

THE CATECHETICAL CHURCH

The Ten Commandments



1. Explain the following phrases:

- *a jealous God*

God is jealous, that is, serious about his claim to the highest spot in our hearts and lives and serious about wanting us to keep his commandments perfectly.

- *punishing the children for the sin of the fathers*

He punishes those who commit the same sins as their ancestors.

2. According to the following verses, with what does God threaten to punish those who break his commandments?

- *“There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked’” (Isaiah 57:21).*

God threatens to punish with his anger and trouble during this earthly life.

- *“The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4).*

God threatens to punish with temporal and eternal death.

3. Why do we Christians need to remember God’s threat to punish sinners? What should God’s threat lead us to do?

We need God’s threat because our sinful nature opposes God’s will and is inclined to do only evil. His threat should lead us to fear him and not disobey.

4. Complete the three parts of the following statement, and discuss the importance of each. Many churches today deny the reality of hell and look upon it as a religious “scarecrow.” We, however, teach the doctrine of eternal damnation in hell because...

- *...many people **deny** this truth.*
- *...it demonstrates what a terrible thing it is to **sin** against God.*
- *...it demonstrates the enormity of God’s **grace**.*

5. What does God promise to those who love him and keep his commandments? What should this lead us to do?

God promises grace and every blessing to us. This promise should lead us to obey his commands.

6. What must we all confess about our ability to keep the Ten Commandments? Where alone can we turn for help?

We cannot keep the commandments on our own. Only the Holy Spirit, through the Word and the Sacraments, fills us with the desire and ability to obey God.