

God's Ten Commandments Vs. the Catholic Church's Ten Commandments

The Catholic Catechism contains a copy of the Ten Commandments. Do they match the Commandments given by God in the Bible, or have they been changed? Find out!

Most people have no idea that the Catholic Ten Commandments and the Biblical Ten Commandments are different. In the Catholic Catechism it shows that the Ten Commandments have been altered by the Catholic Church.

Roman Catholic scholars argue that the Catholic Church did not change the Commandments but are simply following Augustine's grouping of them.¹ Augustine of Hippo was a Latin theologian who lived between 354 and 430 AD. Because the Commandments were not numbered in the Bible, Augustine simply grouped the verses as he thought they should be grouped, Catholic defenders say. Augustine argued that there should be three Commandments regarding the worship of God and that the command "You shall have no other gods before Me" encompasses the command not to worship idols.

Whatever Augustine's reasoning was, his division of the Commandments opened the way for the removal of the prohibition of worshiping idols when the Commandments were later shortened in the Catechism. So now, the Catechism simply says, "I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me" because, it is argued, this statement covers the prohibition of worshiping idols.

In defence of its idolatry, the Catholic Church denies that bowing to statues and praying to them is idolatry at all. The Catechism says, "The movement toward the image does not terminate in it as image, but tends toward that whose image it is."² In other words, when you bow before a statue of Mary, your worship of the statue goes to Mary herself. When you kiss a picture of Jesus, your worship of the image continues on to Jesus Himself. This is the Catholic argument. But this is no different than Hindus worshiping the image or statue of Ganesha, the elephant-headed god, whom Hindus say lives in heaven. Hindus believe that Ganesha personally receives their worship when they bow to his statues, just as Catholics believe that Jesus receives their worship when they bow to His statues. It is the same act. It is idolatry.

Below is a comparison between the Ten Commandments that God Himself wrote in stone and the altered version as given in the Catholic Catechism. Two of the commandments were more extensively revised than the others.

To learn more about the change of God's Commandments, watch [Why Messing with God's Law Is an Attack on the Character of God](#).

BIBLE COMMANDMENTS EXODUS 20: 2-17	CATHOLIC COMMANDMENTS CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ³
1st Commandment 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.	1st Catholic Commandment I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2nd Commandment 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.	2nd Commandment REMOVED & REPLACED with 3rd, and the rest re-numbered. 2nd Catholic Commandment You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3rd Commandment 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.	3rd Catholic Commandment (verses missing) Remember to keep holy the LORD's Day.
4th Commandment 8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and	4th Catholic Commandment Honor your father and your mother.

earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.	
5th Commandment 12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.	5th Catholic Commandment You shall not kill.
6th Commandment 13 Thou shalt not kill.	6th Catholic Commandment You shall not commit adultery.
7th Commandment 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.	7th Catholic Commandment You shall not steal.
8th Commandment 15 Thou shalt not steal.	8th Catholic Commandment You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9th Commandment 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.	9th Catholic Commandment(10th Commandment split in 2) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10th Commandment 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.	10th Catholic Commandment You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

How were God's Ten Commandments Changed?

The Second Commandment, forbidding idolatry, has been removed altogether. This is because Catholicism blended Christianity with the idolatry of the pagans that flowed into the church in the 4th century [when Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire](#). The adoration, or worship, of icons and relics is an important part of Catholicism to this day.

The Fourth Commandment replaces the seventh-day Sabbath with the "Lord's Day," which is interpreted to mean Sunday. It is from here alone—that is, from the teaching and authority of the Catholic Church—that the doctrine of Sunday sacredness has entered the Christian church.

The prohibitions of the Biblical Fourth Commandment that are attached to Sabbath sacredness, the Biblical reason the Sabbath is to be kept holy, and the Bible's identification of God as the authority behind the command are all absent from the Catholic Catechism.

In a vision, Daniel saw a little horn power, the Antichrist, that would speak "great words against the Most High," "wear out the saints of the Most High," and "**think to change times and laws**" (Daniel 7:25). [Protestant Reformers identified the Papacy](#) in this description, since it spoke haughty and blasphemous words, [persecuted God's people](#), and even thought it had the [power to alter](#) God's [holy law](#).

Watch a video about the [little horn power](#).

For a video study on Daniel's vision, watch [Who Is the Antichrist?](#) (A discussion of the times and laws begins at 1:09:40.)

Satan well knew that the Holy Scriptures would enable men to discern his deceptions and withstand his power. It was by the Word that even the Saviour of the world had resisted his attacks. At every assault, Christ presented the shield of eternal truth, saying, "It is written." To every suggestion of the adversary, he opposed the wisdom and power of the Word. In order for Satan to maintain his sway over men, and establish the authority of the papal usurper, he must keep them in ignorance of the Scriptures. The Bible would exalt God, and place finite men in their true position; therefore its sacred truths must be concealed and suppressed. This logic was adopted by the Roman Church. For hundreds of years the circulation of the Bible was prohibited. The people were forbidden to read it or to have it in their houses, and unprincipled priests and prelates interpreted its teachings to sustain their pretensions. Thus the pope came to be almost universally acknowledged as the vicegerent of God on earth, endowed with authority over Church and State.

The detector of error having been removed, Satan worked according to his will. Prophecy had declared that the papacy was to "think to change times and laws." [Daniel 7:25.] This work it was not slow to attempt. To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into the Christian worship. The decree of a general council [Second Council of Nice, A.D. 787.] finally established this system of idolatry. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second commandment, forbidding image worship, and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number.

The spirit of concession to paganism opened the way for a still further disregard of Heaven's authority. Satan tampered with the fourth commandment also, and essayed to set aside the ancient Sabbath, the day which God had blessed and sanctified, [Genesis 2:2, 3.] and in its stead to exalt the festival observed by the heathen as "the venerable day of the sun." This change was not at first attempted openly. In the first centuries the true Sabbath had been kept by all Christians. They were jealous for the honor of God, and, believing that his law is immutable, they zealously guarded the sacredness of its precepts. But with great subtlety, Satan worked through his agents to bring about his object. That the attention of the people might be called to the Sunday, it was made a festival in honor of the resurrection of Christ. Religious services were held upon it; yet it was regarded as a day of recreation, the Sabbath being still sacredly observed.⁴

References

1. [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#).
2. CCC 2132 <https://www.catholiccrossreference.online/catechism/#1/search/2132>.
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church. <https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism/499/#zoom=z>.
4. Ellen White, The Great Controversy, 51. Ellen White, The Great Controversy, 51.