



# Defending Your Faith

*Expository Apologetics*

“Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”

PROVIDENCE REFORMED

BAPTIST CHURCH



# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

Exodus 20:3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

A Puritan Catechism

42 Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

43 Q. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know ([1 Chron. 28:9](#)) and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God ([Deut. 26:17](#)), and to worship and glorify him accordingly ([Matt. 4:10](#)).



# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

The Ten Commandments were given as the people of Israel left Egypt (Exodus 20), and again when they were about to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 5).

With Moses as the Mediator of the Old Covenant, the Law was restated to prepare the people for the conquest of Canaan.

Deut. 5:1 Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the judgments which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and be careful to do them. 2 Yahweh our God cut a covenant with us at Horeb. 3 Yahweh did not cut this covenant with our fathers, but with us, with all those of us alive here today. 4 Yahweh spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire. 5 I was standing between Yahweh and you at that time, to declare to you the word of Yahweh; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain. He said, 6 ‘I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 7 ‘You shall have no other gods before Me.



# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

The Baptist Catechism:

50 Q. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me ([Ex. 20:3](#)).

51 Q. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God ([1 Chron. 28:9](#); [Deut. 26:17](#)), and to worship and glorify him accordingly ([Mt. 4:10](#); [Ps. 29:2](#)).

52 Q. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbiddeth the denying ([Ps. 14:1](#)), or not worshipping and glorifying the true God ([Rom. 1:21](#)), as God and our God ([Ps. 81:10, 11](#)), and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto him alone ([Rom. 1:25, 26](#)).





# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 104. What are the duties required in the first commandment?

A. The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; believing him; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; calling upon him; giving all praise and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; being careful in all things to please him, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; and walking humbly with him.

(1 Chr. 28:9; Deut. 26:17; Isa. 43:10; Jer. 14:22; Ps. 95:6-7; Matt. 4:10; Ps. 29:2; Mal. 3:16; Ps. 63:6; Ecc. 12:1; Ps. 71:19; Mal. 1:6; Isa. 45:23; Josh. 24:15, 22; Deut. 6:5; Ps. 123:25; Isa. 8:13; Ex. 14:31; Isa. 26:4; Ps. 130:7; Ps. 37:4; Ps. 32:11; Rom. 12:11; Num. 25:11; Phil. 4:6; Jer. 7:23; Jas 4:7; 1 John 3:22; Jer. 31:18; Ps. 119:136; Mic. 6:8).



# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the first commandment are atheism, in denying, or not having a God; idolatry, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with, or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; the omission or neglect of any thing due to him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; bold and curious searching into his secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part;



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Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

A. (continued) - vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments; hardness of heart; pride; presumption; carnal security; tempting of God; using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; all compacts and consulting with the devil, and hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands; resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.



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Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

A. (Ps. 14:1; Eph. 2:12; Jer. 2:27-28; 1 Thess. 1:9; Ps. 81:11; Isa. 43:22-24; Jer. 4:22; Hos. 4:1, 6; Jer. 2:32; Acts 17:23, 29; Isa. 40:18; Ps. 1:21; Deut. 29:29; Titus 1:16; Heb. 12:16; Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2; Phil. 2:21; 1 John 2:15-16; 1 Sam. 2:29; Col. 3:2, 5; 1 John 4:1; Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:20; Titus 3:10; Acts 26:9; Ps. 78:22; Gen. 4:13; Jer. 5:3; Isa. 42:25; Rom. 2:5; Jer. 13:15; Ps. 19:13; Zeph. 1:12; Matt. 4:7; Rom. 3:8; Jer. 17:5; 2 Tim. 3:4; Gal. 4:17; John 16:2; Rom. 10:2; Luke 9:54-55; Rev. 3:16; Rev. 3:1; Ezek. 14:5; Isa. 1:4-5; Rom. 10:13-14; Hos. 4:12; Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:10; Matt. 4:10; Col. 2:18; Rom. 1:25; Lev. 20:6; 1 Sam. 28:7, 11; 1 Chr. 10:13-14; Acts 5:3; 2 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 23:9; Deut. 32:15; 2 Sam. 12:9; Prov. 13:13; Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30; Ps. 73:2-3, 13-15, 22; Job 1:22; 1 Sam. 6:7-9; Dan. 5:23; Deut. 8:17; Dan. 4:30; Hab. 1:16).





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Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q. 106. What are we especially taught by these words (before me) in the first commandment?

A. These words (before me) or before my face, in the first commandment teach us that God who sees all things, takes special notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god; that so it may be an argument to dissuade from it, and to aggravate it as a most impudent provocation; as also to persuade us to do as in his sight, whatever we do in his service.

[\(Ezek. 8:5-18; Ps. 44:20-21; 1 Chr. 28:9\).](#)



# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

Matthew Henry on the First Commandment:

1. The first commandment concerns the object of our worship, Jehovah, and him only (Exod. 20:3): Thou shalt have no other gods before me. The Egyptians, and other neighbouring nations, had many gods, the creatures of their own fancy, strange gods, new gods; this law was prefixed because of that transgression, and, Jehovah being the God of Israel, they must entirely cleave to him, and not be for any other, either of their own invention or borrowed from their neighbours. This was the sin they were most in danger of now that the world was so overspread with polytheism, which yet could not be rooted out effectually but by the gospel of Christ. The sin against this commandment which we are most in danger of is giving the glory and honour to any creature which are due to God only. Pride makes a god of self, covetousness makes a god of money, sensuality makes a god of the belly; whatever is esteemed or loved, feared or served, delighted in or depended on, more than God, that (whatever it is) we do in effect make a god of.



# Lesson 11 – The First Commandment

Matthew Henry on the First Commandment:

This prohibition includes a precept which is the foundation of the whole law, that we take the Lord for our God, acknowledge that he is God, accept him for ours, adore him with admiration and humble reverence, and set our affections entirely upon him. In the last words, before me, it is intimated, (1.) That we cannot have any other God but he will certainly know it. There is none besides him but what is before him. Idolaters covet secrecy; but shall not God search this out? (2.) That it is very provoking to him; it is a sin that dares him to his face, which he cannot, which he will not, overlook, nor connive at. See [Ps. 44:20, 21](#).



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For further study:

John Gill on Exodus 20:3 - <https://johngill.thekingsbible.com/CommentaryVerse/2/20/3>

John Calvin on the First Commandment in his “Harmony of the Law” – (scroll down to page 285)  
- <https://www.biblestudyguide.org/ebooks/comment/calcom03.pdf>

“The one God is not rightly worshipped, unless He be separated from all figments. Wherefore it is not enough to make use of His name, unless all corruptions opposed to His word be laid aside; and thence we arrive at the distinction between true religion and false superstitions; for since God has prescribed to us how He would be worshipped by us, whenever we turn away in the very smallest degree from this rule, we make to ourselves other gods, and degrade Him from His right place.”

- Calvin