

Theology Simply Explained — WSC50 What the Second Commandment Requires

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 50: What is required in the second commandment? **The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in His Word.**

(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)

All right, this week's catechism. Question is, what is required in the second commandment? And there are three things that are commanded and two ways or manners, or limiting factors that are commanded and there's one object, but it's a comprehensive object. The three things that are commanded, Our receiving, observing, and keeping the two manners in, which it's, in which we are to do those things pure and entire, and the object is all.

All such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his word. So the answer is the second commandment required, the receiving observing and keeping pure and entire All sex religious worship and ordinances as God at the pointed in his work. So first, the three things that we are to do with God's religious ordinances.

The first one is receiving, which means you and I don't get to invent how to worship, which makes sense. Because we're the creature. We are the breathing dirt. If we're going to have interaction with God, it's going to be God who comes up with how to do it. Not the breathing dirt.

When the breathing dirt comes up with how to do it. It's called idolatry. And so right at the beginning by saying the second commandment required, the receiving, we're recognizing that. God is God, and we are not. All worship is in the first place practice. At not being God, our flesh wants to be God.

The devil whispers you can be like God as he did to Eve in the first place. The world. What everyone to get to be their own. God not just have no king in Israel but no God in the world and have everyone do it is right in their own eyes but God is God and we are not and God is a good.

God is a merciful God. He wants us to know him. He wants us to have fellowship with him. So what can give us the knowledge of God and fellowship of thought, what God, invents or what we can, what we invent, what God invents. That's right. Sophia and wood that all of our hearts and the world.

And the church would know something that's so obvious. And so God decides how to worship and we receive how to worship. And so the second commandment requires the receiving observing that we would think about how God wants us to worship and that we would act upon what God says that we would observe what we received from him that we would be thoughtful about it.

That it would be for us not just God gives us the list of elements and we know that There are elements in forms and circumstances and so long as we have the elements and we can do whatever form we want and sneak everything that is satanic in under the idea of circumstances.

No. God wants us to receive from him and he wants us to learn and understand why he gives us what he gives us. He wants us to study His word. He wants us to observe the right way of worshiping Him to be thoughtful worshipers of him. So we are to receive and observe and of course, if we're going to observe, we're going to teach because there are people like Sophia who are for and pretty observant in ways that we wouldn't suspect.

But unable to think through things and quite the way that she will Lord willing later and so her daddy and her mommy and her older brothers and sisters should be explaining to her that since God is God, and we are not and he is the one who decided that he would have fellowship with us.

And we would have fellowship with him. That the way we worship is decided by him. And he decided to use his word and why His Word because his word is what he uses to give us life so that we can know him or trust in him. And his word is what he uses to renew our minds which is the way that we can actually be transformed and many other such things to receive.

And observe but not just observe but keep what good is it for us to understand how God says to worship and why he says, to worship that way If we don't actually do it? Well, I get brownie points in heaven. If I understand from the Bible, the right way of worshiping, God, and I agree that that's the right way of worshiping.

God, and I teach others. That's the right way of worshiping. God and then I come and worship God a different way. Doesn't that just make me a worse sinner. Sending against Grace sinning against knowledge feeling better about myself, because I know what to do and then not doing what I know to do.

Being a hero of the world word and not a doer also. And so the second commandment required, the receiving observing and keeping pure and entire This is basically straight out of Deuteronomy 4. Pure you shall add nothing to it. God's commands or God's commands, if I add my ideas.

Then we have God's commands and my ideas. Suddenly, my worship isn't pure, it's made mixed. Pure means simple, single unmixed unadulterated pure. And so by saying pure, they mean, not adding anything to God's word. Not adding anything too. How God says to worship Him. I'm so glad today that we got to worship with oaths and vows because odes and vows are part of public worship but they're not the ordinary parts of public courtship.

They're the occasional parts of public. Courtship a response to something specific that God is doing in our lives. And he did something specific. He gave to Mr. Ben, and Miss Emily baby Boaz. And so, we responded knowing that God alone is Lord of the conscience. And God alone is the one who can sustain us in doing that, which is required of us.

And God alone is our hope in making our ministry to baby Boaz. Actually produce spiritual fruit. And so we got to take vow one to God and earth unto each other, In the promises that we made in the public worship. If we never made any odds or any vows in public worship, Then we wouldn't be keeping entire what God has commanded to us.

And if we ever had a worship service in, which we didn't sing, which is an ordinary part of public worship. Or when we didn't read the Bible, which is an ordinary part of public works for when we didn't hear it, preach, when we didn't hear here, when we didn't pray, or when we didn't have the supper, Did you know that there are congregations?

Who worship God without having the supper. There are congregations that have worship services in which instead of having preaching, they have a performance music by the choir, they call it an anthem or I forgot, I forgot what it's called when it's longer. And instead of the sermon or they'll have a drama or they'll have a skit Drummond's good at the same or they'll have a film or something.

And one of the ordinary parts of public worship. Aren't in it. Have they kept the worship of God? Entire. And what if We had preaching? But every week we had preaching from the same text, or we had singing, but every week we sang from the same book of the Bible, I know, I'm stepping on some reform toes now, would we be keeping entire what God has instituted all such religious worship and ordinances as God, has appointed in his word?

So we must keep it pure. We must observe it pure. We must receive it. Pure nothing added to it and we must receive and observe and keep it entire seeking to do and worship. All that God has commanded. We have baptisms far. Two infrequently. Thank God. We've had a number of them recently, but shouldn't we desire that the Lord would be adding to his church.

Whether by birth or by new birth shouldn't we desire? That children would be professing faith in him and coming and taking the vows that belong to a professing believer of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So the second commandment required, the receiving observing and keeping three things in two ways. Pure nothing added to it. Entire nothing taken from it pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances Sophia how much of the religious worship that God commands. Should we do? All of it, right?

All four sounds like a really high number. When four is your age, it's the oldest she's ever been. Yeah. For. Optimum all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his word. So, where is God appointed the religious ordinances and worship that he wants from us?

In his word, The same word that he has caused to be preserved. Same word that he has caused to be translated the same word that you have. Several entire copies of sitting at this table, you don't have to travel across the world to the cave system where the secrets cave is, where you can find the one copy of the instructions of how to worship the one true God.

Although if that were the case, then it would be worth it. Wouldn't it? How merciful is he that he caused his word to be written and preserved and copied and translated and distributed. That is not a God who hides from us and who hides his will from us. Oh, my dear children.

I hope you don't have anything remaining from your flesh of what I had in mind and was reinforced reinforced by the church that I grew up in that, there was some special way of worshipping God. That if we could only find the secret, It's not a secret, which is openly told us in his word, how he is appointed to be worshiped.

And if he has caused it to be written caused it to be preserved, caused it to be copied caused and retranslated caused it to be distributed. Then ought not. We receive it and observe it, and keep it, not adding anything to it. We want to pure and not taking anything from it.

We want to do it entirely.

There are many who dislike this idea of the second commandment and they'll say oh we just dislike how the Westminster Standards interpret the second commandment but it really isn't. That much of an interpretation isn't is it it's pretty obvious on the face of it Only God can define what worship us.

He's given it to us in his words so that we can receive it and he wants us to do it. Not unthinkingly, but thinkingly and so you wants us to observe it. And he wants us not to just to be abstractly intellectually understanding his worship, but to actually be worshipers who do worship Him So he wants us to keep it reserve receive observe, and keep pure and entire, what is required in the second commandment.

The second commandment required. The receiving observing and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his word.