

# Back to the Basics: Luther's Large Catechism – The Sixth 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.

See: Genesis 2:22-25 & Mark 10:6-9

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

### The Six Chief Parts:

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

## The Sixth Commandment



### Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:

*You shall not commit adultery.  
 (God protects His gift of marriage and sexuality.)*

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life</i>	Sexually pure: chaste
<i>in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.</i>	Description of love.

### Second Table of the Law: Love for the neighbor

*Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:36-40*

*David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11)*

## The Sixth Commandment: *You shall not commit adultery.*

1. How does the Sixth Commandment flow from the ones that come before it? [200-201]  
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2. What is covered by the Sixth Commandment? [202-205]  
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\_\_\_\_\_
3. How does the Sixth Commandment help us grow in our understanding and thankfulness for the Institution of Marriage? [206-209]  
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4. How is a vow of chastity contrary to God's Word? [211-216]  
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\_\_\_\_\_
5. How are children to be taught about the command and promise associated with marriage? [217-218]  
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\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does Luther summarize this commandment? [219-221]  
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7. Contrast the following statements: (1) Marriage was a human development. (2) Marriage was created and instituted by God, as recorded in Genesis.  
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\_\_\_\_\_
8. Within marriage, what is the key for maintaining a chaste and healthy appreciate and use of sexuality in one's thinking, speech, and behavior? If mutual love and respect are the basis for a happy marriage, what is the basis and source of such marital love and respect?  
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### Closing Prayer

"Be faithful to your marriage vow; No lust or impure thoughts allow. Keep all your conduct free from sin By self-controlled discipline." Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 7)

### The Sixth Commandment and Vocation

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

- **To Husbands** – 1 Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19  
*Within the office of husband is the only proper place for the man to give and enjoy the gift of sexual love. Sexual intimacy is reserved for his lawful Christian wife. The Christian husband is called to "respect" his wife "as the weaker partner." She is the "weaker" partner not because she is physically or emotionally weak, but because she is in a subordinate position to the husband according to her office. He is to love her as Christ loves the Church, sacrificing his body for her and giving his body to her physically so that she might enjoy the gift of life from him in the procreation of children.*
- **To Wives** – Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:5-6  
*Within the office of wife is the only proper place for the woman to receive and enjoy the gift of sexual love. Sexual intimacy is reserved for her lawful Christian husband. The Christian wife is called to submit or subordinate herself to her husband; this means that she is called to allow him to love her, to give himself to her, to care for her, to protect her, to nurture her, to teach her God's Word, and to forgive her. Subordination is a characteristic of faith in Christ. Submission yields to the Lord and trusts that His Word and how He has ordered life in marriage is good. The wife's act of subordination to her husband is a confession of faith in the Lord who promises to do her good and to bless her in her office as wife and mother.*

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