

# STUDY SHEET FOR TEN COMMANDMENTS

## PART 1 - Commandments 1-5

The Bible has two great messages - the Law and the Gospel

The Law is what God expects and demands of us. The Gospel tells us how God has loved us, saved us, and forgiven us in Jesus Christ.

Be able to look at a Bible verse and tell if it is Law or Gospel.

Law: a demand from God, condemnation at our failure to live up to God's expectations

Gospel: A statement of forgiveness, love, acceptance, welcome from God

God's Law has three uses

Curb (or fence) - Restrains sin—keeps the world from deteriorating into total chaos

Mirror - Shows our sin—shows us our need for Jesus and His forgiveness

Guide - Shows us how to live for God, what to do and not do.

The “first table of the Law” deals with our relationship with God. It consists of commandments one through three.

The “second table of the Law” deals with our relationships with others. It consists of commandments four through ten.

The fourth commandment actually could belong in both tables, since parents and others in authority are God's representatives.

In the Bible, the commandments begin with a statement of what God did for Israel: “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” We obey God because He has loved us and saved us.

Know that Lutherans and Catholics number the commandments one way, and Protestants number them another way, and Jews yet another way.

Worship of something other than God is called idolatry. There are two kinds of idolatry:

--Worshipping a false god.

–Putting something else (money, technology, pleasure, etc.) before God

God reveals to us His Name because He wants us to have a personal relationship with Him.

The Name of God in the Old Testament was Yahweh, which means “He who is”.

The Name of God in the New Testament is Jesus. Jesus means “The Lord saves” (or “Yahweh saves”).

Another New Testament name for God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit (the Blessed Trinity).

We use God’s Name to call upon Him in prayer and to worship Him.

We are baptized in the Name of God—at baptism, God’s name is pronounced along with our name (Hank, I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.)

The Sabbath Day in the Old Testament was Friday evening to Saturday evening. No work was to be done on the Sabbath day (because God rested after He created)

Christians worship on Sunday because God began His creation on Sunday and Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday. (The church is allowed, however, to designate other days for worship—as we do at St. Paul’s by having Thursday worship in the summer and Wednesday worship in Lent and Advent).

The Sabbath commandments for Lutherans is a commandment about worship, not about resting on a certain day (Jesus abolished the Sabbath as a day of required rest, although it’s still good to enjoy some “down time”).

Parents, teachers, police officers, judges, and all in authority are representatives of God. They get their authority from God.

When someone in authority orders us to do something wrong, we are required to disobey them. “We must obey God rather than men,” the Bible says.

The Fifth Commandment is traditionally translated “You shall not kill”, but it

actually is “You shall not murder”. (There may be times when killing is tragically necessary, as in a war or in self-defense).

The first murder, according to the Bible, was committed by Cain, who killed his brother Abel. Cain was jealous and resentful because God accepted his brother’s sacrifice but not his.

Jesus tells us that anger, hatred and harsh words are ways in which we “kill” others.

The Bible tells us that the *feeling* of anger is sometimes unavoidable, but we are responsible for our *actions* when angry. We are not to let our anger hurt others, and we are not to hang onto it forever (“do not let the sun go down on your anger”).

#### STUDY SHEET - Commandments 6-10

Dynamite is powerful. This power can be used in a very positive way. For instance, the vast majority of the carving on Mount Rushmore was done with dynamite. However, explosives can also destroy property and kill people. The power of explosives can be used in a positive, creative way, or a negative, destructive way. The same is true of sexuality. Depending on how it is used, it can bring new life into the world and nurture love between husband and wife; but it can also ruin people’s lives with disease, heartbreak, etc. We need to respect its power and not abuse it.

God is the creator of marriage and sexuality.

“In the image of God He made them, male and female He made them” - Genesis 1:26.

In the Bible, the relationship between God and His people is compared to the relationship between husband and wife - God is the bridegroom, His people are the bride.

Jesus takes the sixth commandment and carries it beyond just physical action—looking upon someone with lustful desire is also a kind of adultery.

Know the story of David and Bathsheba:

–David saw Bathsheba taking a bath and desired her. Being the king, he sent for her and began a sexual relationship.

–Bathsheba conceived a child. David tried to cover this up by bringing her husband Uriah home from the battlefield, but Uriah refused to take privileges denied to his troops in the field.

–David engineers Uriah’s death in battle.

–God sends Nathan the prophet to confront David with his sin. Nathan tells the story of the man who owned one little lamb, and whose rich neighbor took that lamb to feed his guests.

–when David is outraged at the man who stole the one little lamb, Nathan tells him: “You are the man!”

–David admits, “I have sinned against the Lord”, and Nathan tells him, “Your sin is put away.”

David violated not just the commandment against adultery, but also against coveting, bearing false witness, and murder (and, of course, the first commandment, since in every sin we put something else before God.).

Jesus died for all sins, and all sins are forgivable through His blood.

God is the giver of all property. If someone has a piece of property, it’s because God has given it to them. Therefore, we can’t take someone else’s property, because that’s “second guessing” God.

Sins against the stealing commandment also include vandalism, cheating on taxes, not returning borrowed property, etc.

Remember the story of Zacchaeus. He was short and climbed a tree to see Jesus. Jesus went to his house. Zacchaeus, a tax collector, had used his position to cheat and defraud people. Now he promises to pay back everything he stole with interest.

The eighth commandment is basically intended to protect people’s reputation and good name.

Sins against this commandment not only include direct lies, but also gossiping.

We should interpret our neighbor’s actions in the kindest way possible—not jump to conclusions about him or her.

Coveting is desiring something so strongly that we will do anything to get it, or hating someone because they have something we don't.

Admiration is not wrong—admiring someone's car, for instance, or their talent.

Remember Bible story of Naboth's vineyard. King Ahab wanted to purchase Naboth's vineyard; Naboth refused. Ahab becomes very angry and, prompted by his wife Jezebel, arranged Naboth's death. There was nothing wrong with wanting Naboth's vineyard, or trying to buy it. The situation became coveting when Ahab grew angry and resentful at Naboth's refusal.

Schadenfreude - taking pleasure/joy in someone else's misfortune.

Remember how Facebook can promote coveting because people tend to put only the best aspects of their lives on it - so it's easy to think, "I wish my life was like theirs!"

We get into problems when we compare our lives to others—we often become resentful when they have more than we do.

If we can't "have what we want", it's important to "want what we have."

Paul says, "I have learned to be content in whatever state I am in...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Contentment is the opposite of coveting.

#### THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS

The "seven deadly sins" are not actions, but rather attitudes. Each of these attitudes leads to sinful actions. The seven attitudes are, however, corrupt and twisted versions of positive attitudes.

##### *Seven Deadly Sins*

##### *Positive attitude that gets twisted*

Gluttony

Enjoyment of the good food God created

Sloth

Having time off for re-charging one's self

Anger

Being passionate and committed to something

Lust

Envy

Pride

Greed

Love

Admiring positive things in other people

Having a healthy self-esteem rooted in  
God's love

Working hard to make a living