



# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

# THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

“You shall have no other gods.”

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

In this commandment God forbids us to have other gods (idolatry).

- Isaiah 42:8; Matthew 4:10

People have other gods when:

- a) They regard and worship any creature or thing as God. (Ex. 22; Judges 16:23-24)
- b) When they believe in a god who is not the triune God. (Matt. 28:19; Jn. 5:23)
- c) When they fear, love, or trust in any person or thing as they should in God alone. (Matt. 10:37)
- d) When they join in the worship of one who is not the triune God. (2 Cor. 6:14-15)

# YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS

What does God require of us? That we fear, love, and trust in Him above all things.

- We fear God above all things and revere Him alone as the highest, honor Him with our lives, and avoid what displeases Him. (Gen. 17:1; Prov. 8:13)
- We love God above all things when we cling to Him alone. (Matt. 22:37)
- We trust God above all things and rely on Him for help in every need. (1 Sam. 17; Gen. 12)

Are we able to keep this and the other commandments? No one can keep them perfectly, except Jesus Christ. All those who have faith in Him will, by the Holy Spirit, strive to keep them. (Jn. 14:15; Phil. 2:13)

# THE 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.

What does God forbid in the Second Commandment? He forbids us to misuse His name. (Ex. 20:7)

God's name is misused when people:

- a) Speak God's name uselessly or carelessly
- b) Curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name

Instead, we shall call upon His name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks. (Ps. 50:15)

# THE THIRD COMMANDMENT



“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

- 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.

The Sabbath was a sign pointing to Jesus, who is our rest. Since Jesus has come, God no longer requires us to worship on a specific day.

This Commandment means that we should hold preaching and God’s Word as sacred. We should gladly hear it, learn it, and meditate on it.

# THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

“Honor your father and your mother.”

- 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.

God forbids us to despise our parents or authorities by not respecting them or disobeying them.

Instead, we are to honor them as God’s representatives, serve them, and obey them in everything in which God has placed them over us.



# THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not murder.”

- 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.

Here God forbids us to take the life of another person (murder, abortion, euthanasia) or our own life (suicide). See Jer. 1:5 and Ps. 139:16; Prov. 31:8 and Acts 17:25.

God also forbids us to keep anger and hatred in our hearts against our neighbor. (Matt. 5:22; 1 Jn. 3:15)

Lawful government, acting as God’s servant, may execute criminals and fight just wars. (Rom. 13:4)

# THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

What does God require?

- a) We should help and support our neighbor in every bodily need.
- b) We should be merciful, kind, and forgiving towards our neighbor.
- c) We should avoid and assist our neighbor in avoiding things that harm the body and mind.



# THE 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.

How do we lead a sexually pure and decent life? We lead it when we:

- Consider sexuality to be a good gift of God; (Gen. 1:27, 31)
- Honor marriage as God’s institution, the lifelong union of one man and one woman; (Gen. 2:24-25; Mk. 10:6-9)
- Reserve sexual intercourse for the marriage partner alone. (Heb. 13:4)

What does this Commandment forbid? Divorce, except for unfaithfulness (Matt. 19:9); sexual intercourse between unmarried persons (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Rom. 1); sexually impure thoughts. (Matt. 5:28)

# THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

## What does God require of us?

- God requires us to avoid all temptations to sexual sin.
- God requires us to be clean in what we think and say.
- God requires us to use our sexuality in ways pleasing to Him.

## What does God require especially of married couples?

- God requires married people to love, honor, and respect each other. The wife is the husband's God-given helper, and the husband is the wife's God-given head.
- Gen. 2:18, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him"
- 1 Cor. 7:4, "The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife."
- Eph. 5, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

# THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

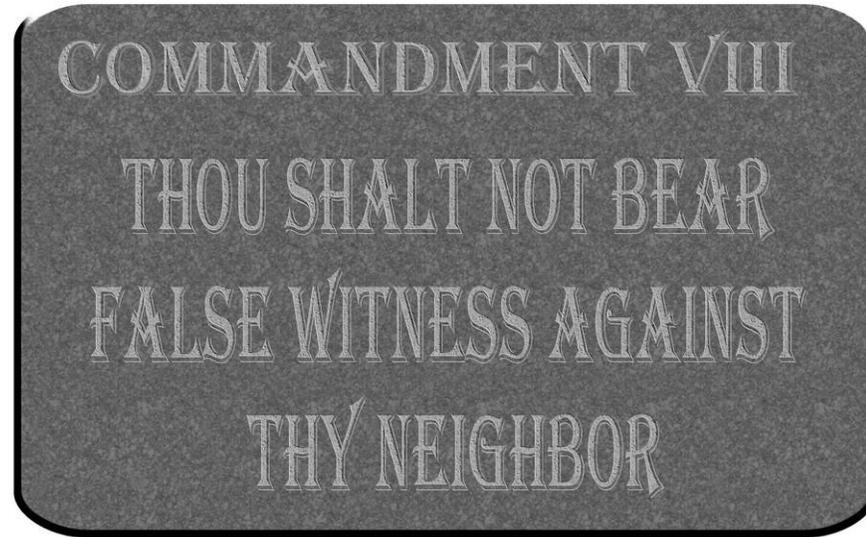
“You shall not steal.”

- ...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.

Here God forbids any kind of robbery, theft, and dishonest way of getting things.

- Lev. 19:35, “You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity.”
- Eph. 4:28, “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.”

We should help our neighbor to improve and protect his possessions and income. We should also help our neighbor in every need. (Phil. 2:4; Matt. 5:42)



# THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

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.

# THE NINTH COMMANDMENT



“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.”

- 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.
- We should be content with what God has given us and assist our neighbor in keeping what God has given that person.

# THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

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

- We should fear and love God so that we do not entice of force away our neighbor’s wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

God forbids every sinful desire to take from our neighbor that person’s spouse or workers. We should be content with the helpers God has given us and encourage our neighbor’s helpers to be faithful.

In God’s sight, evil desire is indeed sin and deserves condemnation. (Gen. 3:6; James 1:14-15).

He wants us to love Him and have holy desires. (Ps. 37:4; Ps. 119:35-36; Phil. 4:8)