

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

How God Orders the World

How God's People Consider Matters

WHY STUDY THIS?

- It must be true that whoever knows the Ten Commandments perfectly must know all the Scriptures [Matthew 7:12]. So, in all matters and cases, he can advise, help, comfort, judge, and decide both spiritual and temporal matters. Such a person must be qualified to sit in judgment over all doctrines, estates, spirits, laws, and whatever else is in the world [1 Corinthians 6:2–3].¹⁸ And what, indeed, is the entire Book of Psalms but thoughts and exercises upon the First Commandment? Now I truly know that such lazy “bellies” and arrogant spirits do not understand a single psalm, much less the entire Holy Scriptures. Yet they pretend to know and despise the catechism, which is a short and brief summary of all the Holy Scriptures. (LC, Preface, 17)

WHERE DO WE FIND THEM?

- Exodus 20; The Lord speaks to all the people (note how unique this is)
- Deuteronomy 5 – first written Word, written by who? Written on what?
- Conscience, Written on the heart

WHAT DOES THE LAW DO?

- Institutes and protects gifts from God (these things must be important)
- Defines sin (violation of the Law)
- Establishes true morality
- Teaches us about true love (for God and for neighbor)
- Teaches us God's Will
- Helps us make confession of our sins/prepare for Lord's Supper
- Helps us to see the world rightly as Christians
- Helps us to stay anchored to God's Word of Truth in this earthly life
- Helps us to understand what the devil, the world, and the sinful flesh are doing...

THE LAW INTERACTS WITH US...

- Three “Uses” or “Functions” – ways it interacts with us...
 - Curb – society, hemming in the worst
 - Mirror – when reflected upon or reminded of the Law will show us our sin (always accuses sinners – not only...)
 - Guide – Unique to Christian, the Law aids in the mortification of the flesh in reminding it what God’s will is. A sure rule and norm, showing which works God has prepared, in which He wants the reborn to walk and serve Him

COMMANDMENTS AND VOCATION

- Station in Life (commandments help us shape this...)
 - Outposts (Estates) – Home, Church, State
 - Vocations in each Outpost/Estate
 - Outpost + Commandment – what you should do, how/what you should pray, what you need to repent of....
 - Pious – Piety in the daily life. Not just prayer, all of it in relation to God...

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT THE STUDY OF THE COMMANDMENTS TO DO?

- 2 Timothy 3:16 – Teach, Reproof, Correction, Training in Righteousness
- Teach us God's Will/train us in righteousness
- Remind us of our catechesis
- Reveal to us our sin (how do we react to this?)
- Rebuke our error, correct it with truth
- Old Adam misuse - Tempt us to works-righteousness (Old Adam and his tricks)
- Old Adam misuse - Tempt us to judge others
- Make sense of some of the world's confusion; bring clarity

ORDER OF THE COMMANDMENTS

- 1-3 – First Table, Creature to Creator. 
- 4-10 – Second Table, Creature to Creature 

WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS?

- He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Ex. 20: 5–6)
- *What does this mean?* God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

MOST FORGOTTEN PART OF THE CATECHISM?

As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household

FIRST COMMANDMENT

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

- Simple Diagnostic Question – What am I afraid of?
- Fear – what do you fear more than God? How does that show in actions?
- Love – what do you love more than God? How does that show in actions?
- Trust – what do you trust more than God? How does that show in actions?

“GOD”

- What is a god? How can you tell?
 - That from which we expect all good and in which we are take refuge in all distress...
 - What does your heart cling to (trust)?
- Idols (thing trusted) and the human heart (idolatry is false trust).
 - Mammon (most common); Knowledge; Power; Skills; Good Name
 - Are any of these bad in and of themselves? Trust in them however....
 - Works - Me! (most extreme/dangerous idolatry and false worship)
- When we interact with others, how might their “causes” reveal the gods at play?
 - How does this help us think of them and interact with them?
 - Who or what are behind every false god or idol?

TRUSTING IN GOD

- Look to Him for all good (God is good and helps us)
- Receive what we are given as “good” (God never gives bad)
- Understand things that come through His ordering of life are from Him as well (sets up the rest of the Commandments and the ordering of the world through estate and vocation).

VIRTUES FROM THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

- Knowledge – “God”, what God?
- Fear of God (God’s power and justice prompts this)
- Love of God (God’s goodness and mercy prompts this)
- Trust in God (faith)
- Hope (fruit of faith)
- Patience/endurance/longsuffering (flows from faith, hope, and love)
- Humility (flows from knowledge and fear of God)
- From the virtues, certain sins come to play as well:
 - Ignorance of God (opposite knowledge); carnal security (opposite fear of God); hatred of God (opposite love of God); unbelief (opposite faith); desperation (opposite hope); impatience (opposite patience); pride (opposite humility)

SYMPTOMS OF IDOLATRY

- Other sins against other commandments (whose chief problem is their underlying idolatry)
- Selfishness, self-centered
- Worry, Anxiety
- Complaining
- Public vs. Private behaviors (the illusion of privacy before God)
- Fear, love, or trust in something not God, letting other things determine how we act, what we say, etc.

