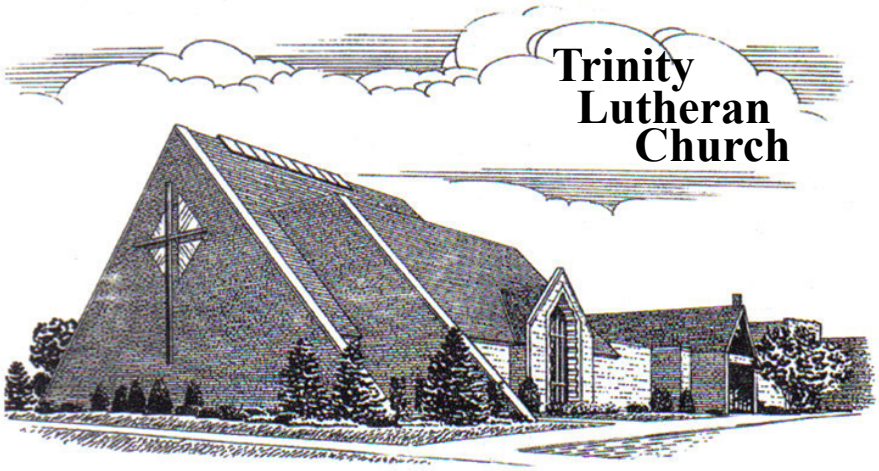
# The Sixth Commandment




## Nov. 2-8, 2026

# Weekly Outline

**Invocation**
L: You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you
**C: because he trusts in you.**

L: Let us pray:

Almighty Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us after your great goodness; according to the multitude of your mercies, do away our offenses; wash us thoroughly from our wickedness, and cleanse us from our sins; for Jesus' sake,

**C: Amen.**

**Scripture**

**Nov. 2: Genesis 2:18-25**

**Nov. 4: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

**Nov. 6: Matthew 5:27-32**

**Devotion**

**Closing Prayer**
L: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.
**C: Amen.**

# Monday

The Sixth Commandment is probably the most difficult to teach. Not because it is the most difficult to understand, but because it is the most counter-cultural. Our culture still agrees that a person should not commit murder, steal, or lie.. Not so with the Sixth Commandment. We live in a culture that sees any restriction on sexual activity as an evil thing, which is why the church must insist on clearly teaching what God requires in this commandment.

Let's begin here. When God created man and woman, he created them to partner with one another to accomplish his purpose in creation. That is why God says after making Adam, "It is not good for the man to be alone." But it wasn't just the loneliness of man that was not good in God's eyes. It was also man's inability to carry out his God-given purpose. In Genesis 1, God blesses humankind to rule the earth as his representatives. How widely can Adam, just one man, spread God's rule across the earth? God also blessed humankind to participate in the creation of new life when he said, "Be fruitful and multiply." But can Adam bring new life into the world by himself? Of course not! Apart from a suitable helper, Adam cannot accomplish the purpose of his own creation. That is not good. God then makes Eve and presents her to Adam as his god-given helpmeet. That is what marriage is. It is the partnership of one man and one woman for the purpose of God in creation, and especially in the family.

The reason God says, "You shall not commit adultery," is because he would protect both men and women from anything that would violate the partnership of marriage. Rather, he would have us work in all ways to strengthen it. Today, your marriage may be strong, lukewarm, or weak. It may be happy or difficult. But no matter the condition of your marriage, it is a relationship that is blessed by God that he intends for your help and joy. May all of us work and pray to bring that about. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Wednesday

One reason that the Sixth Commandment is violated so easily today is because we do not understand the purpose of the body. Our culture teaches us that the purpose of every life is to be happy, and that the best way to pursue happiness is to fulfill every bodily desire. This is not a new idea. It has ancient roots in a philosophical system called hedonism, and it was a problem that Paul encountered in Corinth.

The Corinthians were convinced that the body had no purpose outside of physical enjoyment. Paul quotes a Corinthian proverb to this effect in verse 13, "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food." What does this mean? Basically, that if the stomach was hungry, it should be fed. A simple enough proposition. But a dangerous one to live by, because the body does not understand the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, what is harmful and what is useful. For example, if my body craves sugar all day every day, that doesn't mean that's all I should eat! But the Corinthians weren't so worried about the stomach. Their proverb was a euphemism for sexual immorality. If the body had that desire, what could be so wrong with fulfilling it? But just as with food, the body is incapable of discerning right and wrong. God gave us a mind capable of receiving his instruction for a reason.

So if the body wasn't created simply for blind enjoyment, then what is it for? It is the tool that God has given us to accomplish his purpose in creation. Unlike the angels, we cannot act if we don't have a body. We can't think without a brain, we can't speak without a throat, we can't do things apart from the body. So God gave us a mind capable of receiving his instruction, a spirit to live in relationship with him, and a body to do his will. As with our mind and spirit, God created the body for himself, for his purposes, and not for sin. And just as he did for our spirits, Christ died to purchase our bodies from sin, death and hell. So as Paul says, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Friday

As with all sins, sins against the Sixth Commandment are sins of the heart before they are sins of the hands. And because Jesus is concerned with true righteousness (that is, the righteousness of the heart), he speaks to the heart when he explains the Sixth Commandment, "I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Lust has been a problem throughout human history. It is possibly as bad as it has ever been because the technology of the modern age has enabled lust to such an extent. Pornography is available in everyone's pocket. And if a man manages to fight off that temptation, he'll find a watered-down version on TV, as advertisers continually drop their standards in the never-ending competition for eyeballs. As the Scripture says, "How is a young man to keep his way pure?" Because the material that inflames lust is readily available, it is easy to treat sins against the Sixth Commandment as relatively harmless. We can comfort ourselves by saying, "No one is getting hurt." But then Jesus says, "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell." The first person we should be concerned with when we fall into sexual temptation is ourselves, for each one of us must give an account of his life to God.

However, as difficult as our struggle against temptation may be, and as often as we may fall, we should also hear these words from Paul, "Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost." There is no man who has fallen so far that the grace of God cannot restore him. So as often as you stumble, repent. As often as you leave the Father's house, come back home. Not only will you find safe harbor, but you will also find rest for your soul. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Evening Prayer

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

# A Parent's Blessing

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your head.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
and bid his hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

# Memory Verse

