

SMALL CATECHISM

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

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

LARGE CATECHISM

[1] “A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress, so that to have a God is nothing else than to trust and believe Him from the [whole] heart; as I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.” (*Concordia Triglotta*, p. 581)

[2] “Therefore it is the intent of this commandment to require true faith and trust of the heart which settles upon the only true God and clings to Him alone.” (581)

[3] “He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God.” (583)

[4] “Reflect for yourself or make inquiry and tell me: Those who have employed all their care and diligence to accumulate great possessions and wealth, what have they finally attained? You will find that they have wasted their toil and labor, or even though they have amassed great treasures, they have been dispersed and scattered, so that they themselves have never found happiness in their wealth, and afterwards it never reached the third generation.” (593-594)

[5] “For to have God, you can easily perceive, is not to lay hold of Him with our hands or to put Him in a bag [as money] or to lock Him in a chest [as silver vessels]. But to apprehend Him means when the heart lays hold of Him and clings to Him. But to cling to Him with the heart is nothing else than to trust in Him entirely...that the heart know no other comfort or confidence than in Him, and do not suffer itself to be torn from Him, but, for Him, risk and disregard everything upon earth.” (583)

[6] “Besides, there is also a false worship and extreme idolatry, which we have hitherto practiced, and is still prevalent in the world...that seeks in its own works help, consolation, and salvation, presumes to wrest heaven from God, and reckons how many requests it has made, how often it has fasted, celebrated Mass, etc...just as though [God] were our debtor, and we His liege lords.” (585)

[7] “Let every one, then, see to it that he esteem this commandment great and high above all things, and do not regard it as a joke. Ask and examine your heart diligently, and you will find whether it cleaves to God alone or not.” (587)