



Ten Commandments

The First Commandment.

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment.

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment.

You shall keep the day of rest holy.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment.

You shall honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.

The Fifth Commandment.

You shall not kill.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

The Sixth Commandment.

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor their spouse.

The Seventh Commandment.

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business.

The Eighth Commandment.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, or defame our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

The Ninth Commandment.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we do not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, and obtain it by a show of right, etc., but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not estrange, force, or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What Does God Say of All These Commandments?

Answer.

He says this (Exod. 20:5f): I the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy to thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

What does this mean?—Answer.

God threatens to punish all that transgress these commandments. Therefore we should dread His wrath and not act contrary to these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all that keep these commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him, and gladly do according to His commandments.