

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

The Ten Commandments



“The Ninth & Tenth Commandments”

by

Thomas F. Fischer



1892 E. Auburn Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
(248) 852-5510 GLCRH.org

The Ninth Commandment

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.”

What does this mean?

“We should fear, love, and trust in God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor’s inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.”

The Tenth Commandment

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

“We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor’s wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.”

I What is “coveting”?

- A. “An unholy craving for something that does not belong to you.”
- B. To be _____-ed with another’s possessions. (besso)

II. Coveting...

- A. We should *not* covet (i.e. have a sinful desire for) our neighbor’s....
 - 1. In-_____ -ance (erith)
 - 2. _____ (ouseh): This also includes....
 - a. _____ of the house (ontetnsc)
 - b. Other possessions such as....

3. _____ (eifw) or husband.

4. _____ (stnserva) and employees

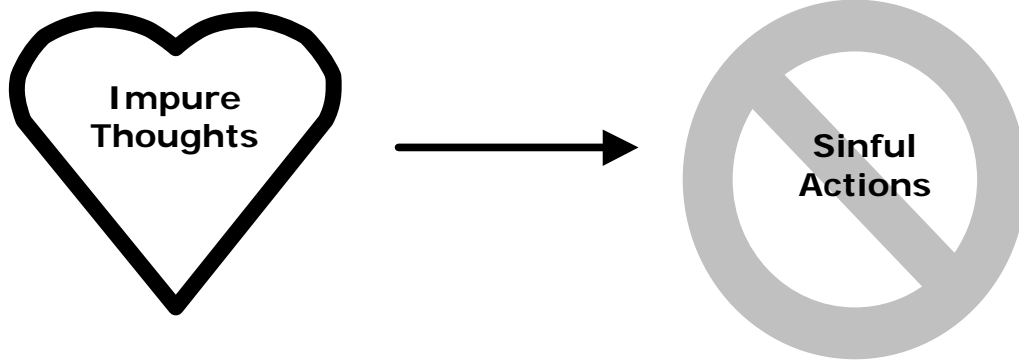
5. Anyone needed to maintain our neighbor's _____-hood (ivelil)

B. The problem with coveting

1. Coveting comes from an unholy _____ (earth)

“But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'.” Jesus in Matthew 15:18-20 (NIV)

2. Covetous desires and impure thoughts often result in _____ actions (ulfsinl)



3. Sinful actions become _____ which lead us away from God. (bitsha)

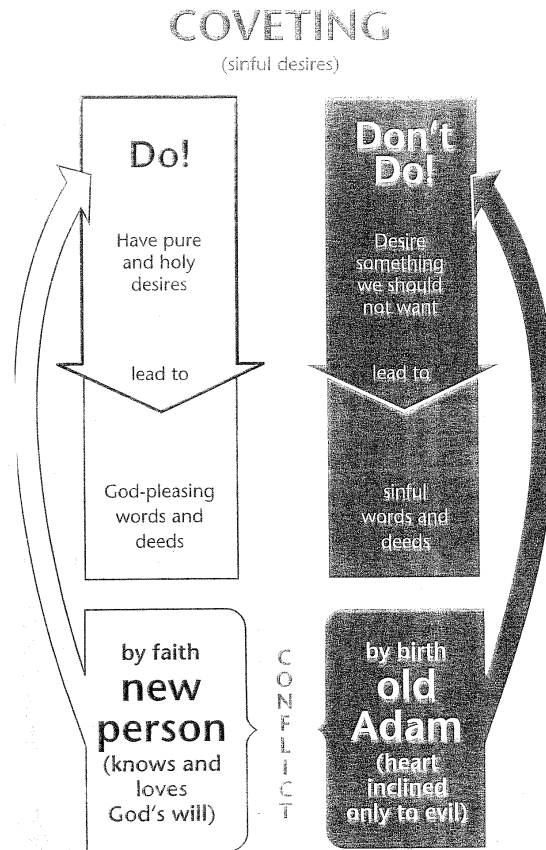
C. What commandments are echoed in the Ninth and Tenth Commandments?

_____ of them! (lal)

“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” James 2:10 (NIV)

D. What we *should* do...

1. Not _____ to get our neighbor's possessions (emehcs)
2. Help our neighbor _____ his house and possessions (tainmain)
3. En_____ -age their spouse, family and employees to work do their respective duties.



From Kuske, *Luther's Catechism*, p. 119

The Close To The Commandments

What does God say about all these commandments?

“He says: ‘I, the Lord your god, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep my commandments.’”

(Exodus 20:5-6)

What does this mean?

“God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.”

1. Based on the above, is God a God who loves or a God who hates?
2. What does it mean that God is a “jealous” God?
3. What blessings does God promise to those who keep the commandments?
4. What curses does God threaten to those who break His commandments?

For Reflection:

- 1) Have you ever coveted? What have you coveted?
- 2) Why does God forbid coveting?
- 3) When Christians covet, what are they saying about their response to God’s gifts to them?

Study Guide: “The Ninth & Tenth Commandments”

Part I: True Or False. *The Ninth & Tenth Commandments.*) Place a “T” (*True*) or “F” (*False*) before each question below.

- ___ 1. “Coveting” is the sinful desire for something that is not ours.
- ___ 2. The Ninth Commandment forbids coveting our neighbor’s wife.
- ___ 3. The best thing about the Ten Commandments is that we can break one commandment without breaking any others.
- ___ 4. Christians don’t need to be covetous because we should be content with what God gives us.
- ___ 5. God blesses those who obey His commandments by rewarding them with eternal life.

Part II: Multiple Choice. Write the letter of the correct answer before each question below.

- ___ 7. Coveting is caused by....
 - a. the devil
 - b. jealousy of what others have
 - c. sinful desires of our heart
 - d. discontent with God’s gifts to us
 - e. all of the above
 - f. none of the above.
- ___ 8. What should we do when we want something our neighbor has?
 - a. ask our neighbor for it
 - b. try to find a way to trick our neighbor to get it
 - c. encourage and help our neighbor protect it
 - d. pray for him
 - e. pray that God will make us content with what we have.
 - f. all of the above.
 - g. A and B
 - h. C, D, and E
 - i. none of the above.
- ___ 9. We keep God’s Ten Commandments because...
 - a. God is full of wrath against sin and those who commit it.
 - b. We fear and love Him
 - c. Like a curb, the Ten Commandments protect us.
 - d. It’s one way we thank God for saving us through Jesus Christ
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. None of the above.