

The Commandments of Jesus

In the Old Testament, God gave us the Ten Commandments. When Jesus came, He too gave us commandments. Why is it very hard for some people to keep these commandments? There are 3 key obstacles: (1) Lack of clarity on the commandments of Jesus – most people have an idea of what they are, but very few are very clear on what they are. (2) The commandments are viewed as a burden. (3) There is a lack of awareness on spiritual warfare – people don't see temptations as snares of the devil.

What are the commandments of Jesus? Jesus spelled out some of His commandments to His disciples; e.g., after Jesus had washed the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper, He said: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34) While still at the Last Supper, Jesus repeated this commandment again: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." (John 15:12)

At other times, Jesus did not state His commandments directly; e.g., when a scholar of the law asked Him which commandment is the greatest, He said, "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 the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Still another example was when Jesus was teaching those who wanted to follow Him as disciples; rather than saying, "I command you to take up your crosses and follow me (cf. Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23), He said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Still at other times, Jesus taught His commandments through parables; e.g., in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus did not state, "Thou shalt have compassion and assist helpless people in need." Rather, He taught it by telling the story of a Samaritan who went out of his way to help a man who fell victim to robbers on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho (cf. Luke 10:29-37). Yet again, Jesus did not state, "Thou shalt have a forgiving heart." Rather, He taught it by telling the story of a father who forgave and welcomed back a son who squandered his inheritance (cf. Luke 15:11-32).

A second key obstacle to keeping the commandments is that many people perceive commandments as forced or restrictive behavior, and view them as rigid demands that limit personal freedom. However, for those who view the commandments as an indispensable guide for personal behavior which promotes social order and protects against destructive behavior, the commandments are not a burden but a necessity. The reason why Jesus said that His yoke is easy and His burden light (cf. Matthew 11:30) is because His commandments remove the heavy burden of self-righteousness, legalism and sin, and replaces it with a relationship based on love and grace.

Finally, there is a lack of awareness of the ongoing reality of spiritual warfare in the world today. Many believers imagine spiritual warfare as mainly exorcisms against demons, but spiritual warfare is waged every day in the form of temptations. Scripture warns us about the snares of the devil: Timothy 1 & 2 and Ephesians: "Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil." (Ephesians 6:11). There are 4 common types of snares of the devil: (1) Snare of circumstances – if God really loves us, then our lives wouldn't be difficult. (2) Snare of comparison – when we compare what we have with what we perceive that others have, we tend to doubt our intellect, our looks, our merit and our worth. (3) Snare of competition – We become frustrated at losses because we feel good about ourselves only when we win. (4) Snare of condemnation – the devil uses our failures and shortcomings to tear us down. He tempts us to base our worth on what we have or have not accomplished, rather than the truth of what Jesus has revealed about us.

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our church is planning to host a summer camp this summer at Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, Georgia, from July 31st to August 2nd. The theme is "God Calls Us in the Breeze." Let's listen to God's voice together amidst the beautiful scenery, live together, and enjoy activities together. For more information, please contact Anhsing Shen or Huiyen Chang. Please register with Daisy.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has launched its "Rooted in Christ – Growing in Faith" campaign to raise funds for the programs and activities of the Archdiocese. Each parish and mission church in the Archdiocese is expected to participate with their individual goals. The Archdiocese has designated our parish goal of \$60,000, and has scheduled our parish to begin with a preparation period from January to March 2027 and actual campaign period from April to September 30, 2027.

Our volunteer days for Helping Mamas are on June 13 and July 11. No more than 15 volunteers can sign up on each day. If you are interested to volunteer, please sign up with Daisy. The new address is 2150 Northmont Parkway, Suite E, Duluth 30096.

Holy Land Carvings will come to our church on May 31, 2026. They will bring to us wood carvings for sale which were hand-made in Bethlehem to support Christian families in the Holy Land.

Attention Pastoral Council and Finance Council members, we will have a joint meeting today after the 10:30 AM Mass.

May 17 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of May, we have ordered a birthday cake for you.

Last Friday, the prayer garden was graded in preparation for seeding. Yesterday morning, we had several volunteers who helped in the seeding, fertilizing and spreading the straw. After Mass today, we need volunteers to spread more straw in order to use up all the straw.

Prayer List: Dawn Leach, Jasmine Ho, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	By Appointment	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)		
	Anointing of the Sick	Eucharistic Adoration
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	First Fridays after 7:00 PM Mass	
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)		
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		