

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

## 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)

### The Six Chief Parts:

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

## The Seventh Commandment



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

*You shall not steal.*

*(God protects His gift of personal property.)*

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way</i>	Negative command
<i>but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.</i>	Positive command

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

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

*Achan the Thief (Joshua 7)*

**The Seventh Commandment:** *You shall not steal.*

1. How is it possible not to take something that is not yours but still be stealing? [223-224]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In what ways does stealing go on all the time in society, even among “law abiding” citizens? [225-227]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why does Luther say that the world is nothing but a “vast, wide sales booth, full of great thieves?” [228, 231]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is Luther’s attitude toward how things are done on the “open market”? [237-244]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is to be our attitude and actions toward our neighbor, according to the Seventh Commandment? [247-248]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does Luther describe the different roles of the government and the Church? Why is this difference in the Two Kingdoms so critical? [249]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How can we help our neighbor, in accordance with this commandment? [250-253]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Closing Prayer*

“You shall not steal or take away; What others worked for night and day. But open wide a gen’rous hand  
And help the poor in the land.” Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 8)

**The Seventh Commandment 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 life. 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 Seventh Commandment, we are called to help our neighbor to improve and protect his possessions and income.*

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