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## APPENDIX A: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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

Martin Luther's Small Catechism, 1529 AD

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT:** You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

**THE SECOND COMMANDMENT:** You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

**THE THIRD COMMANDMENT:** Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

**THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT:** Honor your father and mother that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy a long life on the earth.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve and obey them, and give them love and respect.

**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT:** You shall not murder.

*What does this mean?*

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

**THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT:** You shall not commit adultery.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

**THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT:** You shall not steal.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

**THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT:** You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

**THE NINTH COMMANDMENT:** You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

**THE TENTH COMMANDMENT:** You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*

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

**What Does God Say about All These Commandments?**

He says, (Exod. 20:5f): I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing love to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

*What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in Him, and gladly obey what he commands.