

The Ten Commandments



Part 2

The First Three Commandments

(Love God)

Before We Begin (Always good to review!)

What is the flow of the Divine Service?

The First Commandment

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Who is God?

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:1-3

Note: We will talk about this a lot more when we get to the Apostle's Creed.

What does it mean to fear, love, and trust in God?

Fear – *n.b.* - *servile fear vs. filial fear*

“[Jesus said,] So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10:26-33)

Love – *n.b. Love is an action... feelings follow action!*

- 1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
- 2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- 3 who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!
- 4 You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- 5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- 6 Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.
- 8 I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me! (Psalm 119)

Trust – *n.b. fear, love, and trust are really synonyms for faith.*

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have

eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (John 3:16-18)

Why is the First Commandment the most important one?

²⁸ Let everyone, then, see to it that he values this commandment great and high above all things. Do not regard it as a joke! Ask and examine your heart diligently [2 Corinthians 13:5], and you will find out whether it clings to God alone or not. If you have a heart that can expect of Him nothing but what is good—especially in need and distress—and a heart that also renounces and forsakes everything that is not God, then you have the only true God. If, on the contrary, your heart clings to anything else from which it expects more good and help than from God, and if your heart does not take refuge in Him but flees from Him when in trouble, then you have an idol, another god. (Large Catechism)

2 Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”

The Second Commandment

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.

What are the three reasons we pray?

Command:

- 2nd Commandment – “Call upon it in every trouble, pray...”
- Matthew 6:7-15
- Luke 11:1-13

Promise:

- Psalm 50:15

Need:

- ³⁰ We need to know this: all our shelter and protection rest in prayer alone. For we are far too weak to deal with the devil and all his power and followers who set themselves against us. They might easily crush us under their feet. Therefore, we must consider and take up those weapons with which Christians must be armed in order to stand

against the devil [2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:11]. (LC)

The Third Commandment

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

⁹¹ God's Word is the true "holy thing" [*Heiligtum*; relic] above all holy things. Yes, it is the only one we Christians know and have. Though we had the bones of all the saints or all holy and consecrated garments upon a heap, still that would not help us at all. All that stuff is a dead thing that can sanctify no one. But God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies everything [1 Timothy 4:4-5]. By the Word even all the saints themselves were sanctified [1 Corinthians 6:11]. ⁹² Whenever God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or meditated upon, then the person, day, and work are sanctified. This is not because of the outward work, but because of the Word, which makes saints of us all. Therefore, I constantly say that all our life and work must be guided by God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled. (LC)

Preparation For Confession and Absolution According to the Ten Commandments

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

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

What or whom do I fear most?

In what or whom do I trust most for financial security, physical safety, or emotional support?

Do I fear God's wrath and therefore avoid every sin?

Is my love of God evident in my daily life?

Do I expect only good from God in every situation, or do I worry, doubt, complain, or feel unfairly treated when things go wrong?

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.

Does the Gospel adorn my daily speech and conduct, or do I curse, speak carelessly, or misuse God's name?

Have I kept all the vows I have made in the Lord's name?

Am I diligent and sincere in my prayers, or have I been lazy, bored or distracted?

Do I trust that the Lord God will answer them according to His good and gracious will?

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.

Do I despise the Word by neglect or by paying little or no attention when it is read or preached?

Am I faithful in the Divine Service, or do I attend sporadically, preferring to be elsewhere when the Church is at worship?

Do I pray for my pastor and support his efforts to guard Christ's flock from error?