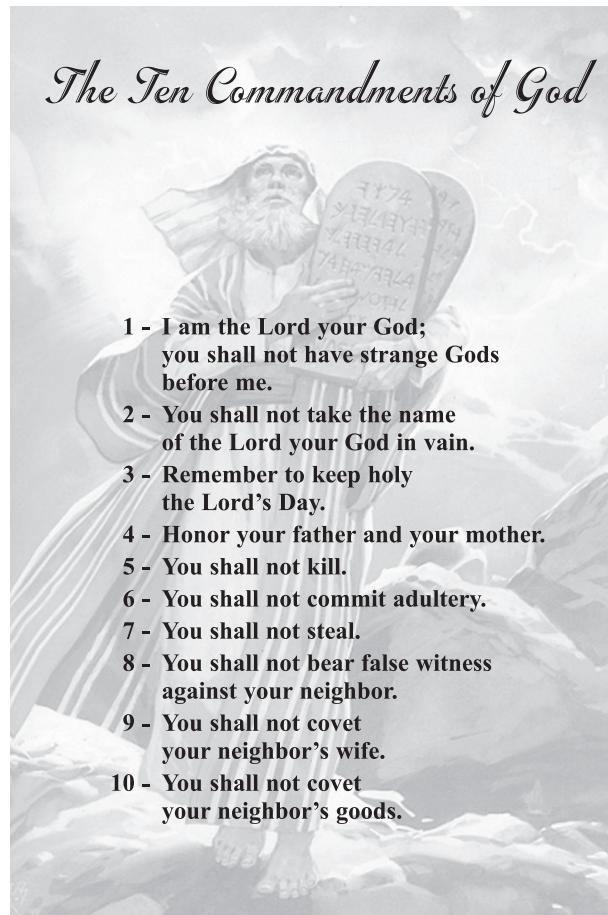


Illustration of the ten Commandments of God which Marie-Paule inserted in the first volume in the series *Co. Dame, The Community of the Lady of All Peoples*, on page 69.