

## Luther's Small Catechism — 6th Petition

**And lead us not into temptation.** *What does this mean?*

*God tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that He would so guard and preserve us, that the devil, the world, and our own human nature may not deceive us nor lead us into error and unbelief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; but when tempted, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.*

**Q. 316** *What kinds of temptation does the Bible speak about?*

The Bible speaks of two kinds. There are the trials or tests from God which he allows to come to me to strengthen my faith; and there are the enticements to do evil which come to me from Satan, the world, and my own human nature.

**Q. 317** *In what way is the word temptation used in the Sixth Petition?*

In this petition the word temptation means enticements to do evil.

**Q. 318** *How does Satan tempt you?*

Satan tempts me by trying to deceive me into distrusting God.

**Q. 319** *How does the world tempt you?*

The world tempts me by pressures, intimidation, enticements, and bad examples to live for myself without considering God or His Word.

- ▶ **1 John 2:15, 16** — *“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.”*

**Q. 320** *What do you mean by the world?*

The world is not the physical world in which I live, but the satanic kingdom made up of all who oppose God and which is ruled by Satan.

- ▶ **Ephesians 6:12** — *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

**Q. 321** *How does your human nature tempt you?*

My own human nature tempts me by evil desires of all kinds.

- ▶ **James 1:14** — *“Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”*

**Q. 322** *What do you mean by your human nature?*

By human nature I do not mean my physical body, which is created by God, but my inner self, which is fallen and naturally wants to sin.

► **Romans 8:5** — *“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”*

**Q. 323** *Can you ever be free from temptation in this world?*

No, not as long as Satan, the world, and my own human nature tempt me to sin.

**Q. 324** *How can you prepare yourself to face temptation?*

I can prepare myself to face temptation by hiding God’s Word in my heart, by praying, by occupying myself with worthwhile activities, by feeding my mind with good and creative ideas, and by choosing friends who are good examples.

► **Philippians 8, 9** — *“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

**Q. 325** *When will you be free from temptation?*

I will be free from temptation when I die and am at home in heaven with God.

► **Revelation 21:4** — *“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

**Q. 326** *What can you do when you are tempted?*

1. I can remember that God is all-powerful and that He loves me and has promised never to leave me.
  - **1 Corinthians 10:13** — *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”*
2. I can be on my guard and pray.
  - **Matthew 26:41** — *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”*
3. I can walk daily in the light of God’s Word and defend myself with it.
  - **Ephesians 6:13–18** — *“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand . . .”*

Source: Explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism

<https://www.ffbooks.org/product/explanation-of-luthers-small-catechism>