

The 1st Commandment – “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Paragraph 2 of Chapter 19 of our Confession says –

“The same law that was first written in the heart of man continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall, and was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written in two tables, the four first containing our duty towards God, and the other six, our duty to man. (Rom 2:14-15; Deuteronomy 10:4)

In his Commentary upon the Heidelberg Catechism Ursinus says – “The moral law is known naturally,” “The moral law binds all men, and that perpetually; it is different however, with the ceremonial and the judicial law.” (End of quote) My explanation of his words: Ursinus is rightly saying that that the law was something which was in his heart and mind naturally, in Adam the first man. Since the fall of man from his original righteousness at the beginning of the world, the remnants of this law are still known darkly in fallen man’s mind and heart and conscience today as is shown in Romans 1: 21, and 2: 14. Ursinus continues –The ceremonial and the moral law have been fulfilled by Christ and are abrogated; they are abolished and done away with; although we can say, in regard to the judicial law, since it came from God, all of the moral aspects of that law, if we are wise, may be applied in the formation of the political legislation of nations, and its principles used in the discernment of our personal moral duty and conduct before God, and also together with other men in the society in which we live. “The moral law, summarized in the Ten Commandments, is given to Christ’s Church, not as a Covenant of Works that the Christian would try to justify himself by, but rather since Christ has fulfilled the law and is the end of the law for righteousness, it is given to him as a rule of life for him to live by. It requires obedience which is both internal and external; the others merely require that which is external. The precepts of the moral law are general, having respect to all men whoever they may be; the others are special, and do not thus apply to all men.

The Duties Commanded in the 1st Commandment

Believe that the God of the Bible is the only true and living God, and we owe Him our highest allegiance, honor, worship, and obedience because He made us, and as Christians, He has redeemed us through Jesus Christ our Lord. John 17: 1-3 1 Thessalonians 1: 9 Revelation 4: 9-11

I. Internal Obedience – We are to believe in this God of the Scriptures. Hebrews 11: 6
Hebrews 4: 1 and 2

a. Believe that He created the World and all things in it including ourselves. Hebrews 11: 3

b. Worship and Adore Him as our Maker Psalm 95: 6 Psalm 115: 1-11 Psalm 100: 1-5

c. Worship and Adore Him as our Redeemer – Revelation 5: 8-14

d. Love Him and serve Him with all of our heart and soul – Deuteronomy 10: 12-17

II. External Obedience –

a. We are to take him as our God and publicly confess Him as the only true and living God and Jesus Christ His only Begotten Son. Deuteronomy 6: 4-8 Joshua 24: 14-28 Isaiah 43: 8-10 Isaiah 44: 6-11

Matthew 16: 13-18 Luke 12: 8 and 9 John 20: 24-29 Romans 10: 8-10

1 Timothy 6: 11 and 12

b. We are to publicly worship Him and praise and honor Him and serve him in the church.

Psalm 95: 1-7 Psalm 96: 1-9 Psalm 87: 1-7 Romans 12: 3-13

Isaiah 43: 21 Ephesians 3: 21 1 Corinthians 14: 20-25

c. We are to attempt to so speak and to so live as to bring glory to God and to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 145: 11 1 Corinthians 10: 31

d. We are to glory in Him, pray to Him, and obey Him before other men. Psalm 105: 1-3, and 44 and 45 Matthew 5: 16 Philippians 2: 12 and 13