JESUS FULFILLS THE LAW

- Jesus and the fulfillment of the Law (active obedience)
- Fear God – Never forgot the Father was watching, perfect conduct, held Father in fear and revered Him
- Love God – Did everything He was commanded to do, even dying because of the Father's Will.
- Trust God – Into your hands... Even his enemies admitted that “He trusts in God”

EXAMPLES OF IDOLATRY

- Golden Calf (Exodus 32)
- Nebuchadnezzar Statue (Daniel 3)
- Joseph (Genesis 39; Fears God)
- Abraham (Genesis 22; Loves God)
- Moses (Exodus 14; Trusts God – Red Sea)
- Alliances of the Old Testament
- Any other sin in the Scriptures reveals idolatry. To break another commandment, the First must also be broken.

SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

- Exodus 20:7 (threat attached)

SECOND COMMANDMENT

- Gift of God's Name (Himself) and Word (and what is taught in the Word - doctrine)
- Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Mt 12:34)
- First Commandment had to do with inward trust
- Second has to do with confession (what comes out of the mouth) [Misuse vs. Use]
- *How do you regard doctrine?*
- *How are your prayers?*

HOW IS GOD'S NAME MISUSED

- **Worst way – False Doctrine** (putting God's name on falsehood, using God's name to add weight/popularity/importance when God's Word doesn't teach it; using God's name to cover sin) – so often we think the earthly matters are so much more important (ex. Cussing vs. False teaching), but spiritual matters are greater.
- Lying in court; false oaths
- False Prayers, Neglect of Prayers, mindless prayers
- Thanklessness (ingratitude)
- Lives not filled with praise
- Careless use of the name of God
- Boredom with the things of God
- Curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive...

LARGE CATECHISM...

⁵⁸ Now unfortunately, this sin is a common plague in all the world. There are so few people who do not use God's name for purposes of lying and all wickedness in contrast to those who trust in God alone with their heart.

⁵⁹ By nature we all have within us this beautiful virtue, that whoever has committed a wrong would like to cover up and adorn his disgrace, so that no one may see it or know it. No one is so bold as to boast to all the world of the wickedness he has done. All wish to act by stealth and without anyone being aware of what they do. So, if anyone is caught sinning, God's name is dragged into the affair and must make the wickedness look like godliness, and the shame like honor. ⁶⁰ This is the common way of the world, which has covered all lands like a great flood. So we get what we seek and deserve as our reward: epidemics, wars, famines, raging fires, floods, wayward wives, children, servants, and all sorts of filth. Where else should so much misery come from? It is still a great mercy that the earth bears and supports us [Numbers 16:28–50].

Paul Timothy McCain, ed., [Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions](#) (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 365.

HOW IS IT USED RIGHTLY?

- True Doctrine
- Right Oaths
- Oaths taken in support of the neighbor/defense of the neighbor
- Prayers to God (Hallowed be Thy Name)
- Praise (the life of the faithful Christian is praise of God)
- Thanking God for all things (all means all)
- Learning the Word of God

VIRTUES FROM THE SECOND COMMANDMENT - PIETY

- Thinking/acting reverently about God's Name (piety)
- Calling upon the name of God (prayerfulness) – Ps. 20:7
- Thankfulness to God (gratitude) – Ps 92:1
- Proper preaching of the Name of God (truth) – Ps 22:22
- Confessing God's Name (fearlessly and steadfastly) – Mt. 10:32
- Praise and glorify God's Name – Ps 29:2
- Swearing by His Name at proper times for proper purposes (integrity; neighbor focus of the Second Table)
- Zeal for God's Name; that it would be glorified (defense of God's Word; grieved over misuse) – Numbers 25:13 (Phineas)

HOW DID JESUS KEEP THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?

- Prayers; Thanksgiving
- Taught true doctrine; rebuked false doctrine
- Kept His oaths and promises

HOW IS GOD'S NAME USED IN CULTURE TODAY?

BIBLE NARRATIVES RELATED TO THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

- Saul and the witch of Endor – 1 Sam 28:5-20
- Exemplar Prayers for others – Exodus 14; Genesis 18; John 17
- Israel sings God's praises after Red Sea – Exodus 15
- God reveals His name to Moses - Exodus 2
- Jews accuse Jesus of being possessed – John 8:48-59
- Peter called down curses upon Himself – Matthew 26:74
- James and John ask about destroying a village – Luke 9:51-55
- Hypocrisy of the Pharisees - many; Matthew 23:13-33
- Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5
- Ten Lepers – Luke 17; Hannah's song – 1 Samuel 1-2; Mary's Song – Luke 1

THIRD COMMANDMENT

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Exodus 20:8-11

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:8–11, ESV)

- Genesis 2:3 for the first Sabbath

THIRD COMMANDMENT

- What is my attitude toward worship? When my congregation gathers, am I there – if not, what kept me from being there? Why do I think I don't need the hearing of the Word of God?
- What's the purpose of this commandment? Holiness for God's people... how does that happen?
- What did the Pharisees have wrong when they went after Jesus about doing work on this commandment? Was man made for the commandment or the commandment for man?

THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Sabbath – rest; Sanctify – make holy in observance for you...
- Holy Days – all days by the word of God and prayer; but the principle set up here is for a day of rest and worship (attending to public worship with others)
 - “holy” reminds us that the worship (receiving the Word) is more important than resting...
- What is the main thing in worship? How does Luther’s definition help us to understand this?
- Why is the hearing of the Word so important for us? Who opposes us in this life?
- How is man made holy? Are the works holy before the man is holy – or is the man made holy first and then the works follow?
- Make use of the Word and Sacrament

THIRD COMMANDMENT

- “Remember” – adds weight to the command; sets it against others. Forgetfulness of a command is the first step in breaking it...
- Remember also puts the focus on internal observance rather than just an external one (error of the Pharisees)

SINS... OF THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Boredom with worship/hearing the Word/receiving the Sacrament; laziness; sloth
- Arrogant assumptions about the Word/hearing of the Word
- Non-attendance of the Divine Service (Hebrews 10:25)
- Hearing but not taking it to heart (learning)
- Learning but not trying to live by it (resisting the work of the Word in your life)
- Losing the Word by boredom/non-attendance/etc opens the way for the devil to destroy you
- Complaining about worship/preaching/preachers
- Using your attendance to judge others as inferior (Pharisees, works righteousness)
- Not helping fellow Christians in attendance/bearing one another
- Refusing support of preaching/preacher

SINS... CONTINUED

- Neglect the use of the Sacraments or changing them
- Inattention to the public prayers of the Church; despising them; absenting yourself from them [heathens are noted as people who do not call upon the name of the Lord]
- To not support the poor (they too need support/mercy and to be able to attend to the Divine Service)
- Make others work in the place of attending service

VIRTUES OF THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Public Assembly of the Church; Public attendance
- True doctrine preached (doctrine that hallows)
- Sacraments should be rightly administered (sacraments that hallow)
- Public invocation and calling upon God
- Almsgiving for the poor (1 Cor 16:1-2 as example)
- Attentiveness to the Word and right reception of it (not allowing any other thing get in the way of it)

WHY NO LONGER SATURDAY?

- Sabbath pointed to Christ; no longer needed. Principle of worship remains...
 - Colossians 2:16-17
 - Hebrews 4:9-10
 - Matthew 11:28
 - Galatians 4:10-11
 - Romans 14:5-6
- Example of the Early Church (worship on Sunday)
 - Luke 24:1-2
 - Acts 20:7

ADDITIONAL THINGS

- Creation – 6 days
- Work for 6 days; work/vocation is a good thing – God affords us time for it. That said, without the holiness given on the day of worship we lose the holiness of works in the other 6
- Children, workers, etc.... This commandment implies the household is a part of worship
- First sabbath was in honor of God's completed work of Creation – what does having worship on Sunday relatedly confess?
- Israel's sabbath was a celebration of the exodus from Egypt. What might Christians relate this to in our worship?

PAGANS AND THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- “I can worship anywhere” – pagan statement
- Distractions by having things to do which occupy the time given for worship
- Thinking Christians odd and even punishing them for attending to the Third Commandment in their week-to-week life
- Since they do not hallow the Lord’s Day to be made holy, none of their days are holy and indeed none of their works are holy (sin and only sin)

HOW CHRIST KEPT THIS COMMANDMENT

- Boy in the temple attending to the public teaching of the Word
- Went to synagogue
- Went to temple in Jerusalem at great festivals
- Attended to the Word; used it; spoke it correctly
- An entire life full of worship

BIBLE NARRATIVES OF THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

- Jesus listens; Luke 2:41-52
- Mary sat at Jesus' feet learning; Luke 10:39
- Mary pondered the Word of God; Luke 2:19

SECOND TABLE OF THE LAW

- First Three Commandments – God
- Fourth through Tenth – Neighbor

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

EXODUS 20:12

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.” (Exodus 20:12, ESV)

Ephesians 6:2-3 – this is the first commandment with a promise...

Cited by Jesus numerous times – Matthew 15:4; 19:19; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Luke 18:20

WHAT'S YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITY?

- Has the fear and love of God shaped my honor and obedience to parents and others in authority?
- Have I trusted God to bless me and make my life good when I submit to the authority of parents and those over me, or have I been angry with them, rebelling, fighting against them because I was afraid I was not getting what I had a right to get?
- Have I been insolent, sullen and disrespectful to my parents, teachers, employers or other authorities over me?
- Have I been on good behavior when they are present and mocking them when they are absent?
- Have I given honor and respect to the pastoral office?
- Have I helped those who carry responsibilities in governing? Do I pray for parents, leaders of the nations, schools and church? Do I grumble about work given me to do?
- Have I helped make it easier for those who carry responsibilities for governing?

