

THE CATECHETICAL CHURCH

The Ten Commandments



1. What are the three main areas in which God has placed his representatives over us? What blessings do we receive through each?

(a) *God blesses us physically through his representatives in the government.*

(b) *He blesses us spiritually through his representatives in the church.*

(c) *And he blesses us both physically and spiritually through his representatives in the home.*

2. How does a child honor his parents by his attitude? by his speech? by his conduct?

A child will honor his parents with an attitude of respect. This will be reflected in his speech, both when he is in and out of his parents' presence. A child will love his parents and demonstrate his love through service and obedience.

3. When this commandment is scorned by children, what harm or sadness is brought upon parents? upon the children themselves? upon society?

Children who scorn this commandment not only harm themselves spiritually but can bring physical harm and embarrassment both on themselves and their families. Society also has to deal with a rebellious citizen.

4. Proverbs 13:24 reads, "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." What does God want his representatives to do with those who sin against this commandment? How can this be a blessing?

God wants his representatives to rebuke and patiently instruct those who sin against this commandment and to punish them when necessary. Such discipline is an important training for life and can prevent a person from falling under the terrible judgment of God.

5. What happens when parents openly disagree about discipline?

When parents disagree about discipline, their authority is eroded; soon their ability to discipline effectively is lost. The result is a rebellious child.

6. What is the significance of this commandment for employees and employers? for citizens and government authorities?

Employees and citizens owe their employers and the government the same thing that children owe their parents: honor, respect, and obedience.

7. Acts 5:29 reads, "We must obey God rather than men!" What does this verse tell us about obedience to parents, employers, and others in authority?

God does not want us to obey those in authority if they tell us to do something contrary to his Word.

8. In his Large Catechism, Martin Luther reminds us that the Fourth Commandment also has something to say to those in authority. What sinful attitudes do parents sometimes have toward their children? What, however, are the blessings from God for parents and superiors who carry out their responsibilities?

At times, parents will fail to see that God has honored them by making them his representatives in the home. They may see their responsibility as a burden and their children as a nuisance. However, God promises both physical and spiritual blessings to parents (the security of family and grandchildren).

9. How does the Fourth Commandment serve as a mirror for us?

The Fourth Commandment shows us our damning sins against God's representatives and our need for a Savior.

10. What two things did Jesus do to save us from our sins against this commandment?

Jesus saved us by keeping the Fourth Commandment perfectly in our place and by offering his life on the cross of Calvary as the payment for our sins.