

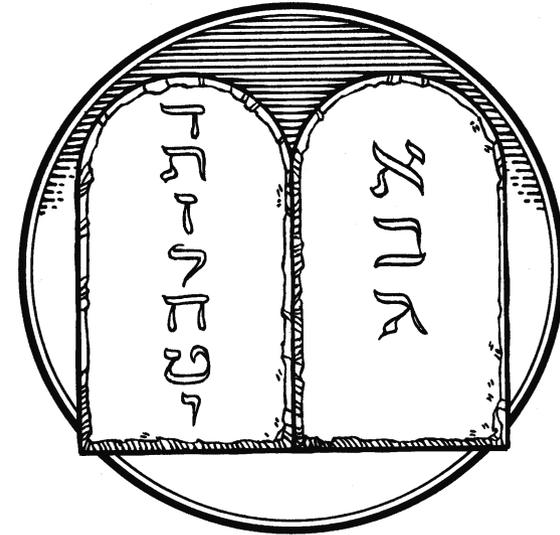
our life in Christ and also teaches us how to live for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor. The Ten Commandments then don't become the main thing but are given in the right perspective for us as Baptized Christians in whom lives Christ Himself.

What rescues us from the Law and it's curse?

Jesus' obedience and His atoning death on the cross take away our sins. This forgiveness is given to us in Holy Baptism and over and over in Absolution, the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacrament of the Altar. These are the gifts of God which actually give us forgiveness, life and salvation.

Understanding the Gospel means the Ten Commandments can be received as they are: a gift also from God. Not a gift which saves us, but which teaches us the sins our Lord takes away and teaches us how to love and serve our neighbor.

Dust Off Your Catechism **A Review of the Six Chief Parts** **of the Christian Faith**



The First Chief Part: **The Ten Commandments**

LEADER'S GUIDE

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Leader's Notes are given in italics.

Opening Hymn: LSB 579

The Ten Commandments

Recite these with the youth.

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and your mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant, or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

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"

The Ten Commandments are in the Bible at Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21.

What gift does each Commandment teach?

It is helpful to think about the Commandments not as arbitrary rules that the Lord gives but as explanations of the gifts that He provides and protects in our lives. This helps to teach us that sin is more than just "breaking a rule" but a rejection of our heavenly Father's gifts.

- 1. God's gift of HIMSELF. The Lord is our God. Only**

for every commandment we broke. What frees us from the Law's curse is that Jesus does what we cannot do and is punished for what we did do. It is HIS obedience which is counted for us for our salvation. We are given credit for what He has done and He is given credit for our sins. We are given His perfection and He takes our sins away. The curse of the Law is removed from us because it is instead put upon Jesus who, because He is the Son of God, can endure it and get rid of it.

Galatians 3:21 /s the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

As Christians, how do we use the Law in our daily lives?

The Law is used to teach us how to glorify God and love our neighbor. If you want to know how to live as a Christian, just look at the Ten Commandments. You can explain using the Ten Commandments in this way:

In the morning, when you make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your Baptism, recite the Ten Commandments, asking the Lord to teach you how to live as a Baptized child of God according to them, so that He is glorified and your neighbor is served.

At night before bed, when you once again remember your Baptism, use the Ten Commandments as a mirror to show you where you've sinned that day. Then, confess your sins and live in the grace and comfort of your baptism that has taken away all your sins.

In this way, the Ten Commandments are seen in their proper perspective: not as the means by which we live, but as the Word of God which teaches us to repent and seek

Do the Commandments give us the power to keep them?

The Commandments have the power to condemn but they don't have the power to make us do them. A conversation with the Law of God would go something like this:

Commandments: "Do us or die."

Sinner: "But I can't keep you."

Commandments: "Keep us or die."

Sinner: "I can try, but I'll fail."

Commandments: "But if you don't keep us, you die."

Sinner: "I can't do it!"

Commandments: "Then go to hell!"