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

- Father and Mother – distinct, set apart from all other neighbors here.
 - Love them, honor them
- Parents stand in God's place (as unto the Lord...)
 - Honor is not dependent on their performance but because of the Commandment (note this for what offices derive themselves from the parental office)
 - Yet the honor due to God is higher
- Words and Works to them
 - Modesty, submission, humility, provide for them in need, must not forget them
 - CHIEF GOOD WORK OF THE CHILD...

PARENTS

- If God so honors this office of father and mother, how ought this to be regarded by those who are given by God to hold these offices?

DUTIES/VIRTUES OF PARENTS

- Bring up their children
 - Provide food/clothing, safety/defense (Matthew 7:9; 1 Timothy 5:8; 2 Corinthians 12:14)
- Instruct them in heavenly doctrine (or have others do it)
 - Teach them the things of God; bring to church; Deuteronomy 6; Matthew 19:13-14; Ephesians 6:4; Dt 4:9; 11:19
- Govern the home with discipline
 - 1 Timothy 3:4; Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 23:13; 29:17; Hebrews 12:7; Colossians 3:21;

**HOW WOULD SOCIETY BE IF THIS
COMMAND WERE FOLLOWED?**

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

- Establishes the main building block of society, the world – the household made up of parents and children
- The office of father is the basis for other earthly authority (fathers by blood vs. fathers by office)
 - Political Authority is derived from the office of father
- The Three Estates include fathers by office – Fathers [bosses], Pastors, Rulers
- How secure is life with no one following authority at home, in the church, or in the state?

AND OTHER AUTHORITIES

- Church – Pastors
 - Hebrews 13:17; Galatians 6:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
 - 2 Kings 13:14
- State – Rulers (and all the mechanism beneath them)
 - Romans 13; 1 Peter 2; Titus 3; Matthew 22:15-22 (Mark 12; Luke 20)
 - Ponder the type of rulers around at the time of Paul and Peter
- Others from Scripture – Ancestors (John 6:58); Magistrates (Gen 41:43); Lords (2 Kings 5:15); older men (1 Tim 5:1); Guardians/Caretakers (John 19:26); Patrons (Job 29:16).
- Objections to this rule are found in Acts 4 (v.19 - still acknowledged the judgment of the rulers even if they disobeyed it) and Acts 5:29 – Obey God rather than men.

VIRTUES OF THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

- Parental – provision, protection, indoctrination, discipline, care, wisdom, compassion
 - Teachers; Bosses; Etc.
- Children – outward respect/honor, inner respect/reverence, obedience, patience, gratitude, service

HOW DID JESUS KEEP THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

- Honored His parents. Examples? Luke 2:51
- Opposed His mother only when she interfered with His work as Savior (John 2:4; Matthew 12:46-50)
- Made provision for Mary's care (John 19:25-27)
- Respected authority of Priests, Scribes, Teachers while contesting against their false doctrine
- Paid taxes (Matthew 17:24-27; 22:15-22)
- Submitted to injustice, even unjust crucifixion

BIBLE NARRATIVES OF THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT (OF MANY)

- Sons of Eli (1 Samuel 2)
- Absalom's Rebellion (2 Samuel 15)
- Isaac was obedient to Abraham (Genesis 22)
- Eliezer was an obedient servant to Abraham (Genesis 24)
- Joseph honors Jacob (Genesis 46); provides for him (Genesis 47)
- Samuel was an obedient student (1 Samuel 3)
- Solomon honors his mother (1 Kings 2)
- Elisha honored his teacher Elijah (2 Kings 2)
- Jonathan obeyed God rather than men by disobeying his father (1 Samuel 20)
- Ruth loved and cherished Naomi (Ruth)

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- God's institution of Life. Genesis 1 and 2.
- Exodus 20:13 *"You shall not murder."* (note Hebrew "murder")
- Matthew 5:21-22 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire."*
- Matthew 19; Romans 13 cite this commandment
- 1 John 3:15 *"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."*

AM I ANGRY?

- Have I treated my neighbor's body and life as gifts of God to him?
- Have I injured my neighbor with violent actions, hitting and beating on my neighbor, spoken debasing and insulting words, using foul or dirty words to describe the neighbor, or murdered him with thoughts of anger, contempt, and hatred?
- Have I injured my neighbor by ridicule, by neglecting to feed or clothe him, withholding compassion and comfort from him?
- Have I avoided giving help to my neighbor, avoiding involvement with him in his difficulty?
- Do I abuse my own body with neglect of health, care, excess use of food, drink, tobacco, or drugs?

FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Anger, reproof, punishment – certain authorities have it (Fourth Commandment)
- Interaction with Fourth Commandment – see Genesis 9:5-6
 - Can Christians disagree then about capital punishment?
 - Cities of refuge were also given... mercy in government (Numbers 35)
 - Variety of situations in God's laws show wisdom is needed here.
 - How is the process for its administration? Fair, Just, Etc...
- Just War - Wars in defense of yourself or an ally

FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Personal – forbidden to kill with hand, heart, word, sign, gesture, or give aid to a killer (including revenge-seeking). Commanded to care, to provide bodily support, use whatever you have to help, protect and defend others, show kindness (especially to enemies).
- Matthew 25:31ff (Sheep and Goats) teaches that the Fifth Commandment comes up in the final judgment (I was hungry...)

