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## APPENDIX B: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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

### **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 take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.**

*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 it superstitiously, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

### **The Third Commandment. Remember the Sabbath 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 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 kill.**

*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 be a friend to 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

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† The commandments, in bold font, were given by God in Exodus 20:1-17. The explanations, beginning with the phrase "what does this mean?" were written by Martin Luther, to help people think more deeply on the meaning of these commandments.

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**The Eighth Commandment. You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor.**

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*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.

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**The Ninth Commandment. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

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*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.

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**The Tenth Commandment. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

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*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.