

THE CATECHETICAL CHURCH



The Ten Commandments

1. 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?

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.

2. 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?

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.

3. 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.

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.

4. 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.

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.

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

- “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you” (Psalm 73:25).

Christians already possess the greatest treasure of all, the Lord.

- *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).*

With the Lord comes the promise of everything we truly need.

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

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.