LIFE

- God alone gives life. God alone should take it. (Life is sacred)
- Abortion; Euthanasia; “Mercy-killing”; Suicide; Honor killings
- Attitude toward life (children)
- Employer forcing work in dangerous conditions or working too hard... (Pharoah in Exodus 1)
- Bringing heartache to parents/friends (Esau – Gen 27); embittering (sons of Jacob – Gen 37)
- Proverbs 24:17 *“Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,”*
- Ephesians 4:26 *“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,”*

LIFE

- Good Samaritan (Luke 10) (harm and care)
- Charity; Empathy; Compassion; Courtesy
- Luke 6:31 *“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”*
- Matthew 5:44-45 *“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”*

VIRTUES OF THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Charity
- Justice (when enacted according to the Word of God) – fraudulent justice is a sin against the commandment; also contrary is when Government is too lenient, tyrannical, or shows partiality
- Forgiveness/Brotherly Pardon
- Patience; Fortitude (grit) to endure hardship for the sake of others
- Friendship

HOW JESUS KEPT THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Jesus is true Good Samaritan
- Kind and gentle to all, especially poor and downtrodden; showed charity
- Healings
- Feeding of the hungry
- Prayed for his enemies, did not repay evil for evil

BIBLE NARRATIVES FOR THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

- Cain murders Abel (Genesis 4)
- Abraham rescues Lot (Genesis 14)
- Joseph's Brothers (Genesis 37); Joseph is forgiving to them (Genesis 45)
- David protects Saul (1 Samuel 26)
- David murders Uriah (2 Samuel 11)
- Careless killing (Exodus 21)
- John the baptizer leaping for joy in the womb (Luke 1)
- Herod kills the boys of Bethlehem (unlawful killing by government)
- Good Samaritan (Luke 10) – both harm and care
- Jesus heals Ten Lepers (Luke 17)
- Centurion seeks help for his servant (Matthew 8)
- Judas' suicide (Matthew 27:5). (Also King Saul...)
- Stephen is stoned in anger (Acts 7)

SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Older versions:

What does this mean? Answer: We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and each love and honor his spouse.

AM I CHASTE?

Have I used for my own pleasure my ears to hear stories or my eyes to incite cravings for the body of one who is not my spouse, or my mouth to speak such words and stories?

Have I indulged my eyes with longing for my sexual satisfaction from a man or woman who is not my spouse?

Have I dishonored marriage by ridicule, divorce, or neglecting to encourage others to be faithful to their spouses in the fear of God?

Have I had intercourse with a man or woman who is not my spouse?

Have I dishonored my spouse by neglecting to care for the body, mind, feeling, needs of the other, withdrawing faithfulness from the spouse?

Have I failed to trust God to bless us in our marriage, even in times of trouble?

Have I neglected to pray for my spouse, to worship together, and to live in the fear and love of God in times of sexual temptations?

Have I practiced thoughts, words, or deeds, or given support of homosexual activity?

INTRO

- Authority/Parents -> Life -> Marriage/Spouse
- What is God protecting with this commandment?
 - Marriage
 - Sexuality (meant only for within marriage because of what sexuality is to create - children)
- First created Institution
- Hebrews 13:4
- Matthew 5:27-28 (much more than just adultery); Included then is all that intend to lead to lust are forbidden.
- Crude jokes/crassness (Ephesians 5:4)
- Commandment for all, not just married

MARRIAGE

- God instituted...
- Man and Woman
- Public, Lifelong
- Children
- Companionship
- Restrain Lusts
- Image of Christ and the Church

GOD INSTITUTED

- Genesis 1 and 2. Jesus confirms this in Matthew 19
- Why does the State manage this? (Two Kingdoms and what each is over)
 - Are non-believers married in the Bible?
- Marriage is for this temporal, earthly life.
- Not only God instituted, but God sets this in motion (not in fate/soul-mate way)
 - What God has joined together... (center for marital contentment is the will and work of God in uniting them as husband and wife)
- Closest earthly fellowship of body and life

MAN AND WOMAN

- Male and Female (Genesis 1 and 2; Matthew 19)
- Which purpose of marriage has to be removed for this to no longer make sense?
 - When this is removed, what related aspect of marriage replaces it?
- Removal of sex in relation to marriage partners is contrary to the institution (what would we think of having pop tarts and bourbon for the Lord's Supper? Would it be the Lord's Supper?)
- The Order of Creation does have significance (1 Timothy 2:13-14; 1 Corinthians 11:8-9) in the ordering of the world

LIFELONG

- Public – in front of others, in plain view.
- NOT forever – (Till death us do part); 1 Corinthians 7
- Divorce? Matthew 19
 - Fornication/Adultery; Abandonment (1 Corinthians 7); Abuse (which kind?) – how is the world grabbing onto this and changing definitions? Is “no fault” a thing found in Scripture?
- Hardness of heart (is that really something we should be getting behind?)
- Is there forgiveness?
- Divorce and clergy – Not allowed. 1 Timothy 3.

