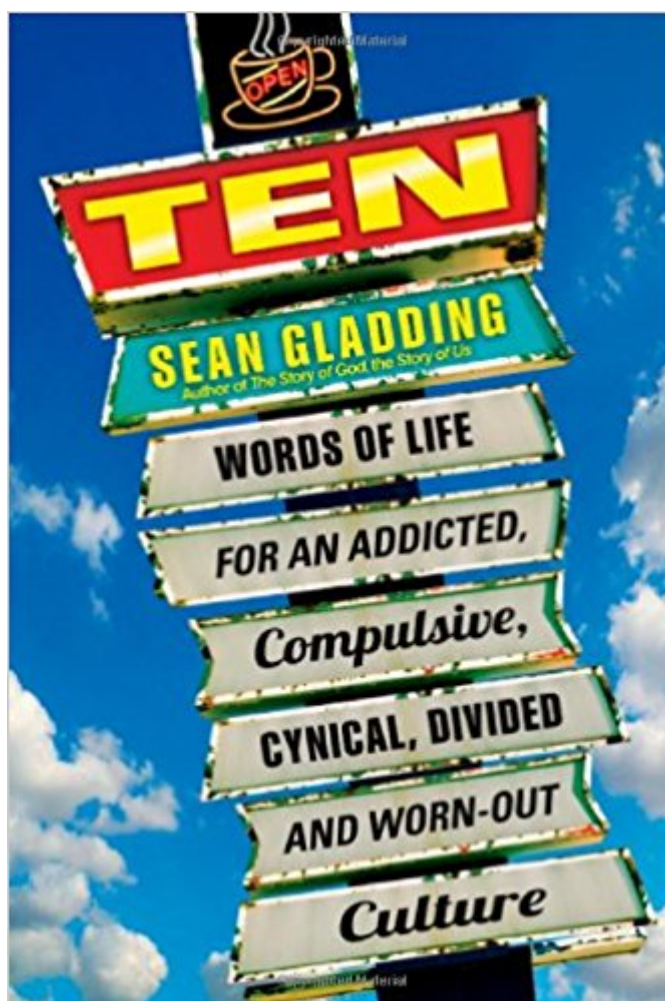


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# Ten: Words Of Life For An Addicted, Compulsive, Cynical, Divided And Worn-Out Culture



## Synopsis

To most people living in today's world, the Ten Commandments represent archaic rules dictated by a taskmaster God, meant for a society long gone. Many see them as irrelevant, even unattainable, today. But what if we're not that different from those who gathered around Moses as he handed down God's Ten Words to his people? What if they were never meant to be a set of rules, but instead a promise of a covenant relationship? In *Ten*, Sean Gladding invites you into the story of John, a pastor who spends his mornings in a local coffee shop, as he engages the viewpoints of regular people who wonder at the relevance and meaning of those Ten Words today. Sit in on their lively, heart-felt conversations as they tackle each Word over a cup of coffee and realize the hope of God's promises to his chosen people—yesterday, today and forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I have read *Ten* with great interest. Two things in particular struck me. First the way Sean shows how the 'rules' are in the service of a relationship. And second, the way Sean weaves the commandments into real life situations with real people. The latter is a special pastoral gift." Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary "Gladding brilliantly exposes how fragile we are in the face of cultural, political, psychological and spiritual forces that militate against our freedom and set us back on our journey toward becoming fully human. This creative and timely work upends the myth that the Ten Commandments are onerously restrictive, and reveals what God intended the Law to be--a pathway to the joy that is our birthright." (Ian Morgan Cron, author of *Chasing*

Francis)"Sean Gladding reveals to us a grand biblical narrative refracted through ordinary people's stories. Like light reflected in broken shards of glass, the purity of God's vision for a peaceful, generous, restful, faithful world is described through the struggles and anxieties of everyday folk. You've never heard the Ten Commandments taught quite like this." (Michael Frost, author, *The Shaping of Things to Come and Exiles*)"Integrity is a lost art form--or better still, it is a lost life guide. Maybe biblical integrity is as much about loving our culture, world and neighbor as it is about personal holiness. Sean Gladding has taken his love for God and love of the other and invited each of us into a deeper spiritual devotion through the pages of *Ten*." (Tony Kriz, author of *Welcome to the Table and Neighbors and Wise Men*)"Ten is a book for people interested in finding a better way to live. I love the Ten Words and this fresh look at the ancient biblical text of the Ten Commandments. But mostly, I love Sean's perspective. It reminds me of something I tend to forget: Whether we worship in a meeting room with a Big Book or in a congregation that studies the Bible, we humans are more alike than we are different. We are at our best when we are encouraging one another to live well. I give it a ten." (Teresa McBean, executive director, National Association for Christian Recovery)"Sean Gladding has done it again. In this immensely readable book, the goodness of God and the relevance of Scripture shine through. Sean draws us into a community of honest conversation by masterfully weaving together believable characters, biblical stories, theology and cultural reflection. As the story of Pastor John's Monday-morning coffee-shop group unfolds, the reader is helped to see that the Ten Commandments are an invitation to live in true freedom. I hope this book will be read and discussed widely, both inside and outside the church." (Lindsay Olesberg, author of *The Bible Study Handbook*)"I have read *Ten* with great interest. Two things in particular struck me. First the way Sean shows how the 'rules' are in the service of a relationship. And second, the way Sean weaves the commandments into real life situations with real people. The latter is a special pastoral gift." Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

Originally hailing from Norwich, England, Sean Gladding has made his home in the U.S. for the last two decades, where he has served in various forms of pastoral ministry, getting around on his '84 Ironhead Sportster. During his time at Asbury Theological Seminary he first encountered the concept of the metanarrative of scripture, an experience that has deeply shaped his life. His first book, *The Story of God, the Story of Us*, has its origins in a Bible study Sean led during a summer internship at Mercy Street, a church in Houston, Texas, for people in recovery from addiction and from bad church experiences--often both. Sean went on to co-pastor Mercy Street for seven years, during which time he and his wife Rebecca narrated the "Story of God" with people who had never

heard it before or who had only heard a fragmented version. Hearing the "Story" with both the enfranchised and those on the margins has continually deepened their understanding of scripture, and shaped their lives and the way they tell the "Story." Over the years they have made "The Story of God" narrative freely available to anyone who wanted to use it. The "Story" has been told in homes, churches, college campuses, coffee shops, pubs and laundromats, spread over five continents. Sean and Rebecca have two children. After their time with Mercy Street they returned to Lexington, Kentucky, to rejoin friends at Communality--part of the family of New Monastic communities--where they are seeking the welfare of the city.

Excellent treatment of the Ten Words! I have met Sean Gladding a couple of times, and read his other book, The Story of God, The Story of Us, and it is excellent as well. The treatment of each of the words is quite different from what I've experienced in the past, and I like the way he's done this.

Sean Gladding is an excellent storyteller who brings to life words I'd thought ceased to be relevant long ago. No matter who you are and where you're at, these words can be a gift to you. This story took me on an incredible journey that challenged many of my assumptions about scripture and the human condition. If you are breathing, I highly recommend you check out this book!

A great book, with easy to follow narrative. A must read for anyone, who is in a situation that seems hopeless. This book will clear your mind, and bare your soul, so that you can give it all up to the Lord!

A great book and a excellent review of the Ten Commandments as it relates for us today.

I recommend this book to all who exhaust their ability to "do life themselves" and are looking for how they fit in to a bigger existence.

Great book!!!!

Great read...

Sean Gladding speaks from the heart and to the heart. He makes Scripture accessible and relevant in our modern lives.

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