

The Ten Commandments were limited in their legal implications and meant to be interpreted just as they were written, nothing added.

Commandment	Legal interpretation per Sinai Covenant	How guilt is established	Penalty if guilty
#1 No other gods	Must not worship any Gods but YHWH	Deuteronomy 17:2-5 " If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing His covenant, ³ "who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, ⁴ "and it is told you, and you hear <i>of it</i> , then you shall inquire diligently. And if <i>it is</i> indeed true <i>and</i> certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, ⁵ "then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.	death
#2 No graven images	Must not make or pay someone to make a graven image	(Same as above.)	death
#3 Don't take name of God in vain	An Israelite must not blaspheme God. (Israelites have identified themselves with the name of God, YHWH.)	Leviticus 24:16 And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name <i>of the Lord</i> , he shall be put to death.	death
#4 Remember the Sabbath day	Refrain from all work on the 7 th day of the week	Numbers 15:32-35 ³² Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day..... ³⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."	death
#5 Honor father and mother	Must honor father and mother	Deuteronomy 21:18-21 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and <i>who</i> , when they have chastened him, will not heed them, ¹⁹ "then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. ²⁰ "And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹ "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.	death
#6 Do not murder	Must not physically murder	Numbers 35:30 Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not <i>sufficient</i> testimony against a person for the death <i>penalty</i> .	death

Commandment	Legal interpretation per Sinai Covenant	How guilt is established	Penalty if guilty
#7 Do not commit adultery	Must not commit physical adultery	Deuteronomy 22:22-24 " If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die -- the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel. ²³ " If a young woman <i>who is a virgin</i> is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, ²⁴ "then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones,	death
#8 Do not steal	Must not steal	Exodus 22:1 "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.	Restitution plus
#9 Do not bear false witness	Must not falsely testify	Deuteronomy 19:15-21 " One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. ¹⁶ "If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing, ¹⁷ "then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days. ¹⁸ "And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, <i>if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother,</i> ¹⁹ "then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you. ²⁰ "And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you. ²¹ "Your eye shall not pity: life <i>shall be</i> for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.	Same as accused
#10 Do not covet	Must not covet	Since it is a sin of the heart, guilt can't be "established."	

This is what they agreed to do (and be held accountable) at Mt. Sinai.¹ To avoid the penalties specified (usually death), a person would refrain from committing the crimes by keeping the commandments. Many Jews lived lives that were "blameless" in regard to these commandments, including the Apostle Paul while he lived as an unbeliever before his conversion.² Even though they broke the 10th commandment, they were still "blameless" before a court because sins of the heart cannot be established in accordance with the Law.

Deuteronomy 17:6 *Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.*

¹ "So He declared to you **His covenant** which He commanded you to perform, **the Ten Commandments**; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone" (Deut 4:13)

² According to Paul's own testimony, he was "blameless: *"concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless"* (Phil 3:6b)