PROCREATION

- Be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1). Children are a blessing from the Lord.
- The purpose of the union of man and woman is to create children.
- What has happened to this purpose of marriage? When did it begin to slip?

COMPANIONSHIP

- First “not good” of Scripture – Genesis 2. Not good for man to be alone.
- Helper fit for him

RESTRAIN LUSTS OF THE FLESH

- Secondary purpose of marriage since the Fall into sin
- 1 Corinthians 7

IMAGE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

- Chief purpose of marriage according to Ephesians 5.
- This plays out in the roles of husbands and wives, each being representative of the relationship/roles of Christ and the Church
- Why does the world hate marriage so much? The devil? The flesh?
- Strong connection between adultery and idolatry

OTHER MARRIAGE MATTERS...

- Marriage to unbeliever is forbidden, unless you already are. (Genesis 6; 2 Cor 6; other Old Testament examples of how bad this ends)
 - Can unbelief of one spouse be an excuse to divorce? (NO – 1 Corinthians 7)
- Fornication
- Cohabitation before marriage (1 Thessalonians 5; Sixth Commandment; Fourth Commandment; Eighth Commandment; Studies)
- Pornography and other things... (Greek word for immorality)
- Adultery, even with permission...
- Marriage age; Marriage in Church vs. Justice of Peace
- Bad Company

MARRIAGE AND SOCIETY

- How does proper marriage support good society?
- How does perversion of marriage destroy society?
- Who is ultimately behind the goal of destroying marriage as an institution and individual marriages along the way?

SOUND ADVICE ON MARRIAGE

- Pick the right spouse
 - Not with a close relative (1 Corinthians 5; Leviticus 18)
 - Not with an unbeliever
 - Not with a person who has divorced contrary to God's Word (Matthew 19:9)
 - Same faith (divorce statistics and church attendance)
 - Christian to date.... Lutheran to get engaged?
 - Other virtues helpful in marriage that are observed

VIRTUES OF THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

- Chastity (cleanness of mind and body; evidenced in words and deeds)
 - Chastity of celibate life
 - Chastity of married life
- Decency and Modesty
- Moderation

SINS OF THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

- Lusts; corrupt desires of the heart
- Smut; Shameful talk; obscenity; gestures
- Dishonoring marriage as an institution; divorce; denigrating marriage; denigrating/mocking the female or male sex; prohibiting marriage between suitable persons; neglecting duties of marriage
- Fornication; Adultery; Rape; Incest; Sodomy; Bestiality; Pederasty; Prostitution
- Those things which lend toward breaking: intemperance, drunkenness, extravagance, provocative dress, immodesty in conduct, laziness/no self-control, impure consumption of media; neglect of marital duties
- Tolerating this evil among others (Romans 1)

HOW JESUS KEPT THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

- Chaste and pure in all dealings
- Honored marriage (John 2), taught rightly about it (Matthew 19).

BIBLE NARRATIVES RELATED TO THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

- Genesis 1 and 2 (creation of marriage)
- Genesis 6 (Sons of god/daughters of men)
- Joseph (Genesis 39)
- David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)
- Ruth
- Song of Solomon
- Hosea
- Wedding at Cana (John 2)
- Herod and his brother's wife (Mark 6)
- Directions to husbands and wives (1 Peter 3)

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

- Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19 (cited Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9)
- Ephesians 4:28 – the right use of the hands

AM I GREEDY? AM I LAZY?

- Have I been lazy at work, doing poor work in school or at the job, or working hard only when the teacher or boss is around?
- Have I been stingy in paying my workers?
- Have I been greedy, demanding best pay for poor work?
- Have I worked for myself rather than for Christ and for the benefit of my neighbor?
- Have I cared for the property in the neighborhood, school, or church, so that it was improved?
- Have I stolen from the office, school, or the church, or stood silently by while others took what was not theirs?
- Have I stolen information from another's work?
- Have I wasted time and food and money or caused others to waste time, food and money by my neglect?
- Have I been stingy when it comes to giving the Lord a generous portion as thank-offering for what he has given me?
- Have I stolen from my neighbor by not helping him in time of need?

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

- Private Property; distinction of ownership, the just acquisition of goods/resources/possessions and their legitimate use.
- Taking advantage of others
- Luther – mankind is “one great wide warehouse of super-thieves”
- Powerful openly steal and are honored for it (praised for it)
- Sneak-thieves; open vs. secret theft
- You can escape the punishment of the world for this, but not the wrath of God
- Stolen property never thrives; taxes and invasions are punishments; a “bigger thief”
- Covetousness as root of this. Idolatry also.

