



Modern homeschooling is built on ideas from [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#). This passage essentially says we (parents) are responsible for the training and education of our children. This training is to be integrated with practical topics of the day ([Deuteronomy 6:7](#), [Luke 24:27](#)) to give [Christian perspective of subjects that are taught](#).

This passage is known as the First Commandment (Mark 12:32-33, Matt 22:37, Luke 10:27). However, some Christians do not believe the ideas of the Ten Commandments to be relevant for today. The picture above depicts the [Decalogue](#) as the unchanging [standard](#) for all life pursuits. The ensuing text does the same.

The Bible tells us that the two tablets represent loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves (Rom 13:9, Matt 22:40, 1John 3:23).

Many Christians group the first four of the commandments together as being related to loving God. They group the last six commandments as being related to loving our neighbor as ourselves. This idea dates back to [Roger Williams and then to Thomas Jefferson](#). One derivative of the 4+6 Decalogue division is that there are sacred commandments and secular ones that men are to manage. Another result of the 4+6 Decalogue division is that the US Supreme Court recently redefined the meaning of marriage because it is within their powers to do so (**Obergefel vs. Hodges** [2015], **Lawrence vs. Texas** [2003]). It is ironic that the rainbow was given to remind us of God's mercy toward all mankind (Gen 9-13-16). Now, it represents a symbol of license in this movement of "marriage equality".

Other Christians say the Ten Commandments were a "dispensation" for that era. This approach leads to immaturity of believers (Heb 5:12-14)

[In contrast to these perspectives](#), the [Sermon on the Mount \(Matthew 5-7\)](#) describes the first tablet as the "roots" (commands 1-5) and the second tablet as "fruits" of the commandments (commands 6 through 10) (Exod 20, Deut 5). The detail of this ordering is offered in Matthew 5-

7 and in the book of James. For example, Idolatry (The 2<sup>nd</sup> command) is frequently identified as adultery (7<sup>th</sup> command, Jas4:4, Hos 1:2). The spirit of the written 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> commands concerns exclusive fidelity, devotion, and commitment. Accordingly, each commandment on the first tablet is a root that has a corresponding “fruit” on the second tablet. A “root” must be established before a “fruit” can appear [Matt 7:15-20, Jas 2:26].

Simply said, we can do nothing without Christ, The Vine (John15:4,5). We serve Him in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter (Rom 7:6)

The goal of this exercise is to reveal the Decalogue roots and fruits as the gold standard for both the OT and NT, just as Jesus said in John 5:46, and in Matt 22:40 “...On these two commandments hang all of the law and the prophets. **If you are unable to understand the ideas presented below, please click on the “Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)” link above for a detailed explanation.**

The following themes from the Sermon on the Mount and the book of James are useful for planning and executing Christian endeavors. The topics describe a progression or milestones in development and training for children and adults. The last page surveys a wide swath of scripture to show that the application the Decalogue roots and fruits is vast. Hopefully, these statements will become readily apparent by the end of this summary.

#### **FIVE LIFE SKILLS FROM JESUS AND JAMES**

- 1. Rebirth and Redemption, Forgiveness**
- 2. Baptism and Marriage, Business Partnership**
- 3. Gifts and Stewardship**
- 4. Faith and Works**
- 5. Providence and Parenting**

The roots and fruits construction may not be evident from a cursory study of the Sermon on the Mount; However, a careful examination reveals the following pairs of roots and fruits in sequence:

- 1) Rebirth and Redemption, Forgiveness:** Jesus starts with the 6th command then relates it to the first: because we have been redeemed (1st command), we must forgive (6th command) [Matt 5:21-26, parable of the unforgiving servant (Matt 18:21-35), Jas 5:19-20].
- 2) Baptism and Marriage:** Jesus shows how physical infidelity (7th command) is rooted in spiritual infidelity (2<sup>nd</sup> command) [Matt 5:27-30, Jas 4:4, Hos 1:2].
- 3) Gifts and Stewardship:** Jesus shows that if we take possession of that which belongs to the Lord, we are stealing (8th command), and we take His name in vain (3rd command [Matt 5:31-48], parable of the wicked vinedressers (Matt 21:33-45), and faithful servant (Matt 24:45-51), Ps 24:1, Jas 4:13-17, Prov 30:8,9]), Parable of the Talents/Minas Matt 25:16-29, Luke19:11-27.
- 4) Faith and Works:** Jesus explains how deceit (9th command) occurs when we look at the outward appearance or temporal circumstances to the exclusion of the spiritual circumstances (the Sabbath, or fourth command) [Matt 6:1-18, Jas 2, 1Sam 16:7, Isa 31:1-3].
- 5) Providence and Parenting:** When the Lord is our Shepherd (Ps 23) or Father [Matt 7:11] (5th command), we do not lack anything (10th command) [Matt 6:19-7:11, Jas 5:7-11].

The verse references show that an appreciable number of parables in the Gospels follow this root and fruit pattern, including the parable of the Sower mentioned later. Where would you place the parable of the wise and foolish virgins in these pairs of roots and fruits? Please note that Baptism (Rom 6:4) is related to marriage (Rom 7:1-6) like the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> commands in that they are both vows of exclusive devotion.

The book of James expresses the same pairs of roots and fruits as the Sermon on the Mount. The text below compares the pairs of roots and fruits in the Sermon on the Mount and in the book of James.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Command connects to the 1<sup>st</sup> Command in Matt 5-7 and in book of James

**Because we have been redeemed (1st Command), we must forgive (6th Command). This is the first root and fruit pair of the Decalogue.**

Jesus describes our reconciliation to our brothers (the spiritual root) precedes our gifts at the altar Matt 5:22-23.

Similarly, James emphasizes the necessity of redeeming those of us who err in the faith: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

(Jas 5:19-20, Prov 10:12)

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Command connects to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Command in Matt 5-7 and in book of James

James 4:4 ties together the 7th commandment and the 2nd commandment. "...Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." Jesus does the same when he starts with physical adultery, but he ends with spiritual adultery (mortification in Matt 5:29-30, Hos 1:2, Isa 31:1-3)

#### 8th Command connects to 3rd Command in Matt 5-7 and in book of James

If we take possession of that which belongs to the Lord, we are stealing (8th command) and we take his name in vain (3rd command). Prov 30:8,9,

**Jesus shows how we take possession of things by swearing (oaths):**

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven (**do not take possession of heaven**), for it is the throne of God, or by the earth (**do not take possession of earth, Ps 24:1**), for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem (**do not take possession of Jerusalem**), for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black." (Mat 5:33-36)

**James gives the same warning about oaths**

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. (Jas 5:12).

James 4:13-15 ties together the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment (stealing) along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment (taking the Lord's name in vain). When we fail to acknowledge God's ownership and authority, we are stealing and disregarding the Lord's

authority: "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 'whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil." Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring. (Pro 27:1)

### 9<sup>th</sup> Command connects to the 4<sup>th</sup> Command in Matt 5-7 and in book of James

Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount that deceit happens (9<sup>th</sup> command) when we look at the outward appearance to the exclusion of the spiritual truth (4<sup>th</sup> command or Sabbath). In the sermon on the mount three examples of deceit by the outward appearance (religious externalism) is shown in 1) giving alms by sounding a trumpet, 2) praying to be seen of men, 3) and fasting. Then he says the truth is (or Sabbath, Mark 2:25-26) to go to our prayer closet. The three examples and prayer closet is a comparison of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> commandments.

