

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Ninth Commandment

After completing the lesson, the student will:

- Know the 9th commandment.
- Know what the 9th commandment means for our lives.
- Define what ‘covet’ means.
- Describe ways we can prevent coveting in our own lives.
- Know all of the Ten Commandments.
- Know the Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

1. Use your catechism to write in the following information about the Ninth Commandment. Please copy it word for word below.

What is the Ninth Commandment?

What does this mean?

To covet means to desire, long for, or crave something that is not your own and belongs to another person. While there are certain things we are to desire in life, this commandment is aimed especially at that which we are not to crave—the belongings or property of someone else. The focus of this Commandment is one’s heart. Therefore, while physical action against your neighbor’s property is prohibited in the 7th Commandment (stealing), this commandment exhorts us to look primarily at our motives and attitudes towards our neighbor’s belongings.

More often than not, when we want something that does not belong to us, it is because we think it will make us happy. We want a new cell phone because it will be better than our old one and make us happy. We want the newest video game because it will make us happy. We want that new shirt or pair of shoes because we believe it will make others like. The list could go on and on.

The point is this, we want things because we love, trust, or fear something more than God. When we doubt what God says we are worth (highly valuable to Him!) and began believing what the world says (only valuable if you have the best clothes, go to the best school, and have a good looking boyfriend or girlfriend), we are really loving what the world says more than God. We are also fearing what man thinks

more than God. And even trusting what humans say more than what God says. It's when our fear, love, and trust is located in something or someplace other than God, that we began coveting what is not ours. When this happens, not only are we breaking the first commandment (and all of them) but we also will never be satisfied. How long does that new shirt satisfy you before you want a new one? How long do those new shoes make you happy? How long does that cell phone or video game last before you want the next and better version? When we believe the lies of Satan and desire those things above God, we are only feeding a desire that will never be satisfied.

2. What does it mean to “covet”?

3. List several examples of how you might positively keep the 9th Commandment.

4. What are some things we should not covet or crave? Read the following passages as you answer.

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:2-6;

1 Kings 21:1-4;

Ephesians 2:3;

1 Timothy 6:9;

5. Is ‘coveting’ or ‘desiring’ ever, right? Read the following passages as you answer.

1 Corinthians 12:31;

1 Corinthians 14:1;

1 Peter 2:2;

Once a sinful lust or craving begins in our hearts, and we feed it by constant thought, it soon overcomes us. A sinful craving for our neighbor's property will move us to seek to get our neighbor's property by trickery or by pretending it is ours by right. It is a truth that he who covets will often seek to get what he covets.

6. Read the following passages in your Bibles and note what they say regarding coveting. Note its hazards, how it can be prevented, and God's will for us in this commandment.

Mark 4:19

James 4:2

STUDENT & PARENT QUESTIONS: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. We live in a materialistic culture, that values people based on the things they possess (i.e. money, nice cars/house, promotions, accomplishments, trendy clothing, newest video game, popular boyfriend, or the latest cell phone). What are some things that your family covets?
2. What are two ways your family can break from our culture of materialism, and practice contentment (aka: being satisfied with what you have), instead of always “needing” the newest and best things.

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the “Student & Parent Questions” section together

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____