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

- Debts can become this if they are carelessly taken out
- unjust wages (James 5)
- Waste work time; poor craftsmanship
- unjust prices - demanding too high a profit at expense of neighbor
- Cheating on taxes
- Gambling, lottery
- Stinginess; Greed
- Inhumanity; lack of compassion

WHEN OTHERS STEAL

- Christians forgive those who take from us
- Poor pray to God who will repay
- Report theft to judges, admonish laziness and fairness

WHAT TO DO

- Do no harm, take no advantage, never deal unreliably with the neighbor
- Help protect and defend neighbor's property, help him to improve it
- Rulers responsible for this (one of their God-given duties - they will answer to God for it)
- View your own property as God's, you are just a steward of it (this is actually higher than personal property, it is something from God that He has given for you to use wisely according to His Word. (no personal kingdom building))
- Virtues – all things which support and preserve neighbor's property (diligence; justice among equals; upright reasoning; virtuous laws; contentment; honorable use; prudence; endurance; generosity; temperance)

HOW JESUS KEPT THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

- Always considered others before Himself (no place to lay his head... Mt 8:20)
- Although rich, became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9)
- Fed the hungry (Matthew 14-15; John 6)
- Upon His ascension His disciples declared they never lacked (Luke 22:35)

BIBLE NARRATIVES FOR THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

- Abraham and Lot (Genesis 13-14)
- Achan (Joshua 7)
- Gehazi's trickery (2 Kings 5)
- Judas as thief (John 12)
- Zaccheus (Luke 19)
- Unjust Steward (Luke 16)
- Admonition to the Rich (James 5)

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

- Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20 (cited Mt 19:18)
- Deuteronomy 19:16-20 (false accusations and their punishment); Leviticus 19:11
- Proverbs – 19:5, 9; 21:28; 24:28; 25:18
- Psalm 15:3; 101:5
- Prophets – many times lying tongues are mentioned as being hated by God

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- James 3:1-12
- Psalm 120:2-4 prayer for deliverance from a lying tongue
- Matthew 15:8 – what comes out of the body defiles it
- *“There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.”* (Proverbs 6:16–19, ESV)

AM I BITTER?

- Do I protect or build up reputations?
- Have I told the truth in court or in school before authorities or before my parents when I knew the truth?
- Have I been afraid to bear witness when I knew the truth and it was necessary to speak up against a wrong-doer or to speak for a victim?
- Have I gossiped, delighted to tell others about the faults or mistakes of another, excusing myself especially by saying that I spoke only the truth?
- Have I gone to others to make peace if I wronged them or they me, or to correct them if I knew of their wrong?
- Have I flattered others, or put on a front to make them think of me differently from what is true?
- Have I slanted stories to my benefit or deceived others by withholding some evidence of the story?
- Have I found ways gladly and willingly to explain, in the best possible way, those words or actions of others that hurt me?
- Have I defended my neighbor when things said about my neighbor have made others think badly about him or her?
- Have I learned to hear with the weaknesses and faults of others, covering their shame?
- Have I been faithful in keeping the secrets of another's heart entrusted to me in confidence?

EIGHT COMMANDMENT

- Reputation/Truth
- Note “false” testimony here...
- Lying vs. Integrity
- Slander/Gossip (willingness to hear evil)
- Only certain ones have the office of public judgment (not most) [parents, government, pastors, etc. each within their authority]
- Goal of the 8th is NOT that evil go unpunished
- Best advice – say nothing unless it’s a part of your official duty

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- Knowing Sin vs. Judging Sin
 - If you know a sin, let your ear become a tomb
 - To report outside of your office to others is to set yourself up as judge
 - If true, take to proper authorities
 - If unwilling to do that, keep mouth shut
 - Every report, not properly substantiated in the proper public manner is a false witness
 - Secrets should remain so

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- God holds us accountable for our words, especially idle words (Matthew 12:36)
- Deliberate lies; betrayals or trust/secrets; backbiting; slander
- Lying is of the devil (John 8:44)

PUBLIC SINS

All this has been said about secret sins. But where the sin is quite public, so that the judge and everybody know about it, you can without any sin shun the offender and let him go his own way, because he has brought himself into disgrace. You may also publicly testify about him. For when a matter is public in the daylight, there can be no slandering or false judging or testifying. It is like when we now rebuke the pope with his doctrine, which is publicly set forth in books and proclaimed in all the world. Where the sin is public, the rebuke also must be public, that everyone may learn to guard against it. LC I, 284

- Paul Timothy McCain, ed., [Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions](#) (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 391.