James chapter 2:1-18 shows how man looks at the outward appearance (9<sup>th</sup> command), but God looks at the heart (4<sup>th</sup> command or Sabbath). 1Sam 16:7. The discussion of faith and works in James 2:14-26 shows connection between spiritual truth (Sabbath, 4<sup>th</sup> command) and physical reality (fruit, 9<sup>th</sup> command). We are deceived if we think (verbal) profession of faith is same as (spiritual) possession of faith.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Command connects to the 5<sup>th</sup> Command in Matt 5-7 and in book of James **If the Lord is our Shepherd (or Father, 5<sup>th</sup> Command), then we lack nothing (10<sup>th</sup> Command). [Ps 23] This is the last root and fruit pair of the Decalogue.**

Jesus shows how the Lord provides for us as a heavenly parent in Matt 6:19-7:12. "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Mat 7:9-11)

Similarly, James describes the same need for faith patience, and hope, contentment (not covetousness, Jas 5:1-6) :  
"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."(Jas 5:7-11)

Jesus uses the parable of the sower in Matt 13 as a word picture to describe the challenges of obtaining a spiritual harvest from our work. The bracketed [ ] text represents the same topics from Matt 5-7 and the book of James treated in the parable of the sower Matt 13. [This allegory is valuable for introducing the important concepts to children.](#)

1. **Rebirth and Redemption, Forgiveness [Wayside soil]**
2. **Baptism and Marriage, Business Partnership [Thorny Soil]**
3. **Gifts and Stewardship [Stony Soil]**
4. **Faith and Works [Stony Soil]**
5. **Providence and Parenting [ Good Soil]**

The most stunning fact of all is that the primary themes of Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, parallel these five topics. The apostle Paul reminds us of this fact (1 Cor 10:1-13)

1. **Rebirth and Redemption, Forgiveness [GENESIS, Forgiveness of Joseph, Gen 50:20]**
2. **Baptism and Marriage, Business Partnership [EXODUS, Baptism into Moses, 1Cor 10:2]**
3. **Gifts and Stewardship [LEVITICUS, The Royal Priesthood, 1Peter2:9]**
4. **Faith and Works [NUMBERS, profession vs possession of faith, 1Cor10:5-13, Heb 3,4]**
5. **Providence and Parenting [DEUTERONOMY, cultivation and harvest, [Deut 30:11-20](#), Gal 6:7-10]**

Another witness for the roots and fruits structure of the Decalogue is found in Matt 22-28. Compare the **red text of Decalogue** with the **green text from Matt 22-28**:

1. **Redemption/Restoration[I,VI]** Xenophobia(dislike of foreigners) [Reconciliation, Benevolence, Good Samaritan (oxymoron), Unforgiving Servant, [ **Love Neighbor as Self Matt 22:36-40, Self Serving Scribes and Pharisees Matt 23**]
2. **Commitment/Devotion[II,VII]** Marriage redefinition, Syncretism (mixing of worldly values) [exclusive devotion, monogamy, **faithfulness through vigilance /Wise and Foolish Virgins Matt 24:1-44, parable of the faithful servant Matt 24:45-51**]
3. **Gifts/Stewardship[III,VIII]** Usurpation of resources and Dereliction of duties (Parable of Minas, **Parable of Talents[ Matt 25:1-13], Wicked Vinedressers**)
4. **Authenticity of Faith/Works[IV,IX]** Darwinian Naturalism, Racism ( Numbers, Matt 6:1-18, Jas 2:1-13[ **Service to the Least Rather than Greatest Matt 25:31-46**], **Betrayal of Jesus Matt 26-27:44**)
5. **Providence/ Parenting[V,X]** Rejection of God in History [**Death, Burial, Resurrection Matt 27:44- 28:10, Great Commission Matt 28:16-20**])

These groupings provide an ability to tell whether a tree's (or person's, or entity's) label is consistent with its fruits or conduct.

The [“Scriptures Pictures of the Redemption Road”](#) on next page and in previous link show the redemptive work of Jesus in OT and NT passages as a pattern or standard. Topics are arranged in columns. The purpose of this document is to provide a general overview of the subject matter to allow parents/ educators a tool for developing others. Hyperlinks in this document will provide more detailed background. May your harvest be bountiful.

