

STOP!!

In the name of love... before you break my heart!

Diana Ross and the Supremes 1968, Motown Label

I wonder how many millions if not billions of times a day God, Himself, in all His Triune Glory and Grace, says this as one of us does something that breaks His heart. I say this only from the standpoint of wondering, since we all know He sent Himself to forgive all these things as His only Son and our only Master.

And yet, commandment number one clearly states...

1. I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Now what exactly is a strange god these days? Talk about an endless list beginning with folks who go around thinking or at least behaving like they are their own little gods. Then there are the idols that go way beyond those who were or are considered Pagan like the big one Materialism. It is critical at this point to remember the words of the Master. Love me and love each other as I have loved you. Anything you put before God could be considered a violation of rule number one.

So how we doing on this one?

Then there is the second one...

2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

I was handicapped on this one for quite awhile until I understood with God's discernment how important this was. First it is critical we set examples for this one with our family and friends, our loved ones, and *especially* the wee ones. My handicap was my genetic heritage (Irish) until I figured out, I could say God Bless American instead of the God... it one. I find if I still slip up, which like with anything it takes practice and with that practice my slips ups are far fewer, I immediately ask for His forgiveness... I think when you take anyone created in His Image and Likeness and use their name in vain (gossip) are you also breaking this rule? Remember He said, "Love one another as I have loved you." If we take His Name in vain or those of others in whom He resides....

So how are we doing on this one?

Then there is the third one...

3. Remember to keep holy the LORD'S Day.

Oooooooo. Me thinks we may have a problem here. It was not until I was around ten, over fifty-five years ago. That 'things' like stores began to open on Sunday. Before then, nothing was open on Sunday. My parents always made it a point to celebrate Sundays beginning with Mass of course (heck, my mom went to mass almost every single day of her life), then onto a day of fun and leisure. What have we done with this one? Yikes. I do not want to know the answer. Not only has our country blown it – way too many of us who call themselves Christians have done the same. The is the day we are to rest and honor our God with love of Him and each other.

Probably should consider a serious re-start on this one! How about today? Even begin with a small step like instead of doing something that you think needs to be done....

STOP in the name of Love!! ... and take a breath, have a seat, and thank Him for all He gives us, which is every single thing down to the tiniest of atoms, protons, neutrons, and consequent molecules there is. He is in All, is All, was and is forever. Amen!! Alleluia!!

Clement