

We Live the Commandments Today

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 12*.

❖ God implants natural laws in our hearts. They are made known to us by God and through human reason. The Israelites knew many of these laws before God gave them the commandments. Natural laws tell us our rights and duties and guide our moral choices.

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❖ The Law united the Israelites to the Lord and united them as a people. Obedience to the commandments would help them live according to God's plan.

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❖ The Ten Commandments are divided into two groups. One group focuses on our relationship with God. The other focuses on our relationship with others. Jesus summarized the first group of commandments by telling us that we must love the Lord with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds, and all our strength. He summarized the second group by telling us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

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❖ By working for social justice, we challenge society to say no to things that interfere with our ability to live as a united people. The Catholic Church guides us in working for social justice.

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❖ To trust in people or things more than in God shows we do not really know and love him. Practices such as astrology or spiritualism show a lack of trust in God. We show trust by loving God and by speaking and listening to him.

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❖ We stay in touch with God through prayer, in which we raise our hearts and minds to God. There are many ways to pray. Thinking of God when we see the beauty of creation, sharing love with others, and talking to God as a friend are just a few ways.

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❖ Asking God to witness to the truth of what someone says is to make an oath. Lying while under oath or asking God to witness a lie is called perjury.

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❖ Blasphemy is speaking against God in a hateful manner. It includes saying things that go against our faith, such as "God is cruel," or comparing ourselves or others to God.

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❖ The Sabbath is a day for us to rest, to trust in God's care, and to come together as a community to renew our relationship with God. Every Sunday we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.

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❖ Holy Days of Obligation are special celebrations that honor Jesus, Mary, or the saints. On these days, we celebrate the great things that God has done for us through Jesus and the saints.

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❖ Ordinary Time is the time between the seasons of Christmas and Lent, Easter and Advent. It is a time devoted to growing in understanding of the teachings of Jesus.

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