

# SECTION 1

## THE SIX CHIEF PARTS



### The Ten Commandments

*As the head of the family should teach them  
in a simple way to his household*

- Pre+** 1. **You shall have no other gods.**
- 1st+** *What does this mean?*  
We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
- Pre+** 2. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
- 2nd+** *What does this mean?*  
We should fear and love God  
so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts,  
lie, or deceive by His name,  
but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
- Pre+** 3. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**
- 2nd+** *What does this mean?*  
We should fear and love God  
so that we do not despise preaching and His Word,  
but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
- Pre+** 4. **Honor your father and your mother.**
- 1st+** *What does this mean?*  
We should fear and love God  
so that we do not despise or anger our parents  
and other authorities,  
but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

*The notes in the margin of the catechism refer to the grade level at which that particular portion of the catechism is to be learned by heart. For example, “Pre+” in the margin indicates a section of the catechism that preschoolers and above are to learn by heart.*

*The primary texts of the catechism (that is, the words of the commandments, the creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Bible passages on the sacraments) should be learned first, before the explanations to those texts are memorized. The primary-text material is in bold type in the catechism.*

Pre+ 5. **You shall not murder.**

1st+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God  
so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body,  
but help and support him in every physical need.

Pre+ 6. **You shall not commit adultery.**

2nd+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God  
so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life  
in what we say and do,  
and husband and wife love and honor each other.

Pre+ 7. **You shall not steal.**

1st+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God  
so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions,  
or get them in any dishonest way,  
but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Pre+ 8. **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

2nd+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God  
so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor,  
betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation,  
but defend him, speak well of him,  
and explain everything in the kindest way.

Pre+ 9. **You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

2nd+ *What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God  
so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house,  
or get it in a way which only appears right,  
but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

Pre+ 10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's wife,  
or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey,  
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

2nd+ *What does this mean?*

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

[The text of the commandments is from Exodus 20:3, 7, 8, 12-17.]

1st+ *What does God say about all these commandments?*

**He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,  
punishing the children for the sin of the fathers  
to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,  
but showing love to a thousand generations  
of those who love Me and keep My commandments."**

Exodus 20:5-6

2nd+ *What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments.  
Therefore, we should fear His wrath  
and not do anything against them.  
But He promises grace and every blessing  
to all who keep these commandments.  
Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him  
and gladly do what He commands.