

# CHRISTIANITY, THE WAY OF LIFE

A Bible study of the Basic Christian teachings as summarized in Luther's Small Catechism

## INTRODUCTION                      LIFE LINES

- I. This Study - Learning about life
- II. The Bible - God's Word in the language of men
- III. Bible Study - Read, mark and inwardly digest
- IV. Law and Gospel - Double edged truth.

## UNIT ONE: Commandments LIFE STYLE

### *Chapter One*    *Relationship with God*

- I. God's Law - God's for good, ours to keep
- II. 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment –  
Our Personal relationship with God
- III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment - Using God's powerful name
- IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment - Time together with God

### *Chapter Two*    *Relationship with other people*

- V. 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Authorities representing God
- VI. 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Human life and health
- VII. 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Human sexuality
- IIIX.7<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Personal Possessions
- IX. 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Truth and justice
- X. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment - Desires and ambitions

## UNIT TWO    Creed                      LIFE SOURCE

### *Chapter One*    *First Article: God the Father*

- I. Creeds & Faith - I believe in one God
- II. Creation - Creator of heaven and earth
- III. Preservation - And still preserves them
- IV. Fall into Sin - The Father and the fall

### *Chapter Two*    *Second Article: God the Son*

- V. Person of Jesus - Son of God and Son of Man
- VI. Humiliation -Jesus the Savior
- VII.Exaltation - Who lives and reigns
- IIIX.Offices of Christ - Christ the Lord

### *Chapter Three*    *Third Article: God the Holy Spirit*

- IX. Spirit and his Work - Holy Spirit, holy people
- X. Church - The holy family
- XI. Forgiveness -Separated from Sin
- XII.Resurrection - God makes all things new

## UNIT THREE    Lord's Prayer                      LIFE CYCLE

### *Chapter One*    *What we ask for God*

- I. Prayer - Talking to God
- II. 1<sup>st</sup> Petition - Living as God's children
- III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition - Growing God's kingdom
- IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> Petition - Doing God's will

### *Chapter Two*    *What we Ask for Ourselves*

- V. 4<sup>th</sup> Petition - Getting daily bread
- VI. 5<sup>th</sup> Petition - Having forgiveness
- VII.6<sup>th</sup> Petition - Escaping temptation
- IIIX.7<sup>th</sup> Petition & Close - Deliverance from evil

## UNIT FOUR    Means of Grace                      LIFE SUPPORTS

### *Chapter One*    *Holy Baptism*

- I. Means of Grace (3<sup>rd</sup> Part) - God's tool box
- II. First Part - Washing away sin
- III. Second Part - God pours it on
- IV. Fourth Part - Fresh every day

### *Chapter Two*    *Office of the Keys and Confession*

- V. Office of the Keys - Forgiveness is for giving
- VI. Public Ministry - One for All
- VII.Confession - Forgiveness is for getting

### *Chapter Three*    *Holy Communion*

- IIIX.The Sacrament            - Do this in remembrance
- IX. Benefits and Power - For the forgiveness of sins
- X. Worthy Reception - Given for you

## 10 COMMANDMENTS I [LSCE pg. 193f, 54f]

### GOD AND HIS LAW

#### God's For Good, Ours to Keep

#### 1. What does God expect of us?

##### A. God wants to keep what is his.

- a. Deut. 4:39-40                      also Deut. 10:12, Lev. 19:37  
What does God expect of his people? (v. 40)

Why? (v. 39)                                      also Jer. 10:10-13

- b. Deut 5:9                                      also Exod. 20:5  
What kind of God does God say he is?

“Jealous” means wanting to keep what is yours.  
What is it God has a right to have?

- c. Deut. 11:26-28                      also Lev. 26:18, Deut. 5:9, 7:10-11,  
What happens if we do                      Ezek. 18:20, Rom. 1:18,  
not obey God? (v. 28)                                      Gal. 3:10

Would this make you more careful to obey?

##### B. God wants to keep what he has earned.

- a. Deut. 6:5                                      also Deut 5:10, 10:12, Matt. 22:37,  
What does God expect of his people?                      1 Jn. 4:19

- b. Isa 43:1                                      also Exod. 20:2  
What gives God a right to expect this?

- c. Deut. 5: 10                                      also Deut. 7:9, Exod. 20:6, Luke 1:50  
After his warning, what does God promise?

Compare this promise with the warning in  
Deut. 5:9. Which goes farther?

Does knowing this make you want to love God?

*If God wanted, could he make us obey him without any choice? Could he make us love him without any choice? Can there be obedience without love? Can there be love without obedience?*

*Do warnings keep people from doing wrong? Would warnings help if the threatened punishment never happened?*

God is “jealous”, that is, he wants to keep what rightfully belongs to him.

Because God is our only creator, he wants and deserves our obedience, so he warns of his punishment.

Because God is our only savior, he wants and deserves our love, so he promises his grace and blessings.

#### 2. Why does God give us the law?

##### A. We want what is not good.

- a. Gen. 8:21                                      also Eph. 2:3, 1 Tim. 1:9-11  
What are people naturally inclined to do?

##### B. God wants what is good for us.

- a. Jer. 29:11                                      also Ps. 145:13, 1 Jn. 4:8-9  
What does God want for us?

- b. Deut. 5:33                                      also Exod. 20:12, Deut 4:1, 6:18, 10:13,  
What happens if we do                      Prov. 3:1-2, Josh 1:8,  
as God says?                                      Isa. 48:17, 1 Tim. 4:8

*What do you think would happen if someone was allowed to do whatever they felt like from the time they were born? Would they be happy? Would they survive?*

*When parents and other authorities make rules and enforce them, does it make you feel you are cared for or not cared for?*

*Equipment of every sort, from watches to cars, come with operating instructions, and often lessons are required before using some of them. How useful would complicated devices be without such instructions? How long would they last if you did not follow the directions? How long would you last?*

God gave us his law because he loves us and all people. Without it we would continually do wrong. God's law protects us and the good gifts he has given us. Obeying it is good for us and others.

#### 3. How should we keep God's law?

##### A. We are to obey the law completely.

- a. What is just as wrong as wrong actions?  
Matt 5:21-22                                      also Jas. 1:26

Matt. 5:27-28

- b. Prov. 16:2                                      also 1 Sam. 16:7, Matt 22:37  
What needs to be right, beside our actions?

##### B. We are to obey the law sincerely.

- a. Rom. 7:6                                      also Rom. 2:27-29, 13:9-10  
What does the old way of keeping the law obey?

What does the new way follow?

##### C. We must obey the law perfectly.

- a. James 2:10                                      also Lev. 9:2, Matt 5: 48  
How does God expect us to keep the law?

- b. Isa. 64:6

What is our righteousness like when we do our best?                      Is this good enough for God?

- c. 1 Jn. 1:8-9 also Phil 3:12  
What are those who claim not to sin doing?

What hope does God give us any way? (v. 9)

*A boy is swinging his feet and kicking his sister and his mother tells him to stop kicking his sister. He stops swinging his feet and starts swinging his arms, poking his sister. Did he do what his mother said? Did he do what his mother wanted?*

*Which would hurt worse, falling from 1000 feet, 2000 feet or 3000 feet? Which seems worse, hating someone, saying mean things, or physically attacking them? What does God say about this?*

*If you poke a hole in one tiny spot in a balloon, what happens? If a tightrope walker slips in just one place, what happens?*

We should keep God's law completely, with our words and thoughts as well as actions.

We should obey the obvious intent ("spirit") of God's law, not only the words ("letter") of what it says.

We should keep God's law perfectly, but because this is not something anyone can ever do, we always need a savior.

