

## The Commandments of God Continued:

What is the First Commandment of God?

The First Commandment of God is: I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.

What are we commanded by the First Commandment?

By the First Commandment we are commanded to offer to God alone the supreme worship that is due Him.

Each of the Ten Commandments shows us how to love God and our neighbor. The First Commandment tells us to give God the reverence and adoration He deserves as the Supreme Being. It is sinful to set up some creature as:

- (a) the chief object of our worship,
- (b) the chief source of our happiness,
- (c) the chief teacher of truth,
- (d) the chief moral guide.

These make a god out of something created.

How do we worship God?

We worship God by acts of faith, hope, and charity, and by adoring Him and praying to Him.

What does faith oblige us to do?

Faith obliges us:

- First, to make efforts to find out what God has revealed;
- Second, to believe firmly what God has revealed;
- Third, to profess our faith openly whenever necessary.

LOVE OF GOD will make us want to find out what God has told us about Himself. It will make us want to be with Him in heaven and to know more and more about the way which leads there. Since we are on the way to God during all of our time on earth, love will make us always study how we can advance more surely and rapidly toward Him. We begin this study in school but we must continue it all our lives by reading and learning about God and the things of God.

LOVE OF GOD will make it easier to believe firmly what God has revealed. Love is the living of what we believe. Living our faith gives us an unshakeable conviction that it is true.

LOVE OF GOD will give us the desire and the courage to profess our faith openly whenever there is need, and even to die for it if the occasion arises.

What does hope oblige us to do?

Hope obliges us to trust firmly that God will give us eternal life and the means to obtain it.

LOVE OF GOD will give us the confidence we need in God's faithfulness to His promises. He has promised us heaven and all the helps for body and soul that we need to get there. For our soul we need: sanctifying and actual graces, the virtues, the gifts of the Holy Ghost, the Sacraments, etc. For our body we need: food, clothing, shelter, etc.

What does charity oblige us to do?

Charity obliges us to love God above all things because He is infinitely good, and to love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

Charity is LOVE OF GOD and this is the GREAT COMMANDMENT.