

Heart Prints

Whatever our hands touch-
We leave fingerprints!
On walls, on furniture
On doorknobs, dishes, books.
There's no escape.
As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh God, wherever I go today
Help me leave heart prints!
Heart prints of compassion
Of understanding and love.

Heart prints of kindness
And genuine concern.
May my heart touch a lonely neighbor
Or a runaway daughter
Or an anxious mother
Or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today
To leave heart prints.
And if someone should say,
"I felt your touch,"
May that one sense YOUR LOVE
Touching through ME.

The Ten Commandments OF MARRIAGE

1. "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)

The first commandment in marriage: Thou shalt have no other human being before your husband or your wife. – No other human being should come before your mate – no one, neither father nor mother, son nor daughter, brother nor sister, friend nor acquaintance.

2. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." (Exodus 20:4)

The second commandment in marriage: Thou shalt put NO THING before your husband or your wife. No house should ever come before your spouse. A woman doesn't marry a house; she marries a man. Foolish is the woman who puts her house before her "house-band." Foolish is the man who puts his hobbies, his car, or any other THING before his wife.

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain." (Exodus 20:7)

The third commandment in marriage: Thou shalt not belittle, criticise or faultfind, but rather encourage your spouse in all things." Do not belittle each others name, person, desires, or dreams.

4. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8)

The fourth commandment in marriage: "Thou shalt reserve special time for your husband or wife." Set aside time religiously that the two of you may not grow apart but even closer.

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother." (Exodus 20:12)

The fifth commandment in marriage: Thou shalt give honour not only to your father and mother, but to those who become your father-in-law and your mother-in-law. While it is true that in marriage we are to "leave and cleave" it is also true that wise is the husband or wife who does not take it upon himself or herself to find fault with those who are related to their spouse.

6. "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13)

The sixth commandment in marriage: Thou shalt not kill the spirit within your spouse. Husband, do not destroy your wife's dreams and her hopes for the future which she now places in your hands. Wife, a woman can destroy her husband, or build him up. Both husband and wife must honour and build up the personhood of the other.

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14)

The seventh commandment in marriage: Thou shalt give your passions only to each other, not to another. You should not give away your passions to another in thought, word, or deed. The person you stand beside on your wedding day is your lover as well as your helpmate and your friend.

8. "Thou shalt not steal." (Exodus 20:15)

The eighth commandment in marriage: Husband steal not from your wife that which it is her privilege to give, and wife receive what he give to you with gratitude. Marriage should be characterized by give and take, not take, take, take. The spirit of gratitude will greatly bless a home. If your minds are filled with thoughts of gratitude, and if you look on that which you do have and not that which you do not have, you will be blessed.

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." (Exodus 20:16)

The ninth commandment in marriage is: Thou shalt not bear false witness to each other." Be honest with each other. Dishonesty and an unwillingness to talk through differences build a silent wall which is not easily dismantled. The real self, then, refuses to be disclosed, and a couple may gradually begin to drift apart.

10. "Thou shalt not covet." (Exodus 20:17)

The tenth commandment in marriage is: Thou shalt not seek greener pastures, whether they be those things physical or material. Do not engage in selfish fantasies. Be content with the one whom God has given you, and God will bless your lives together. Also be "learn" to be content with those things which God has blessed you with.

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