#### 4. What laws has God given?

- A. God gave political, ceremonial and moral laws.
- Deut. 15:1 and Deut 17:8-9, 15 also Ex. 21:12-35,  
What are these laws about? 22:1-9; Deut. 19:4-7,  
20:10-12, 25:1-3
  - Deut. 16:5-6, 16 also Exod 12:5; 23:14-18;  
What are these laws about? Lev. 6; 11; 19; 27
  - Deut. 5:6-21 also Exod. 20:7-17  
What are these laws about?
- B. Christians are to obey God's law for today.
- Rom. 13:1-2  
What government should you obey?
  - Col. 2:16-17 also Rom. 14:2-4  
Must we obey Israel's worship laws today?  
  
Why? (v. 17)
  - Matt. 22:37-40 also Matt. 5:17-18, Luke 18:20  
Are we still expected to obey these laws?
- C. The 10 Commandments are God's moral law.
- Matt. 22:37-38 also Exod 20:1-11, Deut 5:6-15; 6:5  
Which relationship comes first in the law?

- Matt. 22:39 also Exod. 20:12-17, Deut 5:16-21  
Which relationship comes second?

- Rom. 13:10 also Rom. 13:9  
What one word summarizes the moral law?

*Why must love and obedience to God come before love for our neighbor? How will our relationship with God affect our relationship with our neighbor?*

*God has given us wonderful gifts and he tells us how to use and protect them so they are not ruined or lost. Think about what gift is protected by each of the ten commandments.*

God gave the nation of Israel

- political (civil) laws about governing their nation,
- worship (ceremonial) laws about worshiping in a way that looked forward to a savior.
- moral laws about living in personal relationships.

Now, as Christians, we are not citizens of that nation so the political laws do not apply to us. We worship a savior who has already come so the worship laws do not apply to us. We still live in personal relationships with God and others so the moral law still applies to us.

The moral law, summarized in the ten commandments, is divided into two parts ("tables" or lists). The first part is about our relationship with God. The second part is about our relationship with other people. The whole moral law is summed up in the command to love.

#### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

The Close of the Commandments Meaning  
*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.

Matt. 22:37-39 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

## 10 COMMANDMENTS II [LSCE page 56f]

## FIRST COMMANDMENT

## Our Personal Relationship With God

1. What gift of God does the first commandment protect?

A. We are to be God's own children.

- a. 2 Cor. 6:16, 18 also Exod. 20:2-3, Lev. 26:12,  
 What does God intend Jer  
 32:38,  
 to be?  
 Ezek. 37:27

What does God intend also Deut. 14:2, Gal. 4:6-7,  
 us to be? John 1:12, 1 Jn. 3:1

- b. Isa 43:1 also Exod. 20:2  
 What has God done for us?

B. The true God is triune.

- a. Deut. 6:4 [45] and 1 Cor. 8:4 also John 10:30, 17:3,  
 How many God's are there? 1 Tim. 1:17

- b. Gen. 1:26  
 What pronoun does God use for himself?

- c. Matt. 28:19 [46] also Matt. 3:16-17; John 14:10-11,  
 What are God's names? 16-17; Eph. 2:13

*Think of a relationship to a person who is very important to you. How do you benefit from the relationship? What does the other person in the relationship deserve from you? What might ruin your relationship?*

*What do you get from a relationship with God?*

The first commandment protects the gift of our personal relationship with God as his own people and his dear children.

The only true God is Triune, that is, there is only one divine being who is God but he is three individual persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

2. What is our relationship with God to be like?

A. Our relationship is respectful.

- a. Psal. 33:8 [66] also Psal. 34:7, 33:8, 67:7, 130:4;  
 What does God deserve Matt. 10:28  
 above all others?

- b. Prov. 8:13 [68] also Gen. 39:9, Ex. 20:5  
 What does this mean we will do?

B. Our relationship is loving.

- a. Matt 22:37 [71] also Deut. 6:5, Ps. 73:25-26,  
 What does God deserve Matt. 10:37  
 above all others?

- b. Matt. 6:24 also John 14:15, 2 Cor. 5:14, 1 Jn. 4:19, 5:3  
 What does this mean we will do?

B. Our relationship is trusting.

- a. Prov. 3:5 [73] also Psal. 31:14, 37:3-5, 62:5-8, 118:8;  
 What does God deserve Jer 17:5  
 above all others?

- b. 1 Pet. 5:6-7 also Rom. 11:33-36, Col. 1:16-17,  
 What does this mean God will do? 1 Tim. 6:17

*Think of some powerful things you may want to have and use but which can harm if used in the wrong way. You must first learn to respect their power and how to avoid misusing them. Fear of God does not mean we want to stay away from him but that we respect his great power.*

*Would you be more apt to do what someone wants if you loved them than if you did not love them?*

*Would you be more apt to follow directions if you trusted them to be reliable than if you did not?*

We should fear, love and trust God more than anything or anyone else.

Fear of God means not that we want to avoid him because he is mean but that we respect him because he is powerful and just and so we want to honor him and avoid what displeases him.

Love of God means that we want most to serve him and make him happy.

Trust in God means we are confident he is in complete control of the world, he is loving and powerful enough to give us every good thing and we believe his will and commandments are best for us.

3. What would ruin our relationship with God?

A. We are to identify nothing else as god.

- a. Exod. 20:3-6 also Isa 42:8, Hos. 13:4, Matt 4:10  
 What are we not to do? (v. 3)

What does this include? (v. 4-5) also Ps. 115:4,  
 1 Jn. 5:21, Rev. 9:20

- b. John 5:23 [57] also John 10:30, 1 Jn. 2:23, 4:3  
 Whom must we recognize as God?

- c. 2 Cor. 6:14-17 also 1 Kg. 18:21, 2 Cor. 5:9-10,  
 How are we to react to worship Eph 5:6-11  
 of unbelievers? (v. 17)

- B. We are to treat nothing else as god.
- a. 1 John 2:15      also Matt. 6:24, 10:37, Mark 10:21-22,  
What should we not love      Eph. 5:5, Phil. 3:19,  
more than God?      1 Jn. 2:15
- b. Prov. 3:5      Psal. 246:3, Prov. 11:28, Jer. 17:5  
What should we not trust more than God?
- c. Acts 5:28-29      also Matt 20:28  
What should we not fear more than God?

*What else can you think of that people may respect or fear more than God?*

- ... *love more than God?*  
... *trust more than God?*

Our relationship with God is ruined by idolatry, that is having another god beside him. We would have another god if we honor another person or created thing as an almighty divine being with power over the world.

We would have another god if we what we believe about of God is different from the true Triune God, or if we join in religious activities with those who believe in a false God.

We would have another God if we behave as if any person, thing or idea is a god by fearing, loving, or trusting it as much as or more than we do God.

#### 4. Why is this commandment of first importance?

- A. Our relationship with God comes first.  
1 Cor. 8:6      also Mark 8:35-37, Rom. 11:36  
What is the most important in all the world?
- B. This commandment leads to keeping the others.
- a. Prov. 8:13 [68]      also Gen. 39:9, Ex. 20:5  
What makes us avoid evil?
- b. John 14:15      also 1 Jn. 5:3  
What makes us keep the commandments?
- c. Psal. 37:3      also Psal. 37:4-5  
What makes us do good?

Our relationship with God is more important than anything else in the world.

Keeping this commandment is the key to keeping all the rest because we...

- fear God and know he will punish us if we disobey.
- love God and know he is happy when we obey.
- trust God and know it is best for us to obey.

### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

#### *The First Commandment*

You shall have no other gods.  
*What does this mean?*

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

#### *Proverbs 3:5*

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

#### *1 John 2:23*

No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

#### *Matthew 6:24*

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

## 10 COMMANDMENTS III [LSCE page 61f]

## SECOND COMMANDMENT

## The Power of God's Name

1. What gift of God does the second commandment protect?

## B. What names identify God?

a. Isa. 63:16 also Exod 3:14, 20:7, Isa. 7:14, 9:6

b. Matt. 1:21 also Rev. 19:13

## A. What is God's name able to do?

a. Luke 10:17 also Acts 16:18

b. Acts 3:16 also Acts 4:10, 12, 30; 10:43

*What names or nicknames are you called?**What do these names say about you?**Think of other forms of personal identification, such as credit card, bank account, social security, drivers' license, or phone numbers, e-mail address, etc. If you gave these forms of identification to someone else, what would they be able to do with them?*

The second commandment protects the gift of using God's powerful name. God's names identify who he is and what he does.