BEST CONSTRUCTION/EXPLAIN EVERYTHING IN THE kinDEST WAY

- Cover our neighbor's weaknesses
- Defend our neighbor to others if they speak lies
- Note and speak of good qualities of the neighbor
- Make a kind/charitable explanation to everything our neighbor does
- Whatever you wish others do to you, do that to them. Matthew 7:12

VIRTUES OF THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- Truthfulness; Honesty; Integrity
- Justice
- Charity, Compassion
- Keeping silent (keeping secrets, keeps quiet about things not needing to be said or not helpful being said) – Self-Control
- Friendliness, kindness
- Wit (using metaphor and humor to admonish, delight, or censure others while considering people, time, place)
- Candor, simplicity, constancy, modesty, seriousness, eloquence, gentleness

HOW JESUS KEPT THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- He is Truth (frankly told sins, but with goal of saving)
- Only found fault and spoke in the presence of the one (not behind back)
- Defended reputations (John the Baptizer)
- Explained things charitably (They know not what they do)

BIBLE NARRATIVES FOR THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

- Potiphar's wife lies about Joseph (Gen 39)
- Doeg told secrets, betraying Ahimelech (1 Sam 22)
- Absalom destroyed David's reputation (2 Sam 15)
- Jonathan defended David (1 Sam 19), spoke well of him (1 Sam 20)
- False Witnesses against Naboth (1 Kings 21)
- People of Capernaum spoke well of Centurion (Luke 7)
- False Witnesses against Jesus (Matthew 26)

NINTH/TENTH COMMANDMENTS

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

- Exodus 20:17; Dt 5:21; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:3-5; Romans 7 and 13; Colossians 3:5; Hebrews 13:5

AM I CONTENT/AM I HAPPY?

- Have I longed for the honor, wealth, happy life, or what seemed the ease of the lives of others? Has my life been full of craving for these things?
- Have I been stingy and self-indulgent with my money, trying to keep up with what others had?
- Have I tried, by claims of various rights, to make the property of others my own, saying they do not really deserve it and I do?
- Do I have to keep wishing for and dreaming about things I do not have before I can work with a diligent and glad heart?
- Have I lived in grudging discontent with whatever God has given me, restless about what I do not have and neglectful of thankful generosity with what I do have?

AM I CONTENT?

- Have I wanted my neighbor's spouse, his workers, or his property to be mine?
- Have I tried to win the affections and loyalties of my neighbor's spouse or children or friends a way from the neighbor to me?
- Have I urged friends and spouses and workers to go back to their calling, holding their marriages, friendships, families, and work together?
- Have I fostered discontent with the congregation, its pastor or leaders, and failed to urge members to stay and do their duty in worship, praying, giving and serving?

9TH / 10TH

- The Commandment is for the outwardly righteous ones...
 - Inborn Sin, Inherited Sin, Original Sin; from sinful nature automatically
 - Temptation often stirs up coveting (Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer)
 - Both original covetousness and actual covetousness are condemned here
- James 1:14-15
- Matthew 15:19
- Micah 2:1-2
- Coveting – craving what is not yours (evil lust) vs. natural, ordered desires (also desires of the Spirit)
- Root of many breaking of other commandments
- House (everything property, etc.)
- Wife (spouse)
- Workers (children, etc.)

9TH / 10TH

- “Legal” excuses to appear outwardly upright and yet defraud others
- The first test for a Christian is not legality, but if something is in line with God’s commandments and Word.
- Complaining about another’s spouse, eager to listen to complaints about another person’s spouse (instead extol good qualities about someone’s spouse; at least remind them of God’s institution of marriage; never encourage them to further sin)
- “Grass is always greener”
- Social Media and Coveting
- Use the other commandments to curb against this one.

VIRTUES OF THE 9TH AND 10TH

- Contentment (vs. idolatry)
- Thanksgiving (vs. ingratitude)
- Happiness in the well-being of others (vs. jealousy)
- Vocations from God (vs. selfish setups)
- Love of Neighbor, encouragement of others in their callings
- Life of mortification of the flesh (vs. living by the flesh)

HOW JESUS KEPT THE 9TH AND 10TH COMMANDMENTS

- Sole desire was to do the Father's will (John 4:34)
- Rejoiced in what was given to others
- Was content with what He was given, with His vocation

BIBLE NARRATIVES FOR THE 9TH AND 10TH COMMANDMENTS

- The Fall into Sin (Genesis 3)
- Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21)
- Abraham helps Lot (Genesis 14)
- Jacob steals the birthright of Esau (Genesis 25)
- David covets Uriah's wife (2 Samuel 11)
- Absalom estranged the hearts of the people from David (2 Samuel 15)
- Philemon and Onesimus (Philemon)
- Paul did not covet gold or silver (Acts 20:32-35)

CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” (Ex. 20: 5–6)

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

FEAR, LOVE, AND TRUST

- Back to the First Commandment
- We belong to God, He is “our” God
- Outside of the Ten Commandments, no deed is a “good” deed
- More than enough to “do” in the Ten Commandments
- Threat – terrifies us (Law)
- Promise – attracts us (Gospel)
- Prize the commandments

GENERATIONAL

- Often the result of Sin passes into generations, punishment included
- Blessing is more pronounced than the wrath here

WHAT'S THE POINT?

- God hath giv'n us all these commands
That thou thy sin, O child of man,
Might know, and also well perceive
How unto God man should live.
Kyrieleis!
- Help us, Lord Jesus Christ, for we
A Mediator have in Thee.
With works we'd perish from the path;
They merit but endless wrath.
Kyrieleis!
- From Luther's hymn on the Ten Commandments