

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC69 “Murder Literally Puts You in League with the Devil”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 69—especially explaining and applying how any attack upon God’s image in men partakes of the Satanic hostility of that murderer from the beginning.

WSC69: What is forbidden in the sixth commandment? *The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.*

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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This week’s catechism question is number 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment? And the answer is that the sixth commandment forbiddeth. The taking away of our own life. Or the life of our neighbor unjustly. Or whatsoever tendeth. They’re unto. Now, when we were talking about what the sixth commandment required, it actually requires being like, god, it requires valuing man being made in god’s image.

That requires, especially valuing man’s eternal soul but not neglecting man’s physical body. So, That a brief summary. There’s a lot more. And we could go back and listen to the lesson. On number 68. But if what is required in the sixth commandment was to be like god. What is forbidden in the sixth?

Commandment is to be like the devil? Of whom Jesus says that he is the murderer from the beginning. It was the very fact that man was made in the image of god that. So, Provoking to Satan. He, of course, hates god. And he murdered man, when he saw his opportunity hearing, God’s warning in the day that you so that you eat of it.

You shall surely die. And he attacks the man through his marriage marriage, which is also given to me. And it’s part is imaging. God, he attacks. Um, The woman then in order to attack humanity, He attacks through the the character of god, casting his versions on the character of god, teaching us.

Uh, not to trust him and to be content with his goodness. To be suspicious. Um, About him. Well, has god. Really said. Uh, you shall not eat from any of the trees of the garden. He attacks god in his word. Which gives life questioning what God has said at first.

And then going on to directly controvert. Uh, what god has said when he says you shall not surely die, For god knows, etc, but all of that. Was in order. To try to kill. The man and the woman. He is the murderer from the beginning. And there have been those who then have been.

The seed of the serpent who have enmity against god and against the seed of the woman, Plural, all the ones who belong to God, and especially the seed of the woman singular, the promised one, who had crushed the serpent’s head, And these. Uh, seed of the serpent among these seat of the serpents have been those who are Um, Prime examples.

For instance, pharaoh. Happy to commit as much murder as possible, especially a babies. Uh, in order to try to wipe out the israelites and doesn’t instrument to the devil to try to wipe out, Uh, the seed who would come to crush his head. And this has been represented by philistines.

And eat a mites. And, Syrians and Assyrians. And Babylonians and persians. And then, Uh, perhaps. Most preeminently. Um, Parrot. And then judas. Herod. Uh, who murdered All the babies that he thought could possibly be. The seed of the woman. Acting. In the service of the devil, whether he knew it or not, And then, judas whom Jesus actually calls.

Uh, the son of perdition. And this anticipates, Uh, one more great murderer. Not only is there judicial attempts. Uh, to murder Jesus. Um, But then there is the man of sin, the man of lawlessness, the antichrist. Who is called by the apostle thus son of perdition. And, Of course, Rome and particularly the pope And the papacy.

Sitting in the church as if he was god claiming prerogatives for himself that belong only to god and only to Christ. Such as to forgive sins, or to sacrifice for sin. And so forth. That has. Ordered. And Superintendent. Over the murder. Of many. Just because they believe the gospel of Jesus Christ and has in fact pronounced and anathema.

Upon anyone who preaches the gospel. Of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone. And this is why. When the apostle Paul? Uh, who knows his bible. As well as, as anyone. At least the contents of the bible. Before his converted and then he comes to know the lord Jesus Christ.

And that wonderful marriage of his understanding of the contents of the bible, with his understanding of god himself as knowledge of God himself in Jesus Christ. And he comes to see that he wants was in this line. Of the murderers of the church. And even the persecutors of Jesus Christ, you remember that?

That was Um, That was the first. Uh, thing that he heard salsa. Why do you persecute me? Who are you lord, I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. This is why he calls himself. The chief Of sinners. Now, anything then that despises the image of god. In our brother or our sister or even ourself.

Anything that tends towards devaluing even things, like, rash, anger, and hasty words that flaring up of Of irritation in your heart, or that nursing of prolonged, bitterness in your heart. All of those things set your heart over against the value of the image of god. And god’s image itself in your fellow, man.

And all of those things then would make you a child of the devil. Which is what the lord told the Pharisees. Uh, when they were angry and hostile and malicious.

Okay. Yeah. When they were angry or hostile, or malicious to him, And he said, you’re not the children of Abraham, you’re not the children of god. Your children of your father, the devil? Who is the murderer from the beginning? And so, Yes, the sixth commandment forbid if the taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly.

We never have the prerogative of taking away our own life so you know, have to add unjustly to that one. It has always wrong. To take away your own life. It is always wrong. To harm yourself, especially spiritually, but even physically. Remember. Uh, not too long ago, I think maybe just two weeks ago.

Bodily exercises, profiteth a little So it’s actually required by god because it tends towards life rather than death. And yet exercise and godliness by use of the meaning means of grace, is of great, prophet in this life and the life to come. And so, one of the things that the sixth commandment forbids is growing slack in your devotional life.

Whether that means, Less frequency. Or less sincerity. Um, So the sixth commandment for a bit of the taking away of our own life or whatsoever. Tended their unto And the six commandment forbiddeth, the taking away. Of the life of our neighbor unjustly. And there are a couple of just instances.

One is, if you're in, if you're a public person and you Uh are in a place of authority that has been instituted by god and therefore one of your duties is to punish the evil doer and the evil doer. Has committed a crime. Um, not just a thought or a sin or a feeling, we can't punish those things.

God, punishes those things. Uh, but the the society, the state must punish crimes. Um, against the life of another Uh, or The, the marriage of another. Because that is a one flash. Imaging of god and the two of them. Uh, is to punish those. Uh, those crimes with death.

Uh, in some instances. And therefore there are instances in which it is required. That due to your office. Uh, your position, you preside of The taking away of a life. Justly, a life that has been forfeited. They have taken away. Their own life. By the crime that they commit.

Also in a just war. Or in necessary self-defense. And we don't have time. The scope of these little lessons to talk about what constitutes a just war. Or what constitutes necessary self-defense. But you can probably hear already. And, Using sanctified knowledge. Of the principles of god's word and probably already come up with A good description.

Of each of those. Uh, but anything also that tendeth unto The taking away. Of the life of our neighbor. Including things like, Uh, neglect or the coldness of heart that need leads to neglect. Right warmth of fury. That is again, star neighbor. Leads tends in the direction. Of outright murder.

But there is Negligent manslaughter. So, not just not caring about our neighbor, but even things like, Not being careful about the things we do or how we manage our property in order to guard the life of our neighbor. And we've seen some examples of that Um, Already. In. In our studies, in exodus, You know, the requirement of keeping your bowl, Pinned up.

For instance, if it has Flip. It has tendency to gore So, the sixth commandment forbiddeth. The taking away of our own life. Or the life of our neighbor unjustly. Or whatsoever attended. They're unto. It forbid, if Being a child of the devil. As opposed to a child of god.

That's what's really at stake. When we talk about a culture of life, Or a culture of death. In truth. Anything other than a culture that acknowledges jesus christ as lord. And clings to the gospel. And serves him for the sake of his lordship. Is a culture of death.