2. How is God's name to be used?

## A. God's name is used to speak to him.

What is God's name to be used to do?

a. Rom. 10:13 also Gen. 12:8, Ps. 50:15

b. John 16:23 [107] also Luke 11:2, 17:11-12, 18:13,  
John 14:13-14

c. Psal. 103:1 [105] also 1 Chron. 29:11

d. Eph. 5:20 [108] also Ps. 116:17, 118:1,  
Luke 17:15-16e. 1 Chron. 16:8

## B. God's name is used to speak about him.

What is God's name to be used to do?

a. Acts 9:27-28 also Deut 18:19, 2 Sam. 22:50,  
Ps. 18:49, 22:22,

b. Luke 24:47 also Jer. 20:9, Acts 1:8, 9:15, 2 Cor. 5:20

c. Matt. 28:19 [85]

d. 2 Thess. 3:6 also Acts 16:18, 1 Cor. 1:10

e. Deut. 10:8 also Num. 6:24-27, Deut 10:20, 21:5

## C. God's name identifies what is his.

What is identified as belonging to God?

a. Deut 28:9-10 also Col 3:17, Matt 18:20, Mark 9:41

Exod 3:15, 1 Sam. 17:45

b. Acts 11:26 also 2 Chron. 7:14

*Give an example of how you would want your name used to talk to you. Think of a way in which you would not like your name used to talk to you.**What is something good to say to God?**What is something bad to say to God?**Give an example of how you would like your name used to talk about you. Think of a way in which you would not like your name used to talk about you.**What is something good to say about God?**What is something bad to say about God?**Give an example of something you would want to put your name on. Think of something you would not want to have your name on.*

God's name is to be used to speak to God sincerely in prayer, praise and giving thanks.

God's name is to be used to speak for God as his ambassadors and about God as his witnesses in teaching the truth and telling others about his blessings, commands and promises

God's name is to be used to identify who and what belongs to him, as when Christians are known as his people.

3. How is God's name not to be used?

## A. God's name must not be misused in talking to him.

a. James 3:9-10 [89] also Matt 27:25, Rom. 12:14  
What should we not do?b. Gal 1:9 also Deut 11:28, Neh. 13:25, Psal. 10:15,  
2 Cor. 16:22  
What does God want to punish?c. Lev. 19:12 [94] also 1 Kg. 19:2, Matt. 5:33-37,  
What should we not do? Matt. 14:6-9, 26:72, 74,  
Acts 23:12d. Heb. 6:16 [93] also Gen. 24:3, Dt. 6:13, Num. 30:2,  
When is swearing acceptable? Jer 12:16, Rom. 13:1,  
Gal 1:20, 2 Cor. 1:23e. Deut 18:10-12 [96] also Lev 19:31, 1 Sam. 28,  
What should we not do? Acts 8:9-24, 13:6-11,  
19:13-16

- B. God's name must not be misused in talking about him.
- Deut 18:20 also Jer 14:15-16, 23:31, 27:14-15, What must we not say? Matt 7:15, 15:9, Zech 13:3
  - Lev. 24:15-16 also Exod. 5:2, Psal. 74:18, What must we not say? 2 Kg. 18:28-35, 19:22, Dan. 3:15
- C. God's name should not be misused to identify what he does not claim.
- Matt. 7:21-23 also Matt 15:8, Ezek 36:20-21 Who should not use God's name?
  - Matt. 23:27-28 What is this called?
- D. God's name should not be used carelessly.  
Matt 5:33-37 [95] also Lev. 22:32  
What words are enough, without swearing?

*Match these definitions with the examples below.*

- cursing is asking God to punish someone or something else.*
- swearing is asking to be punished by God if we do not do as we promise.*
- Witchcraft is trying to control something according to our own desires by using God's name, words or power, or by calling on the power of Satan.*
- Blasphemy is speaking in anger to or about God or telling lies about him.*
- Hypocrisy is pretending to be what one is not, especially trying to appear good when one is not. One who practices hypocrisy is a "hypocrite".*
- Profanity is using a special word in a way that is not intended by its meaning.*

\_\_\_ "I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God."

\_\_\_ "Gosh darn that stupid cat!"

\_\_\_ "It's true, cross my heart and hope to die!"

\_\_\_ "Say the Lord's prayer backward and draw an upside down star to get your wish"

\_\_\_ "Oh God, that is as funny as heck!"

\_\_\_ "Pray to your stupid Jesus; he can't help you."

\_\_\_ "I hope you go to blazes"

\_\_\_ "God is dead"

\_\_\_ "Mormons are better Christians than others."

\_\_\_ "I summon the spirits to answer my call."

\_\_\_ "Jesus! I had the holy c--p scared out of me!"

\_\_\_ "Thank God I am not sinful like some people."

God's name is not to be used to say to him what we do not mean or ask for what we do not want, such as – cursing what God does not condemn - swearing to do wrong, without telling the truth, or about foolish or uncertain things - witchcraft, including all forms of the occult, Satanism, superstition, horoscopes, astrology, fortune-telling, séances, etc.

God's name is not to be used to say things about him which are not true, such as false teaching or blasphemy.

God's name is not to be used to identify ourselves as his children when we are not, which is hypocrisy.

God's name is not to be used to make strong language needlessly or carelessly, as in profanity, especially when saying what is not true.

### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

#### *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.

#### *Leviticus 19:12*

""Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

#### *1 Chronicles 16:8*

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.



## 10 COMMANDMENTS IV [LSCE page 67f]

## THIRD COMMANDMENT

## Time Together With God

1. What gift of God does the third commandment protect?

A. God gives us time with him.

a. Acts 17:26-27 also Psal. 31:15, Ezek. 20:12  
Why does God give the time in our life? (v. 27)b. Isa 49:8 also Psal 32:6, Luke 19:44, Heb 4:14, 16  
What will God do in his own good time?c. 2 Cor. 6:2 also Exod 20:8-11, Deut. 5:12-15  
What does God call the time he gives us?

*How much time do you have each day? How much time do you spend resting? ...eating? What do you enjoy doing with your time? How much time do you spend with friends? family? Is your day made better by spending time with friends? Can you time be made better by spending time with God?*

The third commandment protects the gift of time together with God.

2. How is a “Sabbath” day kept holy?

A. Sabbath is a special day for rest.

a. Exod. 20:8-11 also Exod. 31:16, Deut 5:12-15  
What day of the week is the “Sabbath”? (v. 10)

What did this remind people God had done? (v. 11)

b. Lev 23:3 [110] also Ex. 35:2  
What are the people to do on this day?c. Exod. 16:29 also Exod. 16:4-5  
How did the people have food on the Sabbath?

B. God gives us rest and refreshment.

a. Matt 4:4 also Matt. 10:39-42, John 6:32-33  
What do we need most for life?b. Matt 11:28 [111] also Isa. 40:31, Heb. 4:1-12  
Where do we find our rest?

C. We are not obligated to rest on a certain day.

a. Col. 2:16-17 [113] also Rom 14:5-8, Gal 4:9-11  
What has replaced the Sabbath day? (v. 17)

b. John 5:17-18 also Matt 12:6-13, Luke 6:5-11

What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? (v. 17)

c. Luke 24:1-2 [119] also Matt 28:1-6, Mark 16:1-6,  
What day was Jesus’ resurrection? John 20:1-9d. Acts 20:7 also 1 Cor. 16:2  
What day did the first Christians gather for worship?

