

The Principles of Christian Religion

**A Study through the Baptist
Catechism using Benjamin
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

Outline of the BC

- I. Introductory Questions: 1-6
- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
- III. What Duty God Requires: 44-114
 - A. The Law and our Inability: 44-89
 - B. The Gospel and the Means of Grace: 90-114

Question and Answer 46

Q. 46: Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.¹

¹ Deuteronomy 10:4; Matthew 19:17-19

Question and Answer 46

1. The Summary of God's Law

- The moral law was in force before the Ten Commandments were given (Gen. 18:19).
- Parts of it were published before (Gen. 9:6).
- But it was at last summed up in the Ten Commandments (Deut. 4:13).
- These commandments were spoken (Deut. 4:12).
- And God spoke them (Exod. 20:1).
- They were written (Luke 10:25).
- And God wrote them (Exod. 32:16).

Question and Answer 46

- Excursus: The Moral Law and the Ten Commandments
 - This is a point on which most Christians for most of history have agreed.
 - Only recently has it been disputed.
 - Both Dispensationalism and New Covenant Theology teach that God's moral law is not summarized in the Ten Commandments.
 - They believe that only those commandments that were in force before the Mosaic Covenant and are explicitly reiterated in the New Testament are binding on NT believers

Question and Answer 46

- Excursus: The Moral Law and the Ten Commandments
 - So are the Ten Commandments a summary of the Moral Law?
 - What is the “law” that is written on the hearts of all men?
 - Romans 2:12-29
 - Were all Ten Commandments in force before the Mosaic Covenant?
 - Are all Ten Commandments still in force under the New Covenant
 - 1 Cor. 7:9; 2 Cor. 3:3; Eph. 6:2-3; 1 Tim. 1:8-11

Question and Answer 46

- Excursus: The Moral Law and the Ten Commandments
 - 1 Tim. 1:8-11
 1. “Ungodly” (cf. Acts 13:43, 50; 16:14; 17 ;4, 17; 18:7)
 2. “Sinners” (cf. Gal. 2:15; Rom. 2:22)
 3. “Unholy” (cf. Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2)
 4. “Profane” (cf. Isa. 56:2,6; Ezek. 22:26; Matt. 12:5)
 5. “Those who strike their fathers and mothers”
 6. “Murderers”
 7. “Sexually immoral, those who practice homosexuality”
 8. “Enslavers”
 9. “Liars, perjurers”

Question and Answer 46

2. The Mediators of God's Law

- Christ was concerned in giving the law (Acts 7:38).
- It was given by the hands of Moses (John 1:17).
- And by the ministration of angels (Acts 7:53).

Question and Answer 46

3. The Giving of God's Law

- The law was given with much pomp (Deut. 33:2).
- And with great terror (Exod. 20:18).
- The sight hereof was terrible to Moses himself (Heb. 12:21).
- And it struck an awe upon the people (Exod. 20:18).
- It is necessary the that what was delivered with so much terror should be obeyed with fear (Heb. 12:28).

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Question and Answer 47

Q. 47: What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is, to love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.¹

¹ Matthew 22:37-40

Question and Answer 47

1. The Two Tables of the Law

- The Ten Commandments were written originally in two tables (Deut. 10:1).
 - Why two tables?
- Love to God is inclusive of all the duties of the first table (Matt. 22:38).
- And love to our neighbor is inclusive of all the duties of the second (Matt. 22:39).
- The whole law is then fulfilled in love (Rom. 13:10).

Question and Answer 47

2. The First Table of the Law

- It is our duty to love God (Josh. 23:11).
- There is in him every thing that is lovely (Zech. 9:17).
- And he will return our love (Prov. 8:17).
- And reward it (1 Cor. 2:9).

Question and Answer 47

2. The First Table of the Law

- We should discover our love to God in frequent thoughts of him (Psa. 104:34).
- And in earnest desires after him (Psa. 63:2).
- And in sorrow for his absence (Psa. 10:1).
- And in unfeigned submission to his providential will (Psa. 39:9).
- And in conscientious obedience to all his commands (1 John 5:3).

Question and Answer 47

2. The First Table of the Law

- Our love to God should be rational and judicious (Phil. 1:9).
- And upright and sincere (Eph. 6:24).
- And strong and vehement (Song 2:5).
- And supreme and superlative (Matt. 10:37).
- And constant and abiding (Jude 21).

Question and Answer 47

3. The Second Table of the Law

- Our love need not be confined to God (1 John 4:21).
- We should seek the good of others (1 Cor. 13:5).
- And lend a compassionate ear to their complaints (Job 6:14).
- And supply their necessities (Job 31:16).
- And reprove their sins (Lev. 19:17).
- And pray for them (James 5:16).
- And even venture our lives for them if necessary (1 John 3:16).

Question and Answer 47

2. The Second Table of the Law

- We should love others as Christ has loved us (Eph. 5:2).
- And as we love ourselves (Matt. 19:19).
- We should love them as sincerely (1 John 3:18).
- And as fervently (1 Pet. 4:8).
- And as constantly (Heb. 13:1).
- It hence follows that we should do to others as we would be done by (Matt. 7:12).

Question and Answer 47

2. The Second Table of the Law

- Love is Christ's new commandment (John 13:34).
- It is a test of our discipleship (John 13:35).
- It is placed at the top of the Christian graces (1 Cor. 13:13).
- And it is a grace that will continue and accompany us to heaven (ibid.)