



The Ten Commandments

Explanation of The Ten Commandments 1-5

1. I am the Lord your God. Do not have any god except me.

What does this mean?

We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

2. You are not to misuse the name of your God.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.

3. Remember God's special day and keep it holy.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching or God's Word, but instead keep that Word holy and gladly hear and learn it.

4. You are to honour your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honour, serve, obey, love, and respect them.

5. You are not to kill.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbours, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs.



The Ten Commandments

Explanation of The Ten Commandments 6-10

6. You are not to commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and each of us loves and honours his or her spouse.

7. You are not to steal.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbours' money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

8. You are not to bear false witness against your neighbour.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbours, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defence, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

9. You are not to covet your neighbour's house.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbours out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the life, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

10. You are not to covet your neighbour's spouse, male or female servant, cattle, or whatever is theirs.

What does this mean?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbours their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfil their responsibilities to our neighbours.