*Special worship occasions each remind us of something God has done for us. Name some special worship occasions beside Sundays. What does each one remind us that God has done for us?*

The word “Sabbath” means “rest” A Sabbath day is a time for rest. “Holy” means “set apart” or “special.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were required to rest on the seventh day of the week (Saturday) to remind them to trust God to provide for them because this was the day God rested after finishing creation. This day of physical rest gave them time to gather for worship.

God gives us spiritual rest and strength when we spend special time with Jesus and God’s word.

Unlike the Israelites, Christians are not under obligation to observe any special days. We observe Sundays, the day when Jesus finished our new creation by his resurrection from the dead, and other special occasions, as opportunities to gather for worship.

3. How does God come to us?

A. God comes to us through word and sacraments

a. Rom. 10:6-8 also Psal. 107:20,  
Matt. 4:4,

What do we have that makes John 6:63,  
15:5-7,

Jesus be with us? (v. 8) Acts 20:32, 1 Pet. 1:23

b. What connects us to Christ?

1 Cor. 10:16-17

Gal. 3:26-27

B. God is with us and with others.

a. Matt 18:20 also Acts 10:33  
When is God with us?b. 2 Cor. 5:20 also Acts 1:8, 1 Thess. 2:13  
How does God come to others?

*Worship is a celebration of something special, like a birthday. What are some things that are done to celebrate birthdays? How are each of these things like what happens in worship?*

God comes to be with us and give us rest through his written and spoken word and through the sacraments. God is with us when we gather with other believers for worship and fellowship, and God comes to others through us when we share our faith.

#### 4. How should we use our time with God?

##### A. Regular worship is a priority.

- a. Luke 10:38-42                      also Luke 14:16-24  
What is even more important than work? (v. 39)

- b. Psal. 84:10                              also Psal. 26:8, 122:1  
Where will we want to spend time?

##### B. What is important in worship?

- a. Heb 10:25
- b. Acts 2:42                                      also Acts 2:46
- c. Eccl. 5:1                                        also John 4:22-24
- d. 1 Cor. 11:25-26                              also Luke 22:19
- e. Acts 2:38                                        also Acts 22:16

##### C. How should use God's word personally?

- a. 1 Thess 2:13                              also Luke 10:16, John 8:47
- b. Acts 17:11
- c. Josh 1:8                                        also Deut 6:6-7
- d. Col 3:16
- e. Luke 5:16                                      also Luke 6:12, Acts 10:9
- f. Luke 11:28                              also 1 Sam. 15:22, Matt. 7:24-27,  
James 1:21-22

##### D. How do we support the teaching of God's word?

- 1 Tim 5:17-18                              also Gal 6:6, 1 Cor. 9:11-14

*Think of someone special to you. How much time do you spend with them each day or each week? What do you do with this time? How could you "spend time with them" even if you were apart? What could ruin the time you spend together? How might they feel if you decided not to spend time with them?*

*How much time do you spend with God each day or each week?*

We should often stop work and other activities to spend time on our relationship with God and receive spiritual rest and refreshment as we

- regularly join in using God's word and sacraments in group worship, and

- continually use God's word in personal devotions.

We should learn from God's word and do what it says.

We should support those who share God's word with others.

#### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

##### *The 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.

##### *Colossians 2:16-17*

Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink,

or with regard to a religious festival,

a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

##### *Colossians 3:16*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

as you teach and admonish one another

with all wisdom,

and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs

with gratitude in your hearts to God.

## FOURTH COMMANDMENT

### Authorities Representing God

#### 1. What gift of God does the fourth commandment protect?

A. God works through authorities.

a. 2 Cor 5:20

How does God speak to people?

b. Rom. 13:1-2

also John 19:10-11, Gen. 45:8

What gives authorities the right to be in charge?

c. Rom. 13:4

What does God do for us through authorities?

d. Rom. 13:5

Why should we submit to authorities?

d. Eph. 6:2-3

also Exod 10:12

What is the benefit of keeping this command?

B. Each setting has special authorities.

a. Exod. 20:12

also Gen. 1:27-28

What is the first authority God gives in the home?

b. Rom. 13:1

What authority represents God and parents in society?

c. Eph. 4:11

What authorities represent God and parents in the church?

also Heb. 13:17

What authorities represent God and parents in schools?

also Deut 6:6-7, Eph. 6:4

d. Col 3:22-23

also Eph. 6:5-7

What authorities represent God at work?

*Different authorities are responsible for us in different times and places. Which authority should not tell you how to worship? Which should not tell you how to vote? Can you think of others times or situations which would limit an authority?*

The fourth commandment protects the good gift of authorities who represent God. God gives us parents in the home, the basic unit of society, and through them also gives us teachers at school, pastors at church, government officials in society, and employers at work.

#### 2. For does God want authorities to do?

A. Authorities are used by God for our good.

a. Eph. 6:4

also Prov. 1:8-9, 22:6

What should parents and other do for us?

b. Prov. 13:24

also Prov. 23:13-14

What should parents and others do for us?

c. 2 Tim. 4:2

What should pastors and other do for us?

d. Col. 4:1

also Matt 24:46, 1 Tim. 5:8

What should employers and others do for us?

e. 1 Pet. 2:14

also Rom. 13:4

What should government and others do for us?

B. What should authorities not do?

a. Eph. 6:4

also Col. 3:19, 21

b. Eph. 6:9

*Authorities are like an umbrella which we want to be over us to protect us. What bad things could happen if you decided to ignore the authority of your parents? teacher? police? employer? pastor?*

God has given us authorities as his representatives to guide us through instruction and discipline, provide for our needs, and protect us from harm. They are responsible for acting in a way that is good for those under their authority. Whether he does it directly or through his representatives, it is still God who takes care of us.

#### 3. How should we treat those God has placed in authority?

A. We treat authorities as God's representatives.

a. 1 Tim. 2:1-2

also Jer. 29:7

What should we do for all authorities?

b. 1 Thess. 5:12-13

also Lev. 19:32, Rom. 13:7,

How should we treat those who are over us?

Eph. 6:2-3, 1 Tim. 6:2,  
1 Pet. 2:17-18, 5:5

c. Prov. 23:22 [148]

also Pr. 3:1-2, 6:20-22, 15:5, 23:22

What should we do

Luke 10:16, 1 Thes. 2:13,

when we are taught?

Heb. 13:7

d. 1 Tim. 5:4 [143]

also Gal. 6:6-7

What should we do for those who have provided for us?

e. Titus 3:1 [146]

also Luke 2:51, 20:25, Eph. 6:1, 5,

What should we do for those

Col. 3:20, 22.,

who are in charge of us?

Heb. 13:17

B. We should not mistreat authorities.

a. Rom 13:2 [141] also Deut 27:16, 2 Kings 2:23-25,  
How should we not treat authorities?  
Prov. 28:7, 30:17

b. What should we not do for authorities  
more than for God himself?

Acts 5:29 [147] also Luke 20:25

Matt 10:37

*What do you think you should you still do and what should you not do if your parents, government or other authorities are not good representatives of God?*

*Can you think of an example of when you might need to disobey an authority in order to obey God?*

*Think about what you could say or do (beside just obedience) that would show you honor and respect your parents, teachers, church leaders, government leaders or employer.*

*Write a short note expressing your appreciation for your parents, a teacher or another authority.*

When God places authorities over us, we should pray for them,  
honor and respect them,  
learn from them,  
lovingly help and care for them,  
willingly serve and obey them, and  
thankfully appreciate them  
as we should treat God, whom they represent.

We are not to despise, or hate them or consider them worthless, or make their job difficult by despising them, etc.

We must not treat any authority as more important than God himself.

4. How did Jesus keep this commandment for us?

A. Jesus submitted to authority.

a. Luke 2:51

What authority did Jesus submit to?

b. Luke 22:42

also Phil. 2:6-11

What authority did Jesus submit to?

c. Luke 22:54

also Matt 17:24-27, 23:2-3

What authority did Jesus submit to?

d. Luke 23:3

What authority did Jesus submit to?

