

## THE LARGER AND SHORTER CATECHISMS.

HAVING SEEN WHAT THE SCRIPTURES PRINCIPALLY TEACH US CONCERNING GOD, IT  
FOLLOWS TO CONSIDER WHAT THEY REQUIRE AS THE DUTY OF MAN

QUESTIONS # 117 & 60.

*(Larger Catechism)*

Q #117. *How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified?*

A. The sabbath or Lord's day is to be sanctified by an holy resting all the day,<sup>1</sup> not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but even from such worldly employments and recreations as are on other days lawful;<sup>2</sup> and making it our delight to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in works of necessity and mercy<sup>3</sup>) in the public and private exercises of God's worship;<sup>4</sup> and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose and seasonably dispatch our worldly business, that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day.<sup>5</sup>

*(Shorter Catechism)*

Q #60. *How is the sabbath to be sanctified?*

A. The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day,<sup>6</sup> even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days;<sup>7</sup> and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship,<sup>8</sup> except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.<sup>9</sup>

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Question 1—*Wherein consists the sanctification of the sabbath?*

*Answer*—The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all the day, Ex. 20:8, 10. Six days have been appointed wherein men should accomplish their labors, Deut. 5:14. This is an appointed resting from our own labors, Luke 23:56.

Additionally, this rest is characterized as an holy resting, Ex. 31:15. This is not simply a rest that is negative, but the seventh day is appointed as a day of holy convocation, or assembling, Lev. 23:3.

Question 2—*From what kind of works ought we to rest upon the sabbath day?*

*Answer*—Upon the Sabbath day, we are commanded to abstain from all those worldly employments, or burdens, which are incurred throughout the week, Jer. 17:21, 22. There is to be no gathering or taking to ourselves those things needed in the common life, Ex. 16:25-28. This includes all of the honest trade and merchandising that characterizes daily life and occupation, Neh. 13:15-22. All types of civil commerce ought to be concluded with care to preserve the day of rest, Ex. 16:29.

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<sup>1</sup> Ex. 20:8, 10.

<sup>2</sup> Ex. 16:25-28; Neh. 13:15-22; Jer. 17:21, 22.

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 12:1-13.

<sup>4</sup> Isa. 58:13; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Ps. 92 *title*; Isa. 66:23, Lev. 23:3.

<sup>5</sup> Ex. 20:8; Luke 23:54, 56; Ex. 16:22, 25, 26, 29; Neh. 13:19.

<sup>6</sup> Ex. 20:8, 10; 16:25-28.

<sup>7</sup> Neh. 13:15-19, 21, 22.

<sup>8</sup> Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; Ps. 92 *title*; Isa. 66:23.

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 12:1-13.

We are also precluded from engaging in those recreations and pastimes which, otherwise lawful, do not pertain to the sanctification of the Lord's day, Isa. 58:13.

This observance is promised blessing and its nonobservance is threatened with God's curse, Jer. 17:24-27.

Question 3—*How is the whole time to be spent?*

*Answer*—The whole time of the Sabbath is to be employed in the worship of God, which is an holy resting in Him, Heb. 4:10.

First, there is a pattern of *public* weekly worship for the people of God, Isa. 66:23. Public exercises demand public gatherings for the joint praising of the name of God, Ps. 42:4. This includes: 1.) The reading and expounding of the word of God, Acts 15:21; Luke 4:16. 2.) The administration of the sacraments, Acts 20:7. 3.) Those acts of worship, such as the singing of psalms, which were not merely typical, Ps. 92 *title* and 1, 2.

Second, this time should also be employed in private acts of secret and social worship. Lev. 23:3.

Question 4—*Are any other works to be done upon the sabbath?*

*Answer*—The keeping of the Sabbath gives allowance for those works of necessity which could not be foreseen, nor provided against the day before, nor delayed till the day after the Sabbath, Matt. 12:1-8. Instances of necessity include: 1.) Fleeing from, or defending ourselves against an enemy, Matt. 24:20. 2.) Quenching a fire, whether accidentally or wilfully kindled, Heb. 11:34. 3.) Standing by the helm, or working a ship at sea, provided they do not dock or depart upon the Lord's day, Ps. 107:23. 4.) Travel connected with attending the worship of God, 2 Kings 4:23. 5.) Works of common honesty and humanity, such as courteous address of one another, 1 Pet. 3:8.

Sabbath keeping also gives allowance for those works of mercy which arise upon the Lord's day, Matt. 12:9-13. This includes matters such as: 1.) The moderate refreshment of our bodies, Luke 6:1. 2.) Visiting the sick, or preparing and administering remedies to them, Luke 13:16. 3.) Feeding of livestock, Luke 13:15. 4.) Preserving their lives, if in danger, Luke 14:5. 5.) Making collections for the poor, 1 Cor. 16:2.