

Part 1: The Ten Commandments

The First Commandment

I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

What is meant by this?

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

The Second Commandment

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to despise preaching and His Word, but deem it holy, and willingly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

The Fifth Commandment

Thou shalt not kill.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to do our neighbor any bodily harm or injury, but rather assist and comfort him in every bodily need.

The Sixth Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as to live chaste and pure in words and deeds, and husband and wife each love and honor the other.

The Seventh Commandment

Thou shalt not steal.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to take our neighbor's money or property, nor get it by false wares or false dealings, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

The Eighth Commandment

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to falsely belie, betray, slander, nor raise injurious reports against our neighbor, but apologize for him, think and speak well of him and put the best construction on all he does.

The Ninth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to desire by craftiness to gain possession of our neighbor's inheritance or home, or to obtain it under some pretext of a legal right; but be ready to assist and serve him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

What is meant by this?

We should so fear and love God as not to estrange or entice away from our neighbor his wife, or servants but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What does God say of all these commandments?

He says: I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

What is meant by this?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments; we should, therefore, fear His wrath, and do nothing against such commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments; we should, therefore, love and trust in Him, and gladly do according to His commandments.