Decalogue Roots (Deut 5) Matt 5-7 James 1-5	Decalogue Fruits (Deut 5) Matt 5-7 James 1-5	Romans 12:1-2 Phrases	Word Summary	Parable of Sower (Mat 13:1-23)	The Lord's Prayer (Mat 6:9-13)	Levitical Offerings (Lev 7:37)	The Pentateuch The Gospels Luke 24:25-27	2 Pet 1:3-14	John's Gospel Chaps 12-17	The Court-Yard
I) Serve Only God Deut 6:4 [poverty]	VI) Don't murder (Mercy) Lev 19:34 Ps 103:10-13. Eph 4:32	...present your body as a living sacrifice holy, acceptable to God	Yielded Surrendered Rom 12:1 Heb 6:1,2 Phil 3:9,10	Broken Soil: Jer 4:3 Hos 10:12 Jn 12:24 Gen 2:7 (wayside, soil)	Hallowed be your name	Burnt Offering Lev 1 Isa 53 Lev 6:9-13	Genesis (Joseph) John 1:1 (Creator/Eagle/ Redeemer) Heb 1:8	(Saving ) Faith	The Death /Resurrection of a Seed Jn 12:24-25	Brazen Altar: The death of the Lamb
II) Make No Idols [purity]	VII) Don't Adulterate	Do not be conformed to this world...	Cleansing Renewal Indwelling 1Pet 3:18-21 Eph 1:13 Rom 12:2a	Good Seed Mat 13:38 Deut 22:9 Gen 3:18 (thorny soil)	Your will be done	Meal Offering Lev 6:14-24	Exodus Luke 4:17-25 (Prophet/Moses) Matt 23:2 Heb 3: 1-6 1Cor 10:2	Virtue	The Cl'nsing of the Disciple's Feet Jn 13:4-11	Laver: The washing of the flesh
III) Take not Name in vain (Faithlessness leads to Theft) [preparation]	VIII) Don't Steal	...be transformed by the renewing of your mind	Training Rom 12:2b John 6:63 1Jn 1:8,9	Cultivated Soil Isa 5:1-7,12 (rocky)	Give us this day our daily Bread Forgive us our debts	Sin Offering (Frailty) Lev 6:25-30)	Leviticus (Aaron) Mark 2:17(Priest/Ox) 1Pet2:9 Heb 12:14 2Cor7:1b 1Pet 1:15-16	Knowledge	Love one another Jn 13: 34-35 A House ...a covering Jn13:37-14:1-31	Tent of Meeting and the ephod, a holy covering
IV) Remember Sabbath (Faith leads to Trust) [proving]	IX) Don't Lie (Mk 9:24)	...that you may prove...	Practice Rom 12:2c Heb 5:14 Eph 5:17,18 Gal 5:16 Jer 26:3 Ps119:97, 165	Seasonal Trials (Sun) Ps 1:3 Jer 17:5,6 1Cor3:6-9 (rocky)	Lead us not into temptation; Deliver us from evil 2Pet. 2:7-9	Trespass Offering (Flagrant Error) Lev 7:1-10	Numbers Heb 3,4 Ezek 1:10	Temperance Patience (Living Faith)	Suffering & Comfort Nourish-ment from the Vine. Jn15:1-17 Jn 15:18- 16:33	Holy Place: Cndlstk Shwbrd Altr of Incense
V) Honor Parents (Obedience/ Blessing) [provision, proliferation]	X) Don't Covet (Satisfaction)	...what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God	Teaching Heb 5:11-6:2 Luke 12:48	Mat 13:36-41 Gal 6:7-11 2Pet1:8 (bountiful yield)	For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever..	Peace Offering (Thanksgiving) Lev 7:11-37	Deuteronomy Matthew 2:2 (King/Lion) Heb 7 Deut 17:14-20	Godliness Brotherly Kindness Charity Fruit fullness	Intercession for Christ-likeness Jn 17:1-26	Holy of Holies Ark of Convenent

The Gold Standard for Christian Education