

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods

What does this mean?

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

“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.”
(Luther, *LC, Ten Commandments* para. 4)¹

“What does it mean to have a god? or, what is God? Answer: 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. If your faith and trust be right, then is your god also true; and, on the other hand, if your trust be false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together, faith and God. That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.” (Luther, *LC, Ten Commandments* para. 1-3)

Six Most Common Examples of Idols (according to Luther in the *Large Catechism*)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.



¹ ** **Additional Resource:** *Luther's Large Catechism* – found freely online at
<https://bookofconcord.org/large-catechism/ten-commandments/>