

Theology Simply Explained — WSC74

“Enjoying and Participating in God’s Goodness to Us and Others in Earthly Things”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 74—especially explaining and applying the duty to delight in and display the goodness of God by making use of the means and materials that He has provided to prosper ourselves and others.

WSC74: What is required in the eighth commandment? **The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.**

(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)

Quarter up here.

Shorter catechism this week is. Number 74. What is required in the eighth commandment? The answer is the eighth commitment requires, the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate. Of ourselves and others.

So the eighth commandment thou shalt not steal. Recognizes that godness the Giver of all of our Possessions. And that he loves to give us good things, he makes display of his goodness. Both in giving us things and in giving us, good means by which we can get things. And so, the lord jesus teaches us.

To pray in the lord's prayer. Give us this day, our daily bread and god describes. Has love for all people. Generally even Those who are wicked. In part, in terms of the sun shining and the rain falling on the just and the unjust. And this of course are two parts of his goodness.

That enable us for instance to get bread. When the lord describes, the goodness of his Covenant gifts to Adam as he is placing him in the garden. He describes, not just the plant life of the place. Uh, but also the rivers and The different types of stone and metal.

That are there. In order that adam can be productive and can have not only have good things, but also have good work for producing more. Good things. And so this is a big part of how God has created us to know and receive and experience and reflect as goodness.

By being those who receive good things from him and who work hard in the managing and producing and further flourishing of the goodness of what he has given us. And so, since this is a big part of Um, of god's goodness to us, the commandment coming in the context of man, having sinned in adam and fallen, and adam, and being sinful comes in a negative form.

Thou shalt not steal, but it still is requiring of us. The positive recognition of god's goodness to us in material things. And, Therefore requires us both to receive it as good from his hand. And, Uh, to receive the opportunity and ability. To. Obtain and increase. What the lord has given us.

In a right way. And so you have the lawful Which includes, you know, putting work in its right context in relationship to worship, you know, six days. So you labor. But the seventh is the sabbath of yahoo. Your god, the recognition that we exist, Not for the good things that he has given us, but for him, And so morning and evening.

Of course and not wearing ourselves down. Working in such a way that is detrimental to our health or trying to obtain things in such a way that is detrimental to our health, which would violate the sixth commandment Um, And recognizing that. There are recreations that are needed in order to.

In order to enjoy god. Well, and that he's provided. That as well too. Uh, but not putting the obtaining of those pleasures out of proportion. Which would violate the seventh commandment but the eighth commandment, the lawful procuring and furthering. Our own. Outward estate, right? The wealth, and outward estate of ourselves, first of all, but also of others.

Because we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. We're to recognize others as made in the image of god, particularly in a Uh, in a fallen world that is bound to corruption and decay. There will be needs of others, not all others can further their own wealth or outward estate.

This is true already in the family, of course, because you come into this world helpless, And so your dad and your mom in part are keeping the eighth commandment by providing for you, everything you need as children. That's the first place that you learn to receive goodness and material things from your mom and dad as intimate as an imitation of and participation in god's giving.

Good material things to you as his provision for. You comes at first through the provision from mom and dad. And so, you learn to be a receiver of charity before. You can be a giver of charity. And if they love you, one of the things they do is they educate you and they train you and they help you not just spiritually, but also material really so that you can be someone Who is able?

To participate in. Procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of yourselves and others. Whether that's workout outside the home to earn money or whether that's the work you do in your chores or whatever. And hopefully are able even to be generous with others. Since there are others, who now not as babies.

But by some other providence of god, illness or injury, or some. Some economic or Um, political happening or whatever, there are many different ways. That people can be brought into a season of need. And this is actually not just part of loving our neighbor, but especially part of loving our brother.

First, john tells us about the one who Who says he loves his brother. But he says, you know, be warm and well fed but he doesn't do anything about getting his brother a coat and he doesn't do anything about getting his brother Brad. He has the things of this world and sees his brother in need but doesn't help him and The apostle by the spirit.

There asks the rhetorical question. How can the love of god? In a man. Who says that to his brother but doesn't do anything about it. Now, we do know that if we help our brother in a way that Accommodates laziness. We're not actually helping them, right? That's not a lawful procuring or for a green as well or outwardness state because it's harming him spiritually.

There are those who it's not that they lack work, it's that they will not work. And the apostle, of course, says, he who will not work. Will not eat or shall not eat.

So there's the word lawful in the answer. Here is carrying affair. Fair amount of weight. And since we're thinking about the word lawful, we should think about some of the ways that our lawful Uh, so we already We already covered receiving for instance, charity from your parents.

Or from your neighbor, or from your brother. There are many, who Think that it is unlawful to receive help. From the king. We don't have a king. We have a government that actually i don't think is consistent necessarily with the bible, you know? Definitely it is unlawful for kings just deal from.

Their people, but there is texas due and honor that is due To those who are in civil authority. The lord makes that plane. That's one of the reasons why. He tells israel that You know, they are wrong to want a king. Up until that time, the lord himself had been there king.

But none of us have church states in which the lord himself is king of the state anymore. So we're all in a place. Uh, where Where we have kings to whom, there are taxes and revenue, that is due, And, it's important that. That we recognize that not all taxation is theft.

A lot of taxation is theft. But it's not wrong necessarily. Uh, to receive from the government. You have different places. For instance, with cyrus and Torias. Where the lord puts it in his heart, to give the people. To give his puts it in the king's heart to give to his people.

That which is good and they receive from his hand and that's not wrong. They're not sinful in receiving it. He even For instance, when they're building the temple and You have the Send send a lot and And forget. Are having difficulty recalling the names of some of the others were against them.

And they try to get them in trouble with the king. And what is the king do? He said no, actually they can build the temple and, you know, they can you have to give them whatever they ask for. And that wasn't the first. Time the the lord or that the lord had put it in.

A king's heart. To do that for his people. So that's that's not necessarily wrong. It's definitely wrong for people to vote, to use the government to take other people's stuff for themselves. But we had, we need to be careful. There are lawful ways. Of procuring, especially working hard being productive.

This has to do in part with what kind of job you do. A job that actually furthers and betters people's lives in. In a healthy and biblical way, there are jobs out there that are downright sinful. There are jobs out there that harm. People spiritually or physically?

There are jobs that are just Manipulation. Of others or manipulation of wealth. And so, lawful procuring and furthering. Is a very significant thing for us to think about But obviously, the lord wants us to work. He wants us to be charitable generous. Especially with our own family in the home and across generations.

So that if your parents come into a time of need, That you have an opportunity like we saw in first Timothy five to repay your parents. But that parents also want to be generous, not only with their children, but with their grandchildren and And build and leave an inheritance that will image god in his being.

Lavish and generous in giving us good things. So, not an exhaustive treatment there. But A. Explanation of what is required in the eighth, commandment. The answer from the catechism being The eighth commandment requireeth, the lawful procuring and furthering. The wealth and outward estate. Of ourselves and others.