



Ten years after Dr. Martin Luther nailed his [95 Theses](#) to the Wittenberg Church door, a plague-ravaged Germany. Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora, who was pregnant at the time, turned their home into a hospital for people suffering from the plague.

### To Flee or Not to Flee?

Pastor Johann Hess asked Luther for advice. Luther responded with a tract titled, ***Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague***

## Love your Neighbour

Luther's priority was to follow Christ's teaching:, ***“As much as you did to one of the least, you did to Me”***  
Matthew 25:40.

## Serve God

Luther continued: *“If you wish to serve Christ and to wait on Him, very well, you have your sick neighbour well at hand.”*

## Resist the Devil

Luther knew satan would tempt us to flee. He said, *“the devil wants us to disregard God's command in our dealings with our neighbour.”*

He called that  
*“sin of the left hand.”*

## Do Not be Reckless

Luther then said, *“Others sin on the right hand. They are much too rash and reckless, tempting God and disregarding everything which might counteract death and the plague. ...They do not avoid persons and places infected by the plague, but light-heartedly make sport of it and wish to prove how independent they are.”*

### **Be Careful**

Luther said when people fail to protect themselves from the plague, they risk infecting and poisoning others who might have remained alive.

### **Be Considerate**

Luther was blunt: *“He is thus responsible before God for his neighbour’s death and is a murderer many times over. My dear friends, that is no good. ...Shun persons and places wherever your neighbour does not need your presence.”*



Watch the First Great Plague and learn how it was spread and how it was treated. You can also learn about the Second Great Plague and how it was spread and how it was treated. For more information, please see the audio of the Reformation Society lecture: [Pandemic, Plagues, and the](#)