

THE CATECHETICAL CHURCH



The Ten Commandments

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?

God blesses us through finding, inheriting, receiving as gifts, trading, working, and purchasing.

2. According to the following passages, what responsibilities does God place on us regarding the use of our money and possessions?

- *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

God wants us to support the church.

- *“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8).*

God wants us to support ourselves and our families.

- *“But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” (1 John 3:17).*

God wants us to support the poor and needy.

- *“Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.” (Romans 13:7).*

God wants us to support the government.

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?

God asks us to give in response to the gospel, to give first fruits, to give regularly, proportionately (that is, percentage giving), and generously, from a willing, thankful, and cheerful heart, as part of our worship.

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.

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

- *theft*

Stealing in secret.

- *robbery*

Stealing openly and by force.

- *waste*

To use God's blessings carelessly or inefficiently.

- *cheating*

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*

To get something by a deception or lie.

- *greed*

A strong desire to have more and more wealth.

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

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.