



19 Minutes with Luther

The Sixth Commandment

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- **6th Commandment**
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

1. In this commandment, God protects his gifts of sex and marriage. Using Genesis 2:24 as a guide (*"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh"*), define marriage.
2. In addition to enjoying God-pleasing sexual union, what are the other two blessings that God gives to those who are married?

3. Which sins against the Sixth Commandment does God condemn in the following verses?

"Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9,10).

"I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28).

"I hate divorce," says the LORD God" (Malachi 2:16).

4. What are the only scriptural grounds for divorce?
5. What are the results of viewing marriage as an evolutionary development of mankind rather than as an institution of a gracious and almighty God?

6. Agree or disagree:

Homosexuality is not always sinful because some people are born that way.

The church should have nothing to do with homosexuals.

It's all right for engaged couples to have sexual relations because, in God's eyes, engagement is the same as marriage.

7. In Ephesians 5:21-25, the apostle Paul outlines the roles of husbands and wives. Paul writes: *“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”* What is the God-appointed role of wives? of husbands? How will fulfilling one's role affect a marriage?
8. Hebrews 7:26 reads: *“Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners.”* According to this verse, how did Jesus save us from our sins against the Sixth Commandment?

Luther said:

“Whoever intends to enter married life should do so in faith and in God's name. He should pray God that it may prosper according to His will and that marriage may not be treated as a matter of fun and folly. It is a hazardous matter and as serious as anything on earth can be. Therefore we should not rush into it as the world does, in keeping with its frivolousness and wantonness and in pursuit of its pleasure; but before taking this step we should consult God, so that we may lead our married life to His glory. Those who do not go about it in this way may certainly thank God if it turns out well. If it turns out badly, they should not be surprised; for they did not begin it in the name of God and did not ask for His blessing.” (Plass, Vol. 2, p. 891.)

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord, thank you for your gifts of sex and marriage. Lead us to glorify you through these gifts by using them in ways that please you. May we live as the people who have been redeemed and made holy by the blood of your Son. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the Sixth Commandment and its meaning.
- Evaluate the television programs viewed in your home with regard to their views of sex and marriage.

Helps

(1) The marriage union is established when a man and a woman freely choose to leave father and mother and enter a lifelong union with each other as husband and wife. In this union husband and wife express their love through God-pleasing sexual relations. (2) God also blesses husbands and wives with loving companionship and with children. (3) God condemns any misuse of his gifts of sex and marriage, including adultery, engaging in sexual relations outside of marriage, homosexuality, impure thoughts and words, and wrongfully seeking a divorce. (4) Sexual unfaithfulness and malicious desertion. (5) This point is key. If marriage is simply a human ordinance, then it is regulated by mankind's changing values and whims; it is not subject to God's will (regarding divorce, the use of sex, roles of husbands and wives) as recorded in Scripture. (6) God condemns all natural sinful inclinations and desires. The church will want to reach out to all people with the truth that sin damns, as well as with the message of forgiveness in Christ and his power to change lives. Although engagement, in God's eyes, is the same as marriage (because consent constitutes marriage), a couple will not want to violate the laws of the government, disobey their parents, or offend others by having sexual relations before marriage. (7) Paul shares advice for a strong and successful marriage: In this marriage the wife will be submissive to her husband (as the church willingly submits to Christ), and the husband will love his wife with the same selfless, self-sacrificing love with which Christ loves the church. As husbands and wives fulfill their roles, the marriage will be blessed. (8) Jesus kept this commandment perfectly in our place—he was pure. As our high priest, Jesus then sacrificed his pure and holy life on the cross of Calvary as the payment for our sins against this commandment.