The Law has the power to increase sin, showing us that we are sinful. But it has no power to make us right. We can't keep the commandments and therefore we are condemned.

If we don't have the power to keep the Law and the Law condemns us if we don't, what can we conclude about ourselves on the basis of the Law?

The only conclusion—according to the Commandments—is that we are sinners who are doomed. It is impossible to draw any other conclusion about ourselves from the Law other than that we are damnable sinners.

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Who keeps the Law? How are we freed from the Law's curse?

Jesus keeps the Law for us and is punished for our not keeping it. Another way of saying it is this: Jesus lived our life and died our death. That is, He lived, keeping every commandment that we did not and He died, being punished

He can take care of us and give us all good things.

2. The gift of GOD'S NAME. The Lord gives us His name as one which we can call upon and use when we need Him.

3. The gift of GOD'S WORD. Recall that the Catechism's explanation of the Third Commandment is about hearing God's Word. In His Word He gives us Christ and reveals His heart to us through Jesus.

4. The gift of PARENTS AND AUTHORITIES. These are the people the Lord gives us to take care of us and provide for us.

5. The gift of LIFE. Here is our life, given to us by the Lord and to be protected.

6. The gift of MARRIAGE. God's gift of marriage is a holy one in which Christ and the Church are pictured. Also given as a gift is a self-control and a celibate life while sinning like.

7. The gift of our PROPERTY. To use the technical term, this is the gift of all our "stuff."

8. The gift of our REPUTATION. Our good name is a gift from God, though in today's world this seems a worthless thing, it is a treasure from the Lord to be through well of and to have a good reputation among others

9 and 10. The gift of CONTENTMENT. In these last two commandments, the Lord teaches us to receive all His gifts with thanksgiving, to rely upon Him for whatever we need and to be content and happy with whatever He gives us.

What are the Two Tables of the Law?

Jesus summarizes these two tables of the Law and we see them in the pictures of the commandments as two stone tablets. The First Table: Love God. The Second Table: Love Your Neighbor. Notice that even though the man below asks which is the great commandment (singular) Jesus gives both as the answer, connecting them together.

Matthew 22:36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, "You

shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is the first and great commandment. 39 "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

What does the First Table teach us?

The First Table teaches us to love God above all things. He is the only one who can truly care for us and give us anything good.

What does the Second Table teach us?

The Second Table teaches us to love our neighbor. Our neighbor is every other person whom the Lord has put in our lives, beginning with our parents and families, our friends, coworkers, and so on.

What is sin?

Sin is far more than just breaking a commandment. When we break a commandment, what we are actually doing is rejecting something the Lord has given us. For example, to disobey parents is to say, "I don't like the parents God gave me and I want other parents or no parents." Put that way, breaking the commandments is much worse than simply breaking a rule. It's a refusal to acknowledge God as the giver of every good gift. The worst thing God can do (and this is really the nature of hell) is to then give us what we want: No God and no neighbor!

Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? **2** This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? **3** Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh? **4** Have you suffered so many things in vain -- if indeed it was in vain? **5** Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? --

6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

What do most people think about the Ten Commandments?

Most people think of the Ten Commandments as just rules that God made up to control how we live. This is to picture God not as a loving Father but as a Jail Warden or School Principal whose job is just to hand out rules and enforce them.

Do they think they keep them?

Most people think they are pretty good at keeping the commandments. The deeper meanings (such as being angry at someone being murdered or lust being adultery) are lost on them and so most people not only think they keep the commandments but are better than others.

What do most people think the main teaching of Christians is?

The Commandments are usually seen as what Christianity is all about. People think of Jesus' main teaching as how we are to live. If you're a Christian, that's all about keeping Commandments. But the Commandments are God's Law and can't save us. The true center of the Christian faith is that Jesus died and rose for the forgiveness of sins. This teaching the world knows nothing about.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them." **11** But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." **12** Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."

What does the Law say about those who don't keep it?

The Law condemns those who don't keep it. Unless we keep the commandments, we will die. That's all the commandments say. Do them or die.