B. Jesus submitted for our sake.

a. Heb. 5:7-9

What did Jesus give us by his submission? (v. 9)

*There may be times when you need to submit to an authority even if it is bad for you personally, as when a soldier, firefighter or doctor must go into a situation in which they are at great risk. Can you think of other examples?*

*Could Jesus have saved himself by refusing to submit to authorities? What would have happened for us then?*

Jesus, during his earthly life, submitted to authorities – to the point of death – and so saved us by what he did in our place.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

*The 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.

*Romans 13:1*

Everyone must submit himself

to the governing authorities,

for there is no authority

except that which God has established.

The authorities that exist

have been established by God.

*Hebrews 13:17*

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority.

They keep watch over you

as men who must give an account.

Obey them so that their work will be a joy,  
not a burden,

for that would be of no advantage to you.

## FIFTH COMMANDMENT

## Human Life and Health

1. What gift of God does the fifth commandment protect?

## A. Our life belongs to God.

a. Acts 17:25 [156] also 1 Cor. 6:19-20  
Where does our life come from?

b. Deut. 32:39 [159] also Ps. 90:3, 5, Rom. 12:19  
Who has the right to end life?

c. Exod. 20:13  
What do we not have the right to do?

## B. God wants us to have eternal life.

a. Gen. 9:2-3 also Gen. 1:28  
What is it not wrong to kill?

b. Gen. 9:6 [150] also Gen. 1:27, 2:7  
What is special about humans?

c. John 3:16  
What kind of life does God want us to have?

d. Acts 17:26-27 also Ezek 33:11, Isa. 55:6, Heb. 9:27  
Why does God give us physical life? (v. 27)

e. Phil. 1:21-22  
Why else does God want our life to continue?

*A teenager who lives at home may call it "my house". To whom does the house really belong? Who has the greatest right to say what happens to the house? What rights and responsibilities may the teen have in the house?*

*Our bodies are like the "house" in which we live. Who owns this body? Who wants to live in it with us? What rights and responsibilities do we have while we live in this body?*

The fifth commandment protects human life and health. Human life belongs to God, the one who gives life and has the right to take it.

This commandment applies only to people, not plants or animals. God made humans to have not only physical life with a body but eternal spiritual life with an eternal soul. Because of sin, everyone is born physically alive but spiritually dead. God prolongs physical life so we have the opportunity to get spiritual life through faith in him before it is too late, and also so that we can serve him in this world.

2. How do we take care of human life?

## A. We can help make life good.

a. Eph 4:32 [169] also Matt 5:38-42, Luke 6:35-36  
How should we treat others?

b. 2 Cor. 7:1 [170] also Eph. 5:18, 1 Tim. 5:23  
What should we do to take care of our life?

## B. We act to save lives.

a. Matt. 25:35-36 also Isa. 58:6-7, Mark 6:36-37,  
Luke 10:33-37, Rom. 12:20  
What can we do to save lives?

b. 1 John 3:16-17  
What can we do to save lives?

## C. Authorities can take life.

a. Gen. 9:6 [150] also Matt 26:52  
What can be done to those who murder?

b. Rom. 13:3-4 also Exod 21:12  
Who has the right to do this? (v. 3)

c. Deut 20:12-13 also 1 Kings 20:13-14  
What do governments also have the right to do?

*Think of something needed to have a good life and describe what you personally could realistically do to help someone who had that need.*

*Is it wrong to take life in order to prevent more death? What examples can you think of? How can you decide if a war is just and right or not?*

In order to take good care of human life, we should

- be kind and love others.
- be careful to protect the full health of others and ourselves.
- help with physical needs.
- do what we can to save lives.

God gives the government, as his representative, the right to harm or end life in some cases, such as capital punishment and just war.

3. How should we not harm life and health?

## A. We should not personally decide to end life.

a. Exod. 21:12-14 also Exod 20:13  
What killing is wrong? (v. 14)

b. Exod 21:22-23 also Ps. 139:16, Jer 1:5, Luke 1:41  
What should we not injure or kill?

c. 2 Sam. 1:9-10, 15-16 also Prov. 6:16-17  
What is treated the same as murder? (v. 10)

- d. Acts 16:27-28 also 1 Cor. 6:19-20  
What does Paul say not to do? (v. 27)

- B. What should we be careful not to do?  
Lev. 19:16 also Exod 21:28-29, Deut 22:8

- C. We should not make life miserable.  
a. Lev. 19:18 also Gen. 37:23-34, Prov. 24:17, 29,  
What should we not do Rom 12:19  
b. 1 Jn. 3:15 also Lev. 19:17, Matt. 5:22, 15:19,  
What is just as bad as murder? Eph. 4:26

*What are some examples of things that could ruin people's life or health, which we should avoid?  
What are some examples of things that could ruin your own life or health which you should avoid?*

We should not harm human life and health by personally deciding to end human life by murder, suicide, abortion or euthanasia.  
We should not carelessly endanger life or health for ourselves or others (recklessness, negligence, poor health habits, drug abuse, etc.)  
We should not ruin life or make it miserable by our words or deeds (hatred, grudges, revenge, etc.)

#### 4. How did Jesus keep this commandment for us?

- A. Jesus helped with physical needs.  
a. Luke 7:21-22 also Matt. 4:23-24, 5:14, Luke 9:11  
What did Jesus do for those who suffered?  
b. Luke 9:16-17 also Matt 5:19-21, John 6:11-12  
What did Jesus do for the needy?  
B. Jesus restores our life.  
a. John 10:10  
What does Jesus want to give us?  
b. Rom. 5:12 also Rom. 6:23, 1 Cor. 15:21  
What is the root cause of death?  
c. 1 Thes. 5:10 also Rom. 5:17, 6:23  
What did Jesus do for us?  
What does this mean we can do?  
d. 1 Cor. 15:42-43 also Phil. 3:21  
What will Jesus do with our bodies?

*Some products are cheap and disposable. When they are used or broken you simply throw them away and get something else. Other products well made and valuable. When they are used or broken, they*

*are worth fixing and using again. Which way does God want us to think of our bodies and life?*

Jesus, with his miraculous power, helped people with physical needs during his earthly ministry. By giving his life for us and miraculously rising again, he overcame sin which causes death and will give us new life after our death in a glorified body.

#### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

##### *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.

##### *Lev. 19:16b*

“Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.”

##### *1 John 3:15*

Anyone who hates his brother is a murder,  
and you know that no murder has eternal life in him.

## 10 COMMANDMENTS VII [LSCE page 81f]

## SIXTH COMMANDMENT

## Marriage and Human Sexuality

1. What gift of God does the sixth commandment protect?

A. God protects human sexuality.

- a. Gen. 1:27, 31 [171] also Mark 10:6, Matt. 19:4  
What did God create people to be? (v.27)

B. God protects marriage and the family.

- a. Gen. 2:24-25 [172] also Prov. 18:22, Matt. 19:5,  
What does God intend for Mark 10:7, 1 Tim. 4:3-4  
men and women to do?

b. Mal. 2:15

What does God want to result from marriage?

*If you have fancy or expensive clothes, will you wear them to clean house, garden or work on a car? Why not? What will you do with them instead?*

*Sexual abilities are precious gifts from God. We may keep from using them not because they are bad but because we want to save them for a special occasion, which is marriage.*

The sixth commandment protects God's good gift of human sexuality, along with marriage and the family. God made males and females to different, with sexual desires to be together.

2. How is human sexuality to be expressed?

A. Sexuality is for use in marriage.

- a. Mark 10:6-9 [173] also Matt 19:4-6, Titus 1:6  
Who should be joined together?

How long should this union last?

- b. Gen. 2:18 [190] also Eph. 5:21, 33  
What does God intend married couples to do?

