

1st Commandment and Meaning
(Questions 19 – 23) pp. 56-61 in Catechism

You shall have no other gods.

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

Questions:

- 1) Who is the only true God?
 - a. *Answer:* The only true God is the “Triune God”
- 2) What is meant by “Triune?”
 - a. Three-In-One: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - b. *Example:* H₂O
 - i. Liquid – Water
 - ii. Solid – Snow, Ice
 - iii. Gas – Vapor
- 3) What are considered to be false gods?
 - a. Any creature or thing people worship other than the Triune God
 - b. Any person or thing in which you have faith who is not the Triune God
 - c. Any person or thing you fear, love, or trust instead of the Triune God
 - d. When people join in worship of a god other than the Triune God
- 4) What 3 things does God require in the 1st Commandment?
 - a. Fear Him – Honor/Revere Him
 - b. Love Him
 - c. Trust Him

2nd Commandment and Meaning
(Questions 24 – 34) pp. 61-67 in Catechism

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

Meaning: 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.

Questions:

- 1) What does God forbid in the 2nd Commandment?
 - a. God forbids the misusing of His name
- 2) What does it mean to use God's name in vain?
 - a. It means to use God name without meaning
- 3) What is the difference between cursing and swearing?
 - a. **Cursing** – Blaspheming by speaking evil or mocking Him or calling down anger and punishment of God on yourself, your neighbor, or some other thing.
 - b. **Swearing** – Taking an oath where God is called upon to witness and to punish us if we lie or break our promise
- 4) Are we ever permitted to swear? Explain.
 - a. Yes, when an oath is necessary for the glory of God of the welfare of our neighbor
 - b. Examples: Testify in Court, Wedding Vows, Taking Government Office
- 5) What are satanic arts?
 - a. **Witchcraft** – fortune telling, casting spells, horoscopes, etc.
 - b. **Satanism** – The worship of the devil or Satan.
- 6) What is meant by lying or deceiving by God's name?
 - a. Teaching false doctrine and claiming that it is God's teaching
 - b. Pretending to be a Christian when you're an unbeliever

3rd Commandment and Meaning
(Questions 35 - 40) pp. 67-73 in Catechism

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Meaning: 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.

Questions:

- 1.) What is meant by the word “Sabbath?”
 - a. The word Sabbath means “rest”
- 2.) What is the Sabbath day?
 - a. The church recognizes the Sabbath day as any day people set aside to rest and gather together to hear God’s Word and receive His means of grace.
- 3.) Does require us to still observe the Sabbath?
 - a. God no longer requires us to observe the Sabbath day because Jesus is our Sabbath...Jesus is our rest.
- 4.) Why does the church worship together on Sundays?
 - a. The church worships together on Sundays because Christ Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday.
- 5.) When do we sin against the 3rd Commandment?
 - a. We sin against the 3rd Commandment when we despise preaching
 - b. We sin against the 3rd Commandment when we despise the God’s Word
- 6.) How do we despise preaching and God’s Word?
 - a. We despise preaching and God’s Word when we do not attend public worship (i.e. go to church)
 - b. We despise preaching and God’s Word when we do not use God’s Word and Sacraments
 - c. We despise preaching and God’s Word when we use God’s Word and Sacraments in a negligent or careless way
 - i. Refusing to hear God’s Word
 - ii. Rejecting the Holy Spirit
 - iii. Disregarding the Sacraments as mere symbols
- 7.) What does God require of us in the 3rd Commandment?
 - a. God requires us to hold preaching and His Word sacred
 - b. God requires us to gladly hear, learn, and meditate on His Word
 - c. God requires that we honor and support the preaching and teaching of His Word
 - i. **Galatians 6:6-7** – *Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

Commandments' Summarized (Questions 41 - 47) pp. 72-73 in Catechism

There are Two (2) Tables of Commandments:

- Commandments 1, 2, & 3 First Table
- Commandments 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10 Second Table

1. What do the Two Tables of Commandments show us about ourselves?
 - a. The **First Table** shows us that we have sinned against God and deserve God's condemnation.
 - b. The **Second Table** shows us that we have sinned against our neighbor and deserve God's condemnation.
2. Since we have sinned against God based on our understanding of the First Table of Commandments, who then is able to keep God's Law perfectly?
 - a. None of us can keep God's Law perfectly because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
 - b. There has only ever been one person who alone kept God's Law. That person is Jesus Christ, God's Son.
 - i. **Hebrews 4:15**: *"We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet without sin."*
3. How does Jesus' keeping God's Law perfectly benefit us sinners?
 - a. Jesus was our substitute (Jesus took our place as sinners) and keeping God's Law perfectly is part of His saving work for us.
 - b. **Great Exchange** – Jesus exchanged (switched) places with us taking and paying the price of our sin and giving us His righteous and perfect life before God our Heavenly Father.
4. Commandments 4-10 show us that we have sinned against our neighbor. Who is our neighbor?
 - a. Our neighbor is "All people."
 - b. **Galatians 6:10**: *"As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*
5. What is the summary of the Two Tables of Commandments?
 - a. The First Table of Commandments is summarized in **Matthew 22:37** and **Deuteronomy 6:5** which say, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*
 - b. The Second Table of Commandments is summarized in **Matthew 22:39** and **Leviticus 19:18** which say, *"And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."*

4th Commandment and Meaning
(Questions 48 - 51) pp. 74-76 in Catechism

Honor your father and your mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

Meaning: 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.

Questions:

- 1.) Who does Luther say are our parents and other authorities?
 - a. Luther explains that our fathers, mothers, and guardians are our parents.
 - b. Luther explains that other authorities whom God has placed over us at home, in the government, at school, at the workplace, and in church are our parents.
 - i. Grandparents
 - ii. Aunts/Uncles
 - iii. Police/Fire/Rescue/Judges/Governors/Presidents
 - iv. Teachers/Principals
 - v. Manager/Boss
 - vi. Pastor/DCE/Deaconness
- 2.) What does God forbid in the 4th Commandment?
 - a. God forbids from not respecting our mother and father and others in authority
 - b. God forbids from angering those in authority over us by disrespecting them
- 3.) What does God expect from us in the 4th Commandment?
 - a. God expects us to honor our mothers, fathers, and others in authority because God placed in over us in the first place
 - b. God expects us to serve our mothers, fathers, and others in authority gladly and doing what they ask or require from us
 - c. God expects us to obey in everything our parents and others in authority request
 - d. God expects us to love and cherish our parents and authorities as special gifts given to us by God Himself
 - e. God expects us to be respectful of our elders (i.e. elderly)
- 4.) What makes the 4th Commandment unique in comparison to all the other Commandments?
 - a. The 4th Commandment is unique because it is the only commandment to which God attaches a promise: *“...that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*
- 5.) Where is this promise recorded in the Bible?
 - a. The promise is recorded in **Exodus 20:12** and **Ephesians 6:3**