

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Tenth Commandment and Conclusion

After completing the lesson, the student will:

- Know what the 10th Commandment is.
- Know what the 10th Commandment means for our lives.
- Be able to describe what it means that God is a ‘jealous’ God.
- Explain the difference between ‘actual’ and ‘original’ sin.
- Describe what the purpose of the Law is.
- Describe what the purpose of the Gospel is.
- Explain two ways the 10 Commandment section in your catechism can be used in your everyday life.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

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

What is the Tenth Commandment?

What does this mean?

While the 9th commandment focuses upon a single object (a neighbor’s home and inheritance), the 10th commandment mentions a number of objects, and concludes with the thought “anything that is your neighbor’s”. This commandment can be understood as having a focus not so much on coveting an individual item, but rather, the sin of covetousness in general as a condition of one’s heart. Not only does God desire us not to covet specific items, He also prohibits here a spirit or heart of covetousness. This quality in a person is part of our old nature, and God tells us not to allow it to reign in us. Rather than lust or covetousness, our hearts are to be filled with holiness and a desire to see our neighbor’s condition improved. While the first and most obvious focus here would be upon your neighbor’s spouse, we are also not to be seeking to create problems or discontent amongst our neighbor’s family or friends. We should not seek to alienate our neighbor’s family or his friends from him, and rather, seek to build up relationships to his good.

2. Read the following Scripture passages. Describe the manner in which they show coveting.

2 Samuel 11:2-4;

2 Samuel 15:4-6;

Matthew 5:28;

3. What is the conclusion of the 10 Commandments? (see page 59 of your Catechism)? Summarize in your own words what it means.

It is important that we understand rightly what the Catechism (and Bible) mean when they refer to God as ‘jealous’. It is not as you and I would commonly think. The word is one that means ‘zeal’ or ‘zealous’. These words describe a passionate intensity to protect or defend something that is jeopardized or in danger. God is ‘jealous’ in that He desires to defend and protect His people (believers), His honor, and His name. By giving us a clear guide as to how we are to live (10 Commandments), God is protecting His people from harm. As much as there is great blessing in obeying Him, there are fearful consequences for disobeying Him. The Conclusion to the 10 Commandments makes that clear.

4. What does God mean by saying He is a “jealous” God?

5. Please read the Catechism, pages 59-62 (questions 102-117). You do not have to know each Scripture reference, but please give an answer for each of these questions.

- What is sin?
- What is the difference between ‘actual’ sin and ‘original’ sin?
- Do God’s children always live according to God’s perfect will for them? Why or why not?
- What is the “cure” for our sin sickness?

6. What is the Law and what is its purpose? Read the following passages to help in answering.

Romans 3:20

Romans 7:7

Galatians 3:24

7. What is the Gospel and what is its purpose? Read the following passages to help in answering.

Isaiah 53:6

John 1:29

John 3:16

Romans 1:16

2 Corinthians 5:21

1 Peter 2:24

As we conclude this section on the ten commandments, we should spend a moment talking about a practical use for the ten commandments section in your small catechism. This walk through might have felt very academic-doing lessons, sitting in class. However, when the catechism was written, it was not written for lessons or a classroom. In fact, the material was originally preached by Martin Luther as sermons and the Catechism was written as a tool for Fathers to teach their children. This was meant to be practical. There are lots of uses, but here are a couple suggestions.

- 1) Devotionally: Confession is an important part of the Christians life. Indeed, it should be a daily discipline because when we confess our sins to God, we find his grace and mercy (I John 1). Many people are tempted to sweep their sin under the carpet, or minimize it. They might say things like, "*It's not that big of a deal... everybody does it... you just thought about it, it's not like you actually did anything.*" But God tells us to confess our sins, not pretend they are unimportant. So, pray through the ten commandments, using their explanations as a guide to confessing your sin to God, and then remember God's wonderful promises to forgive (I John 1:9, Psalm 103:10-14). God is always merciful to forgive, but we do ourselves no service when we hide our sins from Him.
- 2) Wisdom for life: Sometimes, many times, almost all the time, we encounter problems and hard decisions in our lives. We may struggle with what the right thing to do is. Meditating over your small catechism's explanations can be helpful. Thou shalt not murder. The explanation may reveal that you are struggling to see what is right in a situation, because the right choice may benefit someone against whom you are holding a grudge. Prayerfully seek God's wisdom. He created the world; He knows how it's supposed to run. He knows what is moral and immoral, regardless of what the world thinks or is politically correct.

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

1. Review the 10 Commandments in your catechism together (parent and child). Describe one commandment that you feel your family is doing well at keeping, and one commandment that you feel your family breaks most often.

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: _____