



TO GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM STUDY 13



⌘ THE 1st & 2nd COMMANDMENTS ⌘

1. *Review* –

- a. What are the two basic sections of the Catechism?
- b. How did the Moral Law come to man at Creation? In Redemption?
- c. Why is the preface of the 10 Commandments important for a right understanding of them?

2. *Introduction:* Discuss **Larger Catechism Question 99:** *What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the Ten Commandments? A: ... where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden; and, where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded; so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included; and where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included.*

Question 45: *Which is the first commandment? A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Ex. 20:3

Question 46: *What is required in the first commandment? A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God,*⁽¹⁾ *and to worship and glorify him accordingly.*⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ 1Chr. 28:9; Deut. 26:17 ⁽²⁾ Matt. 4:10; Ps. 29:2

1. “Know and acknowledge God to be the only true God... and to worship and glorify him accordingly”

- a. What does God expect of all men He has created?
- b. What do the following passages teach us about the only true God?
 - i. Is. 44:6
 - ii. Is. 46:5-6
 - iii. Heb.11:6
- c. Why is it important that the Ten Commandments begin with *this* one?

2. “The only true God, and our God”

- a. What do you think is the purpose of this distinction?
- b. How would you respond to a Muslim who said to you that you both worship the same God under different names?

Question 47: *What is forbidden in the first commandment? A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying,⁽¹⁾ or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God,⁽²⁾ and our God,⁽³⁾ and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.⁽⁴⁾*

⁽¹⁾ Ps. 14:1 ⁽²⁾ Rom. 1:21 ⁽³⁾ Ps. 81:10,11 ⁽⁴⁾ Rom. 1:25,26

Question 48: *What are we specially taught by these words “before me” in the first commandment? A. These words [before me] in the first commandment teach us, That God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.⁽¹⁾*

⁽¹⁾ Ezek. 8:5,6; Ps. 44:20,21

1. “Denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God”

- a. What breaches of the 1st Commandment are found in the following Scriptures? Ps.14:1; Heb.3:12; Is.43:22-24; Ps.50:21

2. “Giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone”
 - a. What breaches of the 1st Commandment are found in the following Scriptures? Acts 10:25-26; Col.2:18; Lev.20:6; 1Jn.2:14-15
3. “Before me”
 - a. What *motivation* to obey this commandment is especially underlined?

Question 49: Which is the second commandment? *A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*⁽¹⁾ (1) Ex. 20:4,5,6

Question 50: What is required in the second commandment? *A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.*⁽¹⁾ (1) Deut. 32:46; Matt. 28:20; Acts 2:42

Question 51: What is forbidden in the second commandment? *A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshipping of God by images,*⁽¹⁾ *or any other way not appointed in his word.*⁽²⁾ (1) Deut. 4:15-19; Ex. 32:5,8 (2) Deut. 12:31,32

1. “Receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word”
 - a. What does this summary show to be the *real* scope of the 2nd Commandment?
 - b. What is the distinction between the 1st and 2nd Commandments?
 - c. How do each of the following verbs explain why we must be meticulous about the worship of God? “Receiving; Observing; Keeping Pure; Keeping Entire”
 - d. Read Deut.12:32 and John 4:24. *Who* decides how we worship God?
2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. For I the Lord thy am a jealous God...”
 - a. Are *all* pictures of any Person of the Trinity forbidden by this commandment? Why or why not? (See Deut.4:15-16, Acts 17:29)
 - b. Is God’s jealousy a good thing? Explain.
3. “Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children ... and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”
 - a. Why do you think that God mentions the children of future generations in connection with maintaining Biblical worship?

Question 52: What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment? *A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God’s sovereignty over us,*⁽¹⁾ *his propriety in us,*⁽²⁾ *and the zeal he hath to his own worship.*⁽³⁾

(1) Ps. 95:2,6 (2) Ps. 45:11 (3) Exod. 34:13,14

1. *God’s sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship*
 - a. Explain these three reasons *why* God commands the precise manner of His worship

“Although true believers be not under the law as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified or condemned; yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others; in that, as a rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly...”

(Westminster Confession of Faith, 19:6)

