Luther's Small Catechism

MEMORY CARDS

Ten Commandments

Recite the First Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Second Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Third Commandment.

What does this mean?

The First Commandment
You shall have no other gods.

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

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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.

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.

Recite the Fourth Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Fifth Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Sixth Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Seventh Commandment.

What does this mean?

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.

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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.

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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.

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The 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.

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Recite the Eighth Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Ninth Commandment.

What does this mean?

Recite the Tenth Commandment.

What does this mean?

The Close of the Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

What does this mean?

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.

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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.

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The 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.

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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.

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.

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