



19 Minutes with Luther

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor's spouse, workers, or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

1. Complete the following definition of coveting: Evil _____; wanting something that doesn't _____ to you; never being _____ with what you have; having a never-ending _____ for more.
2. What is the difference between the Ninth and Tenth Commandments? What truth about the "weight" of sinful thoughts does God stress by giving us two commandments that address coveting? Why is this truth difficult for people to accept?
3. What is sometimes our attitude when our neighbor prospers and succeeds in finding happiness in his family life or in his work? To what can this attitude lead? What does God want our attitude to be?
4. Is it a moral requirement, that is, is it God's will that we take positive action to help our neighbor in matters of money and property, as well as in his business and family life? Or is it optional? Give a biblical example of when such help was freely given.

- 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

5. Agree or disagree: It is wrong to offer a person more money so that he will leave his present employer and come to work for you.

6. According to the following passages, why can Christians always be content?

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you” (Psalm 73:25).

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

7. Romans 7:18 reads: *“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.”* Why, even though we want to obey God, do we still have so many sinful desires? Where do these come from? Offer three proofs that this is so.

(a) The _____ says so.

(b) Some _____ die.

(c) Nobody teaches us how to _____.

8. How did Jesus save us from our sins of coveting and from all other sins?

Luther said:

“He is a rich man who is content.”

Closing Prayer

Lord God, every day we battle sinful and covetous thoughts. Strengthen us by your Word so that our thoughts, as well as our words and actions, might be pleasing to you. Help us live as people who have been truly redeemed by the blood of your Son. In his name we ask this. Amen.

At home

- Memorize the Ninth and Tenth Commandments and their meanings.
- Make a list of 15 spiritual blessings and 15 physical blessings that you enjoy—reasons for you to be content.

Helps

(1) Evil lust (craving): wanting something that doesn't belong to you; never being satisfied with what you have; having a never-ending desire (craving) for more. (2) The Ninth Commandment focuses on inanimate, nonliving things: the Tenth, on animate, living things. Sinful thoughts are just as damning as sinful words and actions. This is difficult to accept, because, humanly speaking, sinful thoughts don't harm anyone; there is no law of the land against sinful thoughts. (3) Sometimes our neighbor's prosperity will lead us to jealousy, envy, and coveting. This attitude can lead to sinful actions. God wants us to be happy over our neighbor's prosperity and to be content with what we have. (4) God demands that we help our neighbor. To refuse to do so would be a sin of omission. Paul's encouragement to Onesimus (book of Philemon) is a good example. (5) Answers will vary. Motive is an important factor. While attempting to improve their own businesses, Christians will be careful not to harm another's. Christians will be content and will be on their guard against coveting. (6) Christians already possess the greatest treasure of all, the Lord; and with the Lord comes the promise of everything we truly need. (7) We have so many sinful desires because we have a sinful nature. We were conceived and born this way—in original sin. The Bible says so. Some babies die (proving that they must be sinful). Nobody teaches us how to sin. It is part of our nature. (8) Jesus lived perfectly in our place, keeping the Ten Commandments for us. He also died in our place, offering his life on the cross of Calvary as the payment for our damning sins.