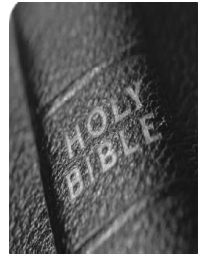




TO GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM STUDY 14



∞ THE 3rd & 4th COMMANDMENTS ∞

1. Review –

- a. Why is the preface of the 10 Commandments important for a right understanding of them?
- b. What two extremes must we avoid when considering the Moral Law?

Question 53: Which is the third commandment? *A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*⁽¹⁾ (1) Exod. 20:7

Question 54: What is required in the third commandment? *A. The third commandment requireth the holy and reverend use of God's names,⁽¹⁾ titles,⁽²⁾ attributes,⁽³⁾ ordinances,⁽⁴⁾ word,⁽⁵⁾ and works.⁽⁶⁾*

(1) Matt. 6:9; Deut.28:58 (2) Ps.68:4 (3) Rev.15:3,4 (4) Mal.1:11,14 (5) Ps.138:1,2 (6) Job 36:24

1. “Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain”
 - a. What do the names of God convey to man?
 - b. What does it mean to “take the LORD’s name in vain”? (See Mal.3:16-17)
2. “Reverend use of God’s names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works.”
 - a. What does irreverent use of God’s Name include?

Question 55: What is forbidden in the third commandment? *A. The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of any thing whereby God maketh himself known.*⁽¹⁾ (1) Mal.1:6,7,12; Mal.2:2; Mal.3:14

Question 56: What is the reason annexed to the third commandment? *A. The reason annexed to the third commandment is, That however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.*⁽¹⁾ (1) 1Sam.2:12,17,22,29; 1Sam.3:13; Deut.28:58,59

1. “Profaning or abusing of any thing whereby God maketh himself known”
 - a. How does God make Himself known, and how do we profane or abuse it? See Mal.1:6-7, 12.
 - b. In what practical ways may we lack reverence in God’s worship?
2. “The breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment”
 - a. In what sense can this sin be “secret” to the eyes of men, but seen by God?

Question 57: Which is the fourth commandment? *A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the sabbath-day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath-day, and hallowed it.*⁽¹⁾ (1) Ex. 20:8-11

Question 58: What is required in the fourth commandment? *A. The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.*⁽¹⁾

(1) Deut.5:12,13,14

1. “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy...”
 - a. Why do you think this is the only commandment to begin with the word “remember”?
 - b. What does the word “holy” mean, and what is its *opposite* Biblical term?
 - c. Make a list of persons, places and things that God sets apart as holy in the Bible.
 - d. What are the implications of God setting apart a *Day* as holy?
2. “Six days shall you labor and do all your work”
 - a. What else is required in the 4th Commandment, which Q.58 omits?

3. *"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth... and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath-day, and hallowed it"*
 - a. Why is man, made in the image of God, called on to rest for one day in seven?
 - b. Why did God need to "rest"? See Ex.31:16-17.
 - c. Why do we need a day of rest?

Question 59: *Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly sabbath? A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian sabbath.*⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Gen.2:2,3; 1Cor.16:1,2; Acts 20:7

1. *"The first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world ... the Christian Sabbath".*
 - a. How would you respond to the objection that the Sabbath Day is just a Jewish Festival fulfilled by Christ and no longer to be observed?
 - b. How do the following texts indicate a change of Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week? Heb.4:9-10; Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1-2; Rev.1:10; Lev.23:36 with Jn.20:26

Question 60: *How is the sabbath to be sanctified? A. The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day,⁽¹⁾ even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days;⁽²⁾ and spending the whole time in the publick and private exercises of God's worship,⁽³⁾ except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.⁽⁴⁾*

⁽¹⁾ Ex.20:8,10; Ex.16:25-28 ⁽²⁾ Neh.13:15-19,21,22 ⁽³⁾ Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; Ps.92:(title); Is.66:23 ⁽⁴⁾ Matt.12:1-31

Question 61: *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment? A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required,⁽¹⁾ and the profaning the day by idleness,⁽²⁾ or doing that which is in itself sinful,⁽³⁾ or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.⁽⁴⁾*

⁽¹⁾ Ezek.22:26; Amos 8:5; Mal.1:13 ⁽²⁾ Acts 20:7,9 ⁽³⁾ Ezek.23:38 ⁽⁴⁾ Jer.17:24-26; Is.58:13

Question 62: *What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment? A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments,⁽¹⁾ his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the sabbath-day.⁽²⁾*

⁽¹⁾ Ex.20:9 ⁽²⁾ Ex.20:11

1. *"A holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days"*
 - a. What do the following texts teach us about our heart attitude towards the Sabbath Day? Is.58:13-14; Amos 8:4-6
 - b. What do you think the Catechism means by "*such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days*"?
 - c. What is the difference between the Biblical idea of "rest" and the world's concept of "recreation"?
2. *"The works of necessity and mercy ... Profaning the day by idleness"*
 - a. The Sabbath is to be a day of activity! Where in the Scriptures do we find such works permitted?
 - b. What are some contemporary examples of works of necessity and mercy?
 - c. What does the Scripture say about leading others into sin? (see Matt.18:6-7) In what ways may we lead others to break the 4th Commandment? (see Neh.13:15-22)
3. *"Unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations"*
 - a. The other commandments extend to our thought life (see e.g. Matt.5:21-22; 27-28); how does the 4th Commandment do so?
4. *"God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments"*
 - a. Why might this be a motivation to refrain from working on the Sabbath Day?
 - b. How is the Lord's Day undermined in today's society?

"There is no hope of destroying the Christian religion so long as the Christian Sabbath is acknowledged and kept by men as a sacred day" (Voltaire)

