

- Do you have impure thoughts about others or look at pornography?
- Do you despise the fruit and purpose of marriage through the use of contraception or unnatural sexual acts?
- Do you entice or encourage others to be unfaithful to their marital vows in thought, word, or deed?

VII: THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business, that his means are preserved and his condition is improved.

- Do you take what belongs to others?
- Do you cause any damage or harm to the possessions of another?
- Are you lazy, or do you fail to work for others as if it is for the Lord?

VIII: THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, or defame our neighbor, but defend him, think and speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

- Have you committed perjury, or affirmed with an oath what you do not know to be true?
- Have you spoken or thought ill of anyone, repeated gossip or rumors, or damaged anyone's reputation?

IX: THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, and ob-

tain it by a show of justice and right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

- Do you envy your neighbor's house, or desire what is not yours?
- Are you discontent with the gifts that God has given to you?

X: THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MAN-SERVANT, NOR HIS MAID-SERVANT, NOR HIS CATTLE, NOR ANYTHING THAT IS HIS.

What does this mean?

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

- Are you desirous of the blessings of someone else's life?
- Are you ungrateful for the gifts that God has given you?

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Ps. 51:10-12

In the stead and by the command of Christ our Lord, your pastor is ready to hear your confession and grant full forgiveness for all your sins, however great or small.



PRIE

Preparation through Reflective and Introspective Examination

Why should we examine ourselves?

1. God requires repentance: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 8:8-9)
2. To prepare for private confession and absolution: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." (John 20:23)
3. To prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper: "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup." (1 Cor. 11:28) "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith." (2 Cor. 13:5)
4. To be ready for our own death, or for the Day of Judgment, when each will be accountable for his own sins: "let each one test his own work." (Gal. 6:4)

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the confessor we should confess those sins alone which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, spouse, or employee; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful; whether you have grieved any one by words or deeds; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted, or done other injury.

If you have any questions, or require advice on how to amend your ways, please speak with your pastor.

You may begin with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit to enlighten me, that I may see my true self in the reflection of your Law, that I may come before you humbly and honestly, and confess my sins truthfully. Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may walk in your Truth, and show me my need for the saving medicine of your grace, through Christ my Lord. Amen.

I: THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS.

What does this mean?

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

- Do you think God doesn't see what you do or care about your sins?
- Do you take God's grace for granted?
- Do you feel secure because of your life, health, or possessions?
- Are you anxious about anything?
- Are you afraid of anything or anyone but God?
- Do you boast in anything other than the crucified Lord?
- Do you doubt God's Word or your Christian creeds?
- Do you fail to confess the Lord with your mouth or in your actions?

II: THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD, THY GOD, IN VAIN.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not curse,

swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

- Have you used the name of God to swear or curse others?
- Have you been involved in Satanic arts or activities?
- Have you failed to pray regularly?
- Have you failed to thank and bless God, in good times and in bad?
- Have you brought dishonor to the Name into which you were baptized?

III: THOU SHALT REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY BY KEEPING IT HOLY.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.

- Out of discouragement, apathy, or sloth, do you fail to attend church on Sundays and read the Scriptures at home during the week, privately or with your family?
- Do you make going to church a low priority in relation to other things?
- Do you fail to listen, or refuse to listen, to your Pastor?
- Do you fail to appreciate the gifts of God in the Divine Service?

IV: THOU SHALT HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.

- Have you been disobedient or disrespectful towards your father or mother in words, thoughts, or deeds?

- Have you been angry with, argumentative, or hateful towards your parents or children, or have you provoked them to anger?
- Have you encouraged others to dishonor their parents?
- Are you disrespectful or disobedient toward other authorities, such as government officials, employer, pastors, teachers, or husband, or have you encouraged others to be disrespectful or disobedient?

V: THOU SHALT NOT KILL.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need [in every need and danger of life and body].

- Have you hurt or harmed anyone physically, or with your words?
- Have you been angry and/or hateful in thought towards anyone?
- Have you failed or refused to forgive and be reconciled with anyone?
- Have you provoked others to anger or incited hatred?
- Do you not pray for your enemies?
- Have you failed to help your neighbor when you saw a need?

VI: THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.

- Do you despise or disparage marriage (your own, someone else's, or in general), in thought, word or deed?
- Are you selfish in your marriage, or do you encourage others to be selfish?
- Are you having or desiring illicit sex (i.e. outside of marriage)?