

# THE WAY IT WORKS

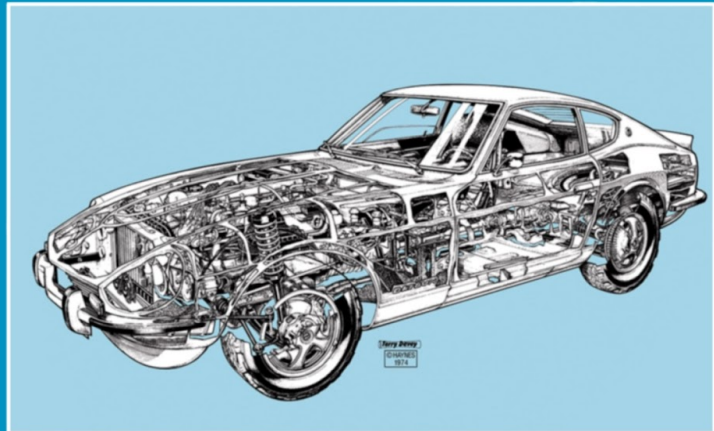
## 10C, 26V & 20EX

2023



### Ultimate Life Guide/Manual

20:02 thru 20:17  Commandments  
1 - 10, no other, no idols, not in vain, 6-day & 1, honor, not kill,  
loyal, not steal, not lie, not covet



### The Way it Works — No Idols

Sermon Discussion Questions – September 3, 2023

#### Scripture Passages:

**Matthew 22:37–40 (NLT)** <sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

**Leviticus 24:17–23 (NIV84)** <sup>17</sup> “If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death. <sup>19</sup> If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him: <sup>20</sup> fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, he is to be injured.

**Matthew 5:38–39 (NIV84)** <sup>38</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

**Leviticus 14:49–51 (NIV84)** <sup>49</sup> To purify the house [the priest] is to take two birds and some cedar wood, scarlet yarn and hyssop. <sup>50</sup> He shall kill one of the birds over fresh water in a clay pot. <sup>51</sup> Then he is to take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet yarn and the live bird, dip them into the blood of the dead bird and the fresh water, and sprinkle the house seven times...

**Leviticus 19:2 (NIV84)** <sup>2</sup> “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

**Exodus 20:3 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> “You must not have any other god but me.

**Exodus 20:4–6 (NLT)** <sup>4</sup> “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. <sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.

**Exodus 32:5 (NIV84)** <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.”

**Exodus 20:5 (NLT)** <sup>25</sup> I, the Lord your God, **am a jealous God** who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods...

**Exodus 32:27–28 (NLT)** <sup>27</sup> Moses told them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Each of you, take your swords and go back and forth from one end of the camp to the other. Kill everyone—even your brothers, friends, and neighbors.” <sup>28</sup> The Levites obeyed Moses’ command, and about 3,000 people died that day.

**Colossians 2:9 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup> For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

### **Warm Up:**

This weekend, September started, which means all of the fall décor is beginning to return! What are you most looking forward to about fall?

### **Discussion:**

1. Pastor Tom started by giving us the foundations for the Ten Commandments. Foundation #1 is Jesus and the law of the Old Testament, are not in opposition to each other. How do we see a connection between Jesus and the Old Testament? How does Jesus show both grace and law?
2. Foundation #2 is The Ten Commandments are not a ladder but a mirror. How do the Ten Commandments hold up a mirror to us? What commandment surprises you the most? Which commandment do you struggle with the most?
3. Foundation #3 is The Ten Commandments reveal we need saving, we need Jesus. What can we learn about Jesus’ grace through the Ten Commandments?
4. Pastor Tom gave us 3 law categories, civil, ceremonial, and moral, and told us the Ten Commandments are all moral law, where we learn about the character of God. What do we learn about the character of God through the Ten Commandments? What attributes about God that we learn through the Ten Commandments resonate with you the most? Why?
5. Read Exodus 20:3-6.

Pastor Tom made this point: *It is not enough to worship the correct God; the correct God must be worshipped correctly. We don’t struggle with actual idols, little statues, shrines, or pictures. However, our idol is the concept we formed of God in our minds: the tolerant God, the grandfatherly God, the irrelevant God.*

How do you see this in your life? What God have you turned God into in your own life?

6. Pastor Tom made this point:  
*When people begin wrong in their worship, they will live wrong in their lives.*  
Why do you think worship and the way we live our lives are so closely related? When have you seen this ring true?
7. Reread Exodus 20:5. What do you think it means that God is a jealous God? Why do you think this is? How does this show God's true love for us?

**Next Steps:**

Pastor Tom ended his message with this:

*If you want to pursue God, and live a life for God, discover him in His Word. Be challenged, be offended, be convicted, be comforted, be directed, be concerned by the God revealed there. Wrestle with the real God, not an idol or a watered-down perception of God. Look to God revealed in the scriptures with no apology. Invest a life serving that God. You say, Tom, I just don't understand or get God, is there an answer? Yes!*

*Colossians 2:9 (NLT) <sup>9</sup>For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. Anything and anyone that encourages us to worship the correct God incorrectly is a great detriment to spiritual life and progress. What a tragedy to embrace a picture and to miss the person, to sit at a shrine and to miss the Savior, to worship a statue and fail to know Christ.*

Will you allow or are you allowing this God be your God? Are you worshipping the correct God correctly or have you bought into an idol? If you are worshipping correctly, how are you doing that? If you are not, what can you do to start worshipping Him correctly?