

Theology Simply Explained — WSC47 What the First Commandment Forbids

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 47: What is forbidden in the first commandment? **The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to Him alone.**

(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)

Our catechism question this week is number 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment? And the answer is the first commandment forbiddeth. The denying or not worshiping in glorifying the true. God as God and our God. And The giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone.

So first of all, the first commitment for bit. At the denying of the true God as God. This of course, forbids atheism. Since we all can see in the creation and God has made known to us, not only by the things that are made. But also in ourselves in our own hearts, he has made himself known to us.

And Romans 1 says that the only way not to acknowledge him as God is to suppress the truth in unrighteousness. So, even anyone who calls themselves, agnostic, which is very stupid, literally, because it means someone who doesn't know, who lacks knowledge, who is unknowing? Is suppressing the truth and unrighteousness.

Whenever you have the doubt rise in your heart about the true, God, It comes from the flesh, it comes from the devil. It does not come from any lack of evidence or genuine desire to be sure, wicked men flatter themselves that they are sincere. Seekers and they call themselves agnostics.

You may not be let off the hook so easily because you have been taught from Scripture and you know, in your heart that God has. And you can see in the world that God is so that settles the first part, the first commandment, for bit of the denying. And there are those who recognize that there is a God and every once in a while they make some sort of statement about what a creator he might, he must be here how powerful you must be, but they do not give him worship even though they must sleep one-third of their lives so that their lives are organized by a morning when they wake up from their sleep and an evening.

When they go to bed in their sleep yet they do not take these breaks from their own work for the worshiping of God. Even though it is impossible that a man would work every single day and not have a break. The French government after the French Revolution, tried to be superhumanistic and question and redo everything.

So they tried to have it 10 day, work week to be more productive. In the discovered that cannot do anything other than a seven-day week because we have been created that way of. And so, there is this pattern of working six days and resting one that is built into how we were created.

And that one day of rest, of course, is for worship because we were created by a creator. And so, if we do not worship God In the morning, when we rise and the evening, when we go to bed and all day on the Lord's day, We violate the first commandment because he has made us to know that he is.

God, that we are not accidents. That the world does not exist from itself that the idea of pure materialism, the idea that material things, or the only things that exist that all those things are lies along with atheism and agnosticism. And therefore, we must not only acknowledge him so that we are forbidden agnosticism or atheism, but also we are required to worship Him to give our hearts to him and offer him that worship that he has defined, and will think about that more in the second commandment, but that worship that he has defined morning and evening.

And then all day on the Lord's day. So the first commandment forbiddeth, the denying or not worshiping and glorifying the true God is God. And then and our God, when he says, I'm the Lord thy God, He reminds us that he has taken to himself a covenant people that he has not only to us.

God the Creator but we having sinned and not deserving to call him. Our God. But rightfully would call him our enemy and even more. So have him call us His enemy. His enemy is enemies. He has indeed instead redeemed us and taken us to be his own people and bound himself to us and bound us to himself.

So that we would have our identity as belonging to Him and we would know Him not only for all the glorious characteristics attributes that we can see in the creation and that we know from His Word. But that we would know him as our God who has bound himself to us by covenant and not only by covenant, but now Christ having come revealing himself as the Son and sending his Spirit into our hearts.

So that we call God our Abba, our Father, that the relation that we have in covenant with him is not only the relation of servant or subject or citizen. That the relation of beloved child adopted into the family being conformed to the firstborn. Bearing, as we may in the flesh, whatever extent we may in the flesh, the resemblance of our heavenly Father and our elder, brother here that we have been set apart, not only in the everlasting family, the eternal and to us currently invisible family.

But that also because his way of gathering his family in this world is in his church and in congregations of his church, that we would be members of his church. Those who refuse church membership, those who would stand God as we were thinking about from Acts 11 verse 17 and refused baptism in which God places His mark upon those whom he redeems those who do such break the first commandment because the first commandment forbiddeth, not only the denying or withholding that worship or glorifying.

But also failing to acknowledge him as our God. Our covenant God. So the first commandment forbiddeth the denying or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God and our God, and The giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone. So that the only way to take a proper author valve is to summon.

God is witness to someone. The Lord is our witness those who use curse words to try to make their statements stronger. Use something foul and put it in the place of God. Where vows and o's are active worship. Those who pray to others or trust another's, whether trusting in themselves and their ability or their supposed intelligence or trