

The 10 Commandments

There are many lists in scripture. Most are ordered and / or grouped. In groups we frequently see the numbers 3, 7, 10, and 12. The Commandments are largely grouped by threes. All groups and group elements are ordered by descending order of precedence.

We usually think of the 10 Commandments as consisting of two groups (or tables). Those that relate to our relationship with God and those that relate to our relationship with man. However the second table is further divided into two subgroups, family and neighbor, making three distinct top level groups; God, family, and neighbor (descending order).

The first group consists of three elements; His person, His name, and His day. The second group has only one element, honor. The third group is further divided into two subgroups of three elements each. The first subgroup is an action group dealing with taking what is not ours to take; a person's life, a person's spouse, and a person's stuff. The second subgroup contains the precursors to sin. In reverse order: We want stuff. We want people. We lie, to ourselves as well as to others. Then we take what is not ours to take. The progression of sin: We take stuff. We take people. We take life. We take honor from the family. We take time that belongs to God. We take the respect from the name of God. Finally we take the very place of God himself.

Taking is the antithesis of love which is giving.

God			Man								
			Family	Neighbor							
				Action - Taking			Precursors				
Person	Name	Day	Honor	Life	Spouse	Stuff	Lie	Covet People	Covet Things		
The following in reverse order:											
We take:							We deceive.	We want.			
The Place	Respect	Time	Honor	Life	People	Stuff	Ourselves as well as others	People	Things		

Order taken from Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Exodus 20:2-17 reverses the covets.