

Back to the Basics: Luther's Large Catechism – The Fifth Commandment

The Ten Commandments Preach Repentance

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

- C** 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)

The Six Chief Parts:

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

The Fifth Commandment



Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:

*You shall not murder.
 (God protects His gift of life.)*

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body</i>	Negative Command
<i>but help and support him in every physical need</i>	Positive Command Description of love.

Second Table of the Law: Love for the neighbor
Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:36-40

Cain murders Abel (Genesis 4)

The Fifth Commandment: *You shall not murder.*

1. Does the Fifth Commandment forbid all taking of human life? Who has been given that authority? [180-181]

2. How does Jesus help us understand the fuller meaning of the commandment to not murder? [182]

3. In what ways are we tempted to violate the Fifth Commandment? [183-188]

4. How do we fail to keep the Fifth Commandment by doing nothing? [189-195]

5. How do we fall into the same trap of thinking there are “higher” and more “churchly” works, as opposed to the routine and everyday “ordinariness” of God’s commands? [196-198]

Closing Prayer

“You shall not murder, hurt, nor hate;
Your anger dare not dominate.
Be kind and patient; help, defend,
And treat your foe as your friend.”
Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 6)

The Fifth Commandment and Vocation

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

- **Of Civil Government** – 1 Timothy 3:2-4; Titus 1:9
Civil Authorities and civil leaders are among the “other authorities” of the Fourth Commandment. They are to be honored, regardless of their ways or failings, because of this command of God and because they stand in God’s stead in the “Left Hand” or secular kingdom. Christians may serve in the civil government.
- **Of Citizens** – Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1, 5-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14
Christian citizens are called to look to their civil leaders as “fathers of the community” who are set in positions of authority by God for the common good or welfare of the people. The Christian life includes honor and respect for civil authorities, obeying the laws of the land, paying taxes, and praying for the government and citizens of the country. However, civil authority is not to be obeyed when such obedience would constitute a direct violation of the clear Word of God.
- **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 life.

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