

## First Communion Class

### Session #3: The Christian Life: Loving God & Neighbor (The Ten Commandments)

Your Name:

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1. What are the Ten Commandments? (Question #15, pg. 53)
2. What is God's will for our lives? (Question #16, pg. 53)
3. Ask a parent to read the Ten Commandments and their meanings (pg 13-15). Which one do you think is the most important? Why? Which one is the hardest to follow? Why?
4. What are the three ways that God uses the Ten Commandments in our lives and the lives of others in this world? (pg. 54-55)
5. When someone breaks one of these commandments, the opposite of love, it hurts us and the other person.
  - (a) When was the last time you had to forgive someone because they broke one of these commandments towards you?
  - (b) When was the last time you had to ask for forgiveness because you broke one of these commandments towards someone?
  - (c) What makes forgiving someone so difficult? What do we think about when we pray, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."
6. How can you show love for God and those around you?
7. What questions did this lesson raise for you??

*(All page numbers can be referenced in Luther's Small Catechism)*

## Session #3: The Christian Life: The Ten Commandments / Loving God & Neighbor

### Lesson Objectives:

- Overview what it means to live the Christian life, loving God and neighbor.
- The 10 Commandments outline what loving God and neighbor look like.
- Discuss Christian Love: Giving one's self for someone else's benefit.

### **What does it mean to live?**

- To be alive
- To have a family
- To have purpose (vocation)

### **What does it mean to live as a Christian?**

- To be alive in Christ
  - To have a family in the Church indwelt by the Holy Spirit
  - To have God as our Heavenly Father
  - To have purpose to love God and neighbor
1. **To be alive in Christ** - Christ made us alive in our baptisms where we had our sins washed away, we're forgiven, we're put on God's team, and filled with His Holy Spirit. But we don't just need Jesus to save us once, but we daily have to trust in His grace and we daily need His help. That's what it means to live in Christ.
  2. **To have a family in the Church indwelt by the Holy Spirit** - We'll talk more about this next week, but when we are baptized, we are adopted into God's family. That means we are made part of His family. This is why he put his name on us, we are now His children. That means that we have a whole lot of brothers and sisters. Look around you, each person here (even the adults) are your brothers and sisters. And when we are made part of His family, He also puts His Holy Spirit to live within us.
  3. **To have God as our Heavenly Father** - When we have Christ as our Savior and the Church is our new spiritual family, that means we also have God as our Heavenly Father. And just like a father loves his children, takes care of them, and protects them, even more so does God desire to love us, care for us, and desire to guide us.
  4. **To have purpose to love God and neighbor** - And since we are alive in Christ, since we have the church as our family, since we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and since we have God as our Father, we now don't live our lives to love ourselves, but to love God and those around us.

**Here is what our Lord Jesus said:** Matthew 22:36-40, "36 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' 37 Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

**So Jesus says all the Law and the Commandments are all summarized in these two things: Love God and love your neighbor.**

### **What is love?**

- Love isn't a feeling, it might include that, but isn't defined by that.
- Love is an action.
- Love is giving ourselves for someone else's benefit.
- Two aspects of this: (1) giving yourself, (3) for others benefit.

**God showed His love towards us on the cross** - John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

### **God giving himself for our benefit.**

Romans 5:7-8, "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- **When did God show His love to us?**
- **So we always remind ourselves of this. God is still showing His love to us every day.**

### **Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, our fruit is love those around us** - John 15:9-17, 9

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

### **How do we abide in Jesus' love?**

- By loving one another.
- So what does this look like in our lives? It means doing the things God where God has placed us for the benefit of those around us.
- Illust: soldier, mother, firefighter, doctor, farmer.

### **What about in your life?**

- What are some of the things you can do to love and serve those around you?

### **Love is also motivated for the others interest.**

Col 3:23-24, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

## How do we know HOW to love those around us?

Not always easy to know but most the time it is. Here is a test:

### First a test about loving God:

- Is it more loving to trust God or to not trust God?
- Is it more loving to have only one God or have a whole bunch of gods?
- Is it more loving to speak well of God's name or speak by of God's name?
- Is it more loving to spend time with God (kinda like a date) or to skip it and not spend time with him?

### What about loving those around us:

- Is it more loving to disobey our parents or obey them?
- Is it more loving to murder someone or help protect them?
- Is it more loving to take someone's wife or husband away, or help them have a strong marriage?
- Is it more loving to steal your siblings toys or help them take care of them?
- Is it more loving to lie about your siblings or someone at school, or to be honest and truthful?
- Is it more loving to want to take all the good things from your friends and siblings, or more loving to want to help them care for them?
- Do you recognize these? These are known as the Ten Commandments. God called Moses up mount Sinai and gave him these Ten sayings or commandments of how we are to love God and love those around us.

Now these Ten Commandments do **three things all at the same time**: 1) He uses these to limit people hurting each other (Curb), 2) to show us our sin and that we need a Savior (mirror), 3) as a guide to direct our thoughts, words, and deeds (a guide).

**Can anyone be saved by following these commandments?** No. Can anyone earn God's love by following these commandments? No.

God has already shown us how much He loves us and even when we unkind, selfish, and unloving, God still loves us! Isn't that wonderful? And that's why we want to live our lives loving others. Since God is love, we want to also live our lives in a loving way.

## How can you show love to two people today?

Questions?

### Next Week:

- Bring completed worksheet #3
- Work on memory work: The Ten Commandments
- Next week's lesson: The Church and Prayer