



19 Minutes with Luther

The Seventh 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 steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

1. In this commandment, God protects the money and possessions with which he blesses us. How (through what means) does God give us these blessings?
2. According to the following passages, what responsibilities does God place on us regarding the use of our money and possessions?

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"
(2 Corinthians 9:7).

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"
(1 Timothy 5:8).

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?" (1 John 3:17).

"If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue" (Romans 13:7).

3. What are some of the principles which God gives us to help us determine how much we will give back to him in offerings?
4. Does God demand that we tithe? How should Christians today regard the tithe? React to the following: The tithe: impossible for some, insufficient for others.

5. Define and/or give an example of each of the following violations of this commandment.

theft

robbery

waste

cheating

fraud

greed

6. Evaluate the following:

The Joneses use all the deductions they possibly can, so that they can get by with paying as little in taxes as possible.

Ann feels guilty when she goes out to eat or to a movie; she realizes that that money could have been given to the poor or to the church instead.

Tim and Kay won't support charities anymore. The last time they did, they later learned that their donation had been misspent.

7. What two things did Jesus do to save us from our sins of omission and commission against the Seventh Commandment.

Luther said:

"God is pleased when I worship and honor Him with all my heart. Abel's offering was pleasing and acceptable because he offered it in the fear of God and in faith and because he strove to show his grateful heart by his gift. For when the heart is offered, this is a gift that is very gratifying indeed to God." (Plass, Vol. 1, pp. 534,535.)

Closing Prayer

Everything we have comes from you, Lord. Help us use our money and possessions in ways that please you, to the glory of your saving name. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the Seventh Commandment and its meaning.
- Compare the percentage of your income spent on luxuries (extra shoes and clothing, electronics, and entertainment) to the percentage used to help the poor and to support the church.

Helps

(1) God blesses us through finding, inheriting, receiving as gifts, trading, working, and purchasing. (2) God wants us to support the church, ourselves, our families, the poor and needy, and the government. (3) God asks us to give in response to the gospel, to give firstfruits, to give regularly, proportionately (that is, percentage giving), and generously, from a willing, thankful, and cheerful heart, as part of our worship. (4) Although God does not demand that we tithe, Christians will use the tithe as a guide. Depending on God's blessings and personal responsibilities, the tithe, for some Christians, will be impossible; for others it will not be nearly enough. (5) Theft is stealing in secret. Robbery is stealing openly and by force. Waste is to use God's blessings carelessly or inefficiently. Cheating takes different forms: it may be withholding something that belongs to another (for example, taxes) or deceiving another in order to receive something in return (cheating on a test). Fraud is to get something by a deception or lie. Greed is a strong desire to have more and more wealth. (6) If the Joneses have a proper attitude toward the government and taxes, it is not wrong to take advantage of any deductions the government allows. If Ann has met her responsibilities, it is not wrong for her to use her extra money for entertainment; money is a blessing from God to enjoy. Tim and Kay should not stop supporting the poor and needy. They should, however, make intelligent and informed donations. (7) Jesus kept the Seventh Commandment perfectly in our place, doing what God demands in this commandment and refraining from what he forbids. Jesus also gave his life on the cross of Calvary as the payment for our damning sins.