

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

DEVOTION

YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS. (EXODUS 20:3)

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and His Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god.” (Isaiah 44:6)

FOR SHARING

1. A philosopher once wrote, “Tell me to what you pay attention, and I will tell you who you are.” Agree or disagree? Why?
2. The First Commandment, Martin Luther said, is the very first, highest, and best from which all others must proceed. What did he mean? In what ways does the First Commandment “set the tone” for the other commandments?
3. “What does it mean to have a god?” Luther asks. “A god means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress” (LC I 1). Describe the gods that people cling to in life.
4. Jesus was fully obedient to His Father—obedient to death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). Share how His sacrifice frees us from the demands of the First Commandment.
5. Fear. Love. Trust. What do the words mean for your life as you live in Christ’s forgiveness?

PRAYER

My Savior God, in Christ I am Your child, and You are my Father. Let me live in Your grace. May Your love permeate every part of my life that I may always desire to reverence You, love You, trust You, and serve You. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.