- c. Eph. 5:33 also Col. 3:18-19, 1 Pet. 3:1, 7  
What should husbands do?

What should wives do?

- d. Prov. 5:18 also Gen. 4:1, 1 Cor. 7:2-5  
What does sexual intimacy help married couples do?

- e. Gen. 1:28 also Mal. 2:15  
What does God intend married couples to do?

B. The unmarried should keep themselves pure.

- a. 1 Thes. 4:3-7 also 1 Cor. 7:9-10, Heb. 13:4

What should an unmarried person do? (v. 4)

*If you want to make a good cake, you want to use pure ingredients, without anything worthless mixed in. What would happen if you mixed the milk and flour or the eggs and sugar together before you were ready to make the cake? Would they still be pure? What would happen to your cake?*

*The sexual abilities God gives us are good, and when they are put together – in the right way and the right order – according to his recipe for marriage, they are wonderful. Sexual purity means keeping separated from some thoughts and activities until marriage so that we do not ruin it for ourselves.*

*Think about what you will expect from the person you will marry. What will you do to be that kind of person for them?*

Human sexuality is to be used when one man and one woman unite in the lifelong bond of marriage. God's plan is for married couples to love, submit and help each other in lifelong companionship. Sexual intimacy is for married couples to communicate love, share joy and produce children.

Those who are not married should control their sexual desires and save their sexual abilities, pure and unused, until marriage.

3. How is human sexuality not to be misused?

**A. Do not use sexuality outside marriage.**

After each verse write the word from the list below which God prohibits.

- a. Lev. 20:10 also Gen 39:7, 9, Exod. 20:14, Deut 5:18
- b. Heb. 13:4 also Rom. 13:13, Gal. 5:19, 1 Cor. 6:13, 18, 2 Cor. 12:21, 1 Thes. 4:3-4
- c. 1 Cor. 6:15 also Prov. 6:26, Jer 13:27
- d. Titus 1:6 also Deut 17:17, 1 Tim. 3:2

prostitution: using sexuality for getting personal gain rather than for giving

fornication: sex with anyone one is not married to

adultery: sex with one married to someone else

polygamy: having more than one spouse

masturbation: sexual activity without a partner

**B. Do not break or ruin marriage.**

- a. 1 Cor. 7:10-11 also Mal. 2:14-16, Matt 19:6, Mark 10:9-12  
What should a married couple not do?
- b. Matt. 19:9 [177] also Matt 5:32, 19:7-8, 1 Cor. 7:15  
When is divorce allowed?

**C. Sexuality is not to be perverted.**

After each verse write the word or words from the list below which God prohibits.

- a. Rom. 1:26-27 [181] also Lev. 18:22, 20:13, 1 Cor. 6:9-10 (Gen. 19:4-7, Jud. 19:22-23)
- b. Lev. 18:6 also Lev. 20:11-12, 17, 1 Cor. 5:1
- c. Lev. 18:23 also Exod. 22:18, Lev. 20:15-16

homosexuality: sex between males

incest: sex between close blood relatives

lesbianism: sex between females

sexual abuse: improper sex against another's desires

pedophilia: sex between adults and children

bestiality: sex with animals

sado-masochism: use of force and violence in sex

**C. Avoid sexually impure thoughts and words.**

After each verse write the word from the list

below which God prohibits

- a. Matt 5:28 [183] also Eph. 5:12
- b. Eph. 5:3-4 [187] also Eph. 4:29, 5:12, Col. 3:8
- c. Col. 3:5 also Matt. 5:19, 28, 1 Pet. 2:11

sexual harassment: behavior or words

about sex which makes others feel bad

profanity: speaking in a way that

shows lack of respect for sexuality as a precious gift from God.

pornography: words or pictures used to arouse sexual desires

lust: sexual desires for what is wrong

*What you do may seem to have not effect on anyone else but it will always have a lasting effect on you. What you do changes who you are and how you relate to other people. What do you become when you have sex outside of marriage?*

*What you put in your mind sticks there and can be used against you by the devil. What kind of "ammunition" do you not want to give him?*

Human sexuality is misused by ...

- sexual intimacy outside of marriage such as adultery, fornication, polygamy, prostitution
- breaking a marriage through divorce or desertion.
- perversion such as incest, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, pedophilia, etc.
- thoughts or words which do not encourage faithfulness in marriage, such as pornography, profanity, lust, harassment, etc.

**4. How does Jesus help us with this commandment?**

**A. Jesus loves us.**

- a. Eph. 5:21-25 [193]

What makes wives submit to husbands? (v. 21)

What makes husbands loving to wives? (v. 25)

**B. Jesus helps us.**

- a. 1 Cor. 6:9-11 also Matt. 21:31, Luke 7:37-38, 48, John 8:3-11  
What can Jesus do for sexual sinners? (v. 11)

- b. Titus 2:11-12 [175]

What helps us resist passions by self control?



*Animals are controlled by instincts, without thinking of the future. What are Christians to be controlled by? What does God want for our future?*

Jesus' care and love for us is what enables us to faithfully take care of and love others. When we fail, Jesus can forgive and renew us and make us stronger by his grace.

### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

#### *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.

#### *Mark 10:7-9*

'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

#### *Eph. 5:33*

However, each one of you also  
must love his wife as he loves himself,  
and the wife must respect her husband.

## 10 COMMANDMENTS VIII [LSCE page 83f]

### SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

#### Personal Possessions

#### 1. What gift of God does the seventh commandment protect?

A. God protects personal possessions.

a. Psalm 24:1 also James 1:17  
Who is the real owner of everything?

b. Eccl. 5:19 also Deut. 8:18, 1 Chr. 29:12, Job 1:21,  
What does God give to people? Matt. 25:14-30

c. Exod. 20:15 also Deut 5:19  
What does God say to protect our possessions?

*Even if everyone was given everything for free, would it matter if someone else took and used your...toothbrush? clothing? bed? school notebook? car? home?*

The seventh commandment protects God's gift of personal possessions.

#### 2. How should we treat possessions of others?

A. We respect rightful ownership.

a. Matt. 20:15 also Acts 5:4  
What may people do with their money?

b. Exod. 23:4 also Phil. 12-14  
What should we do if others lose what is theirs?

B. We do not take what is not ours.

Identify the wrong ways of getting things.

a. Deut. 5:19 also Exod. 20:15

b. John 10:1 also Luke 10:30, 1 Pet. 4:15

*See if you can define or give an example of:*  
*theft*  
*burglary*  
*robbery*  
*mugging*  
*shoplifting*

We should respect the ownership of those to whom possessions belong.  
We should not try to take what is not rightfully ours by all forms of stealing: theft, burglary, robbery, mugging, shoplifting, etc.

#### 3. How should we get what we need?

A. We get what we need in an honest way.

a. Eph. 4:28 [196] also 1 Thes. 4:11, 2 Thes. 3:6-13  
What should we not do to get things?

What should we do instead?

How can others get what they need?

b. Num. 26:53 also Josh 11:23, Matt. 7:11  
How did the Israelites get their land?

B. We must not get things dishonestly.

Identify the wrong ways of getting things

a. Lev. 19:13 also Jer. 22:13, 1 Cor. 6:8

b. Lev. 19:35 [194] also Prov. 11:1, 21:6, Exod. 22:7-8

c. Psalm 37:21 [195]

d. Prov. 18:9 also Col. 3:22, 2 Thes. 3:6-13

e. Luke 3:12-14 (v. 14) also 2 Kings 5:15-27

*See if you can define or give an example of:*  
*poor workmanship*  
*cheating*  
*fraud*  
*overcharging*  
*usury*  
*extortion*  
*blackmail*  
*bribery*  
*counterfeiting*  
*forgery*  
*embezzling*

We should get what we need in an honest way as we earn, produce, inherit or get it as a gift.

