

Theology Simply Explained — WSC72 “Guarding Against Undisciplined Desires or Pleasures”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 72—especially explaining and applying how the seventh commandment forbids romantic thoughts or feelings that are not directed and disciplined by love for God and pleasure in God.

WSC72: What is forbidden in the seventh commandment? *The seventh commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.*

(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)

The catechism question this week is number 72. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment? And the answer is that seven commandment formidh. All unchaced thoughts words and actions. And this is very similar except for, in the converse. To our answer to what was required in the seventh commandment. And it brings us back to that idea of chase.

Heart speech and behavior are in this case? Untraced thoughts, words and actions. Meaning that we need to have. Desires that are trained and regulated and motivated. By the one true desire. The one true pleasure. Uh, desire for the lord and enjoyment of his goodness. And that in all of the good things that he has made.

That it is. First of all, to be him that we enjoy. Uh, and then second of all, there are right ways and wrong ways. Uh, i've enjoying the good thing. And third of all. That there is a right intensity or proportion and they're wrong intensity or proportion of that, desire and pleasure.

So, Basically, all of our pleasures and especially here focused on The pleasure of the enjoyment of marriage, your specific. Spouse him. The lord has given you. As the. As the stipulations that we've been seeing in first Timothy, have it that a man is to be a one woman, man.

Or a woman is to be a one-man woman. In other words, the lord's particular selection of his wife or her husband, is what she is. Enjoying as she enjoys, not the pleasure in and of itself as if it's this kind of Um, disembodied separate entity. Uh, but that a woman is to be enjoying his wife.

In the pleasure and therefore enjoying god's goodness to him, in appointing to him and giving him. In his providence, his specific wife. And the same thing, then for the woman, And so, Uh, we see that it, this goes not just to The actual action. Uh, but thoughts about And words.

Uh, about Enjoyment. So, we are to have all of our thoughts, all of our words, all of our actions that have to do with pleasure. And especially the enjoyment of Uh, one's One's wife or one's husband? Uh, regulated by Pleasure in god. The purposes of god for marriage. And the presets.

Of god. Um, Against this are anything. That would lead to or encourage untrained. Thoughts. Untrained thoughts, for instance, About romance romance is not something that is to be thought of or enjoyed in a way that is disconnected from your particular. Uh, why for from your particular husband? Uh, the idea of a romance novel.

It is. Or romance in a novel. Uh, that stirs up thoughts and feelings about that. And that brings you into or brings you to enter into the romantic affections and experiences and exhilarations of the characters. And so forth is a direct stirring up of unchaced. Thoughts. And any words that that you would use, or that somebody else would use with you to stir up, such thoughts towards you, what people, uh, call flirting and even use the wicked phrase innocent flirting.

As if there was such a thing. Um, Well, these things also violate Uh, the seventh commandment, they are the the indulgence of and the stirring up. Of untraced, thoughts. Any. Any acting. In pairing's off and reparings off, as you will often have in societies of children and youth and they talk about boyfriends and girlfriends are going steady or so.

And so like, so and so, and they think they are being cute. Uh, but they are. Um, They are making light of and playing around with. Unchaste. Thoughts words and actions. Even such things as dances and balls. Where you have these pairings in which the two are connected and coordinate, and there's even the tension in people's hearts and minds of.

Who their partner is going to be for this dance and who their partner is going to be for the next dance and it leads even to the stirring up of desires that come from the flesh of Of hoping that you will get. A particular partner for a dance or something like that and he's like, oh well it's just fun.

Well, it's not trained. By pleasure in god. It's not seeking the purpose of god in that pleasure with the one, who is your spouse. It is untrained. It is not single-minded for the enjoyment of him himself. It acts in the moment. As if these are things to be. To be played around with and enjoyed in the imagination.

Those are unchasted, thoughts. And the words about them are unchaced words and the actions involved in them are unchaced actions. And, One of the great ironies is that. Um, Just because these things were done. Long ago in times when Uh, the culture of Our nation was not so. Uh, to generated as it now is.

Those who have seen some of the difference. Between now and then think oh, it must be better. But those who are spiritual forbears, those who would have been memorizing, the same shorter, catechism 72 and teaching it to their children. They hated those things in those days. They knew. That those things.

Uh, were used of the devil and were the seemingly harmless worldliness that many And other protestants were happy to do. Uh, But they knew that there's That those things belonged to that worldliness that is enmity with god that pleasure that is not driven by. Enjoying god and his good gifts.

And so that which That, which was Uh, in those days. Uh, rightly recognized and avoided by those who have The same biblical and theological and spiritual convictions that we do now is now celebrated By those who will learn and repeat the same catechism, questions and answers as you do.

But don't you? Let yourself. Feel like you are missing out. Because, You are trying to be careful. With your thoughts. And your words. Uh, in order to be careful, furthermore, with your actions. You do not miss out on anything good by not reading those books, you do not miss out on anything.

Good by not attending those dances. What you miss out on? Is doing those things that are forbidden. In the seventh commandment. Because what is forbidden in the seventh, commandment As answered by the seventh commandment forbiddeth. All Unchaste. Not trained single-mindedly in the purity of the pleasure

of god, according to the precepts of god to fulfill the purposes of god.

The seventh commandment forbiddeth, all unchazed. Thoughts. Words. And actions.