

A Memory Aid for The Ten Commandments



*I will put my law within them, and I will write it ^o on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Jeremiah 31:33*

The Ten Commandments

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. And God spoke all these words saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Exodus 19:20; 20:1

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear,
love,
and trust in God
above all things.

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.

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.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God
so that we do not despise
or anger our parents
and other authorities,
but honor them,
serve and obey them,
love and cherish them.

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God
so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor
in his body,
but help and support him
in every physical need.

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God
so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life
in what we say and do,
and husband and wife
love and honor each other.

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God
so that we do not take
our neighbor's money or possessions,
or get them in any dishonest way,
but help him to improve and protect
his possessions and income.

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God
so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor,
betray him,
slander him,
or hurt his reputation,
but defend him,
speak well of him,
and explain everything in the kindest way.

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love 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.

The Close of 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.

Cover Art: Courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Book Title: [Enchiridion : Der kleine Catechismus für die gemeine Pfarherr vnd Prediger / Mart. Luther](#)

Author: Luther, Martin, 1483-1546

Image Title: Ten Commandments

Scripture Reference: Exodus 19