

## **Commandment** (εντολη)

In the KJV, it is used as "commandment," "commandments," and "precept." Newer versions also use words like "orders" and "commands." The word is used 71 times, 32 of which refer directly to the Law of Moses. They include references to the Ten Commandments, "Love your neighbor," and "the commandments of the priests." These are:

Matthew 5:19, 15:3, 15:6, 19:17, 22:36, 22:38, 22:40  
Mark 7:8, 7:9, 10:5, 10:19, 12:28 (twice), 12:30, 12:31 (twice)  
Luke 1:6, 18:20, 23:56  
Romans 7:8, 7:9, 7:10, 7:11, 7:12, 7:13, 13:9  
Ephesians 2:15, 6:2  
Hebrews 7:5, 7:16, 7:18, 9:19

### **The word is used a few times in a non-religious context:**

Luke 15:29           The prodigal son's brother obeyed the commandments of his father.  
John 11:57           The chief priest gave commandments that anyone knowing of Jesus whereabouts should report it.  
Acts 17:15           Paul gave commandments that Timothy and Silas join him in Athens.  
Colossians 4:10      Paul had given commandments to the Colossians concerning Timothy's welcome.

### **Jesus received commandments from the Father:**

John 10:18           I have authority to lay it [My life] down and I have authority to take it up. This commandment I received from My Father.  
John 12:49-50       I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father who sent me has given Me commandment, what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.

### **Jesus gave commandments while on earth:**

John 13:34           A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another even as I have loved you, that you also love one another also.  
John 14:15           If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.  
John 15:10           If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.  
John 15:12           This is My commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you.

### **The religious connotation of the word is used to strengthen sarcasm.**

Titus 1:14           ...not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

### **Several passages encourage Christians to follow religious commandments in general.**

1 Corinthians 7:19   Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is the keeping of the commandments of God.

- 1 Timothy 6:14 Keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 John 5:2-3 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome.
- 2 John 4-6 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it.
- Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.
- Revelation 14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

**Christians are enjoined to keep Jesus' commandments.**

- 2 Peter 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.
- 1 John 2:3-4 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him.
- 1 John 3:22 Whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 1 John 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

**Some of Jesus commandments are spelled out as such.**

- 1 John 3:23 And this is the commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
- 1 John 4:21 This commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love His brother also.

**The apostles considered their expositions to be the Lord's commandment.**

- 1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.
- 2 Peter 3:2 You should remember the word spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles.
- 1 John 2:7-8 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.