**GETTING THE FULL PICTURE**

**By Rod**

*This sketch seeks to emphasise the importance of regular attendance at church. Those who only come occasionally fail to get the full picture.*

*CAST*

*Andy A regular attender of church*

*Barry An irregular attender at the same church*

*Andy is seated in a pew. Barry arrives and heads for the empty seat next to Andy.*

A. Hi there Barry, I haven't seen you for a while.

B. It's good to see you, Andy. Is anyone sitting here or may I join you?

A. Be my guest. So what have you been up to?

B. *[Sitting down]* Oh this and that. I've been pretty busy one way and another.

A. I must say I have really enjoyed the series on the Ten Commandments.

B. Ten? Are you sure? I think I’ve only counted about five.

A. I am pretty sure there are ten. Let me see. The first one was about having no other gods.

B. Oh yes, I remember that one. The vicar spoke really well. I came away thinking how brilliant it is to be a Christian. It deepened my commitment.

A. Then there was the one about not making any idols. The curate did that one.

B. That is funny, I don't remember that. *[Thinking]* Oh I know that was when I'd just got my new car. It's a 2005 Ferrari F450 Spider.

A. Wow.

B. It was in reasonable nick but I needed to clean it and polish it. Caused quite a stir in our road. Everyone wanted to have a look.

A. I am sure it did. Anyway the third commandment was about not taking the Lord's name in vain. Not swearing and that.

B. Oh I remember that one. I've really tried not to say "Oh my God" any more.

A. I agree. You here it everywhere: on the telly, in the street, at work. It is a way we Christians can stand out. As is our attitude to the Sabbath.

A. Our attitude to what?

B. Sundays as we heard in the fourth commandment. People treat it just the same as any other day.

A. Oh I reckon that was the weekend I had a work crisis. I worked all Saturday and by the time Sunday came around I didn't feel like going to church.

B. Oh, well the fifth commandment was about...

A. And the next weekend I went away because my parents had arranged a special lunch. They expected me to help entertain their boring bunch of geriatric friends. Yawn yawn. So I hastily organised to stay with an old friend in Eastbourne. Parents can be such a pain.

Sorry, what did you say the fifth one was about?

B. Honouring your father and mother.

A. Oh, *[Getting the point. Pauses then tries to change the subject]* But I remember the one on murder. It was very challenging.

B. Oh why?

A. Well I must confess that I have had some murderous thoughts about the bloke next door.

B. Why is that? Have his leylandi grown too big or something?

A. No, it's because he's got this gorgeous wife. With him out of the way I reckon I'd have a chance to .. you know.. nudge nudge wink wink.

B. I guess that means you missed the following week as well.

A. Yes, that was the weekend he was away on business. I got out the Ferrari - it's always a winner with the ladies - and tried a charm offensive. You know vroom vroom.

What was the seventh commandment anyway?

B. Do not commit adultery even in your heart.

A. Oh dear, but I do recall a week when we looked at a commandment about not stealing. Which one was that?

B. That was number eight.

A*. (Phone rings)* Sorry, I need to take this. It is my boss. *(On phone)* Hello, Gerald how are ... Oh the Bindenberg report. Er.. yes I am working on it right now. I am at my desk. Sorry about the delay but John has only just given me the information. *(To Barry)* Actually he gave it me on Wednesday but I clean forgot. A good chance to dump John in it as I am after his job. *(To phone)* Yes, don't worry it will be on your desk first thing tomorrow. Bye.

B. I guess that means you missed number nine last week - on not lying?

A. What? Oh yes, Mustn't tell a lie - eh geddit? I just fancied a lie in for a change. 10.45 is so early on a Sunday.

B. Still, you are here now.

A. Not for long. I reckon I'll have to go and finish that report. Although it has been a good series this one on the commandments. It has really helped me sort out my life.

B. Bits of your life.

A. OK, bits of it but needs must. *(Gets up to go)*

B. Oh don't go.

A. I have to. If I am going to get John's job I need to nail that report.

B. But the tenth commandment could be just what you need.

A. Why what is it about?

B. Do not covet what others have.

*THE END*