We should not try to get possessions dishonestly, without earning or deserving them, such as:  
poor workmanship, laziness,  
gambling, cheating, fraud,  
overcharging, usury, not paying debt,  
blackmail, bribery, extortion,  
counterfeiting, forgery, embezzling, etc.

#### 4. How should we help others?

A. We should help others have what they need.

Identify ways of helping others.

a. Heb. 13:16 [201] also Lev. 9:10, Prov 14:31,  
Luke 3:11, 2 Cor. 8:7, 13-14, 9:7,  
Gal. 6:9-10, 1 Jn 3:17-18

b. Matt. 5:42 [200] also Luke 6:34

c. Rom. 13:7 also Matt. 22:17-21

d. 1 Tim. 5:8                      also Gen. 13:8-9

**B. We should not be selfish.**

a. Phil. 2:4 [199]                      also 1 Cor. 10:24, Gal. 6:9-10  
What should we be concerned about

b. Exod. 22:21-22  
How should we not treat people?

c. Jas. 3:16                                      also Jas. 3:14  
What will lead to evil activities?

d. Luke 12:15                                      also Eph. 5:3, Col. 3:5  
How should we not feel about possessions?

*See if you can define or give an example of:*  
*charity*  
*hospitality*  
*employee loyalty*  
*greed*  
*envy*  
*coveting*  
*stinginess*

We should help others to have and keep the things they need through gifts, charity, hospitality, fair loans, paying taxes, helpful assistance, good advice, fair prices and wages, employee loyalty, etc. We should not selfishly be concerned only with our own desires and will: greed, envy, coveting, stinginess, etc.

**5. How should we use our possessions?**

**A. We should use everything carefully.**

a. Gen. 2:15  
How should we use what God gives us in the world?

b. 1 Pet. 4:10                      also Matt 21:33-43, Luke 12:42-48  
How should we use the things we have?

**B. We should not carelessly ruin things.**

a. Exod. 22:5-6  
What should be done if carelessness ruins another's property?

b. John 6:12  
What should we not do?

*See if you can define or give an example of:*  
*thrift*  
*conservation*  
*stewardship*

*vandalism*  
*arson*  
*recklessness*

We should protect and take care of everything God gives us and others to use, and use all we have to serve God and do his will through: offerings, good stewardship, thrift, conserving, good service, etc. We should not ruin or waste things which belong to others or are ours to use through: vandalism, arson, carelessness, destructiveness, etc.

**6. How has Jesus kept this commandment?**

**A. Jesus gives us all we need.**

a. Prov. 30:8-9                                      also Matt. 6:31-33  
What does God give us so we do not steal?

b. 2 Cor. 8:9  
What did Jesus do for us?

*Those who have been poor or hungry may take or hoard things out of fear it will happen again. What gives us faith instead of fear?*

Jesus gave up his heavenly riches for us so we can be sure God will provide all we need for life in an honest way.

**REMEMBER FOR LIFE**

*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.

*Eph. 4:28*

He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

*Psal. 37:21*

The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.

10 COMMANDMENTS IX [LSCE  
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EIGHTH COMMANDMENT  
Truth and Justice

1. What gift of God does the eighth commandment protect?

A. God protects truth and justice.

a. John 8:32 also Psal. 51:6, John 1:17, 14:6, 17:7  
What does God want us to know?

b. Isa. 29:21 also Lev. 19:11-18, Prov. 6:16-19, 11:9  
What does false testimony interfere with?

B. God protects good reputations.

Prov. 22:1 also Eccl 7:1  
What is a most valuable thing?

*If you take someone's property by stealing it, you can give it back. If you take it by burning it, you cannot give it back. Which of these is like taking someone's good reputation by saying bad things?*

The eighth commandment protects the gift of truth and justice, including a good reputation.

2. How do we protect justice for each other?

A. We must say what is true.

Eph. 4:25 [204] also Eph. 4:15, 1 Jn. 2:21  
What must we speak to each other

B. We must not say what is not true.

a. Lev. 19:11 also John 8:44, Col 3:9, 2 Kings 5:22-25  
What must we not do?

b. Zech. 8:16-17 also 1 Kg. 21:9-13, Prov. 14:25, 19:5,  
Where especially must 24:24-25, 28,  
we tell the truth? 1 Tim 1:10, Matt 26:59-60

c. Lev. 19:16 also James 4:11, Psal. 101:5  
What must we not speak? Gen 39:6-8, 10-12, 16-18,  
Eph. 4:31, Col. 3:8-9

*What must witnesses in court swear to tell?*

*If you shot a gun, would you be careful to look first at what it might hit? Once you say something, can you control what happens to your words and where they go? Who decides this?*

We should always be honest and help others by telling only the truth about them and not telling what is not true as in every kind of lie, including:  
perjury (telling a lie in court)  
slander (public speech that is damaging and untrue)  
libel (printing what is damaging and untrue)

3. How are we to speak the truth?

A. We must speak truth in a good way.

a. Eph 4:15 also Prov. 24:26  
How are we to speak the truth?

b. Eph. 4:29

What is to be our goal when we speak?

c. Matt. 18:15-16 [206] also Lev 19:17, Matt 14:3-4,  
What must we tell others truth about? Jas. 5:20

B. We must not speak the truth in a bad way.

a. Matt. 26:25 also Prov. 25:9, Luke 22:47-48  
What did Judas do to Jesus?

b. Prov. 11:13 [205] also Judg. 16:4-21, Prov. 17:9,  
What should we not do? 1 Tim 5:13

c. Luke 23:2-3 also 2 Sam. 15:3-4, Jer 38:3-4,  
Is what Jesus' accusers say true? Mark 4:58-59,  
Is it honest? Acts 5:1-10

*Before speaking negatively about someone, it is best to ask four questions: Is it true? Is it as positive as possible? Is it helpful? Is it necessary?*

*Can you give an example of a half truth or false advertisement that can make others believe what is not true?*

*If someone is captured and interrogated about things that could be used to hurt others, should they tell the truth?*

We should help others by telling the truth to them in a loving way.

We should not tell truths in a mean or damaging way such as:

- betrayal (telling what is learned only by being trusted not to tell)
- gossip (sharing unkind, uncertain or second hand information)
- or telling truths in a twisted or deceiving way, as in:
  - half truth (using only part of the truth to deceive)
  - deception, exaggeration, false advertising, propaganda, etc. (encouraging others to believe what is not true by using misleading evidence)

4. How are we to defend each other?

A. We must speak to help others.

a. Prov. 31:8-9 [209] also 1 Sam. 19:1-3,  
What should we do for Isa 1:17, Psal. 82:3,  
those treated unfairly?

b. 1 Sam. 19:4 also 1 Sam. 9:6, 20:1-2, Matt 26:10-13,  
How did Jonathan help David?  
Luke 7:4-5,

## Acts

16:102

B. We may remain silent to help others.

- a. Prov. 17:9 also Eccl. 3:7, 1 Cor. 6:7, Eph. 4:26, 31-32  
How might we promote love?

*Think about what someone could say unkindly about you. If you were not there, what would you want someone to reply?*

*Think of one good thing you could truthfully say about each person in your class.*

We should help others, by defending them, speaking out about what is good, and keeping silent about evil when it will be good for all.

5. How do we protect truth with our thoughts?

A. We want to think good of others.

- a. Lev. 19:17-18 also Eph. 4:31-32, Col. 3:13  
How should we not feel about others?

What should our attitude be instead?

- b. 1 Cor. 13:5-6 also Zech 7:10  
What are we not to delight in (v. 6)

1 Cor. 13:7 [210] also Prov. 10:12, 1 Pet 4:8  
What do we want to do instead? (v. 7)

- c. Luke 6:37 [207] also Matt. 7:1-2, Luke 6:41-42,  
What should we not do to people? Rom. 14:10, 13,  
James 4:12

- d. John 7:24 also 1 Sam. 1:12-16, Matt. 12:33,  
What are we not to judge by? John  
1:45-46

- e. Acts 17:11 1 Cor. 2:15, 14:29, 1 John 4:1  
What are we to judge by?

*Love is wanting what is good for others. Can you still do this if you think they have done what is bad?*

*Which of these things can tell you if a person is good or bad? color of skin, hair or eyes; choice of words or clothing; age; size; actions & behavior.*

We should think of others in the kindest truthful way, not taking an interest in lies or evil.  
We should not think evil to ourselves about others as in:  
- hatred or holding a grudge  
- prejudice (believing evil about all individuals in a group)  
- sinful judging (making assumptions about evil thoughts or motives based on mere appearances)

It is not wrong to judge teaching or behavior that is clearly wrong according to the Bible.

6. How has Jesus kept this commandment for us?

A. Jesus avoided speaking evil.

- a. 1 Pet. 2:22-23

How did Jesus not sin?

- b. Luke 20:21 also John 1:14, 17; 14:6; 18:37,  
What did Jesus always teach? Matt 26:21

- c. Mark 15:4-5 also Isa. 53:7, Mark 14:60-61  
What did Jesus do take our punishment?

B. Jesus speaks well of us.

- a. Luke 23:34

What did Jesus say about those who killed him?

- b. Rom. 8:34 also Heb. 7:25  
What does Jesus always do for us?

*Could Jesus say bad things about us that are true?*

*Which do you think Jesus would talk most about to his Father, what we have done or what he has done for us?*

Jesus revealed to us the absolute truth about God. He saved us from all our sins by silently accepting the injustice of his death, and he is constantly interceding in our favor before his Father's throne.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE*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.

*Eph. 4:29*

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

*Lev. 19:17*

“Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.

10 COMMANDMENTS X [LSCE  
page 89f]  
**NINTH & TENTH COMMANDMENTS**  
**Desires and Ambitions**

1. What gift of God do the ninth and tenth commandments protect?

A. God protects good desires.

a. Psal 37:4 [224] also Psal. 21:2  
 What does God intend to give us?

b. Prov. 13:4 also Prov. 10:4, Eccl. 9:10, Col. 3:23  
 How does God intend us to get our desires?

*Think of three things you would like to do or get in the next 20 years.*

*What would you be willing to do to accomplish them?*

The ninth and tenth commandments protect the gift of desires and ambition, which cause us to be ambitious and work hard.

2. What kinds of desires should we have?

A. We should desire to be faithful Christians.

a. Matt 6:33 also Psal 27:4, Luke 12:29-31, Col. 3:1-6  
 What should we want most of all?

b. Psal 37:4 [224] also Hab. 2:4, Matt. 5:8  
 What should we delight in most?

c. 1 Pet. 4:1-2 also 1 Pet. 1:14-16, 2:2  
 What do we want in life?

B. We should desire what is good for others.

a. Phil. 2:4 [221] also Gen 13:8-11, Phil. 4:17, 3 John 2  
 What should we pay attention to?

b. Gal. 5:13-14 also Rom. 13:10, Gen. 14:14-16  
 How should we treat our neighbor?

C. We should desire what God wants for us.

a. 1 Tim. 6:17 also Prov 30:8-9, Matt 6:25-33, Jas. 1:17  
 What can we expect God to give us?

b. Heb. 13:5 [218] also Job 1:21, Phil. 4:11-12,  
 How should we feel about 1 Tim. 6:6, 8, Job 1:21,  
 what God gives us? 1 Cor. 7:17

*If you could make three wishes for anything you want, what would they be?*

*How many of these things are real needs?*

*How many of them would be good for you?*

*If you parents could wish three things for you what do you think they would be?*

*How many of these do they already give you?*

*Name three things you think God wants you to have? Do you think he can give them to you?*

We should desire most of all to be faithful Christians. We should desire what is good for others and to have for ourselves only what God himself considers best, which is contentment.

3. What kinds of desires should we not have?

A. We should not want what is wrong for us.

a. Gal. 5:19-21 also Rom. 7:8, Gal. 5:24, 1 Pet. 1:14  
 What desires are included in this list of sins?

b. Gen. 3:3, 6  
 Was Eve's desire wrong? Why? (v. 3)

B. We should not want to gain at other's expense

a. Exod. 20:17 also Deut. 5:21  
 What should we not desire?

b. What did the individuals in these verses desire?  
 2 Sam. 11:2-3

1 Kings 21:2-4

John 12:4-6

C. We should not want more than is good.

a. Luke 12:15 [219] also Prov. 23:4-5, Isa 5:8,  
 What kind of desire is wrong? Luke  
 12:16-21, Col. 3:5

b. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 [215]  
 What can the love of money lead to instead?

*If you could get anything you want, but the person you like least gets the same thing,, would you still want it?*

*A large percentage of people who win big in the lottery are soon in debt, in jail or dead. Why do you think this is?*

We should not covet, which is sinful desire for:

- what is wrong to have or wrong for us.
- what is not intended for us to keep, such as Jealousy: refusing to share with others
- what can be ours only as a result of another's loss, such as Envy: wanting what others have, Gambling: trying to get what we have not earned

at the expense of others who lose instead of gain.  
- more than can actually benefit us,  
such as greed and selfishness.

#### 4. Why have two commandments on desires?

A. Wrong thoughts are sinful.

a. Prov. 15:26                      also Prov. 15:26, 20:9, Rom 7:7,  
What does God call                      Gal. 5:19-21,  
Heb. 4:12-13  
wrong thoughts?

b. Matt 5:28

What are wrong desires for another's wife  
just as bad as?

B. Sinful thoughts lead to sinful actions.

a. James 1:14-15 [223]    also Micah 2:1, Matt. 15:9,  
What do evil desires                      Mark 7:21-22, Luke 6:45,  
lead to?                                      1 Tim. 6:9-10, James 4:1-3

b. What other commandments    also Gen. 3:6, 4:3-8  
did coveting lead these men to break??  
2 Sam 12:9: David

1 Kings 21:13-15: Ahab

*Sinful actions are like a fire on the outside of a house. Sinful thoughts are like a fire on the inside of a house. What can both kinds of fire do?*

By these two commandments, God emphasizes that wrong thoughts themselves are sinful, and God reminds us that sinful thoughts are the source of sinful actions.

#### 5. What is the difference between the ninth and tenth commandments?

A. The ninth commandment concerns coveting what we may scheme to take.

Micah 2:1-2 [214]                      also Exod. 5:17, Deut 27:17,  
How might one try to get                      1 Cor. 6:7-8  
another's house?

B. The tenth commandment concerns what we may entice to come to us.

2 Pet. 2:14                                      also Exod. 5:17, 2 Sam. 15:2-6,  
How might one try to get    2 Tim. 3:6, Philem. 12-14  
another's spouse?

*Give examples of wrong ways to try to get another's wife, friends, pets, customers, etc.*

The ninth commandment is about coveting things which we might scheme to take by our own action.

The tenth commandment is about coveting those whom we might entice to come to us by their own action.

#### 6. How has Jesus kept this commandment for us?

A. Jesus sought nothing for himself.

a. Luke 4:3-8                                      also Luke 9:16  
What did Jesus not try to get for himself?  
v. 3  
v. 6  
b. John 17:24  
What is Jesus' desire?

B. Jesus gave up all he had for us.

What did Jesus give up for us?

a. Phil. 2:6

b. John 15:13

*If you are going to be saved, what does Jesus have that you need to get for free at his expense?*

Jesus was willing to give up all he had for us, seeking nothing for himself, so that we might freely have his life, righteousness, spiritual riches, and eternal Glory.

#### REMEMBER FOR LIFE

##### *The Ninth Commandment*

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.

##### *Luke 12:15*

Then he said to them, "Watch out!  
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;  
a man's life does not consist  
in the abundance of his possessions."

##### *Heb. 13:5*

Keep your lives free from the love of money  
and be content with what you have,  
because God has said,  
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."