

Back to the Basics: Luther's Large Catechism – The Ninth & Tenth Commandments

The Ten Commandments Preach Repentance

The Ten Commandments show us our sin and how much we need a Savior.

- ☐ You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
- Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



Prayer: These are the holy Ten Commands
 God gave to us by Moses' hands
 When high on Sinai's mount he stood,
 Receiving them for our good.
 Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 1)



Ninth Commandment



10th Commandment

The Six Chief Parts:

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

The Ninth Commandment

Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:

*You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
 (God protects the affections of the heart from idolatry.)*

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house or get it in a way which only appears right</i>	Negative command <i>Scheming begins in the heart.</i>
<i>but help and be of service to him in keeping it</i>	Positive command <i>Matthew 7:12</i>

Second Table of the Law: Love for the neighbor

*Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:36-40
 Jacob covets Laban's flock (Genesis 30)*

The Tenth Commandment

Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maid servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

(God protects the affections of the heart.)

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we don't entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him,</i>	Negative command <i>Scheming begins in the heart.</i>
<i>but urge them to stay and do their duty.</i>	Positive command <i>Description of love.</i>

Second Table of the Law: Love for the neighbor

Joseph flees Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39)

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments: *You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is his.*

1. Why did God give these two commandments to the Jewish people after He had given them all the others? [293-295]

2. What is our natural instinct that is at the heart of why God commands us not to covet? [297-299]

3. How do these commandments speak most directly to “pious” people? [300-304]

4. What is the difference between stealing, cheating, and coveting? [307]

5. What are some specific maneuvers and shrewd practices approved by the fallen world that come under divine judgment according to these commandments?

6. What are some deceptive claims and other tricks used today in order to lure people away from their previous loyalties?

7. What is often our attitude and feeling when our neighbor succeeds, prospers, or finds happiness? What does God the Father want our attitude to be?

Closing Prayer

“You shall not crave your neighbor’s house
Nor covet money, goods, or spouse.
Pray God He would your neighbor bless
As you yourself wish success.” Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 10)

Read: 1 Kings 21. It all started with coveting. But instead of stopping at coveting, what other commandments were broken?

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments and Vocation

From the Table of Duties, which teach of our calling, or vocation:

- **To Everyone** – Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 2:1
“Love your neighbor as yourself” is the summary of the entire Second Table of the Law. This means that love for the neighbor is always seeking to preserve, protect, and support our neighbor’s reputation. Every positive description of the Law’s demands in the Catechism’s explanations is a description of this selfless and undeserved love for the neighbor that seeks the neighbor’s welfare. Under the Ninth and Tenth Commandments, we are called to not covet our neighbor’s house, wife, manservant, maidservant, his cattle, or anything that is his.

***Let each his lesson learn with care,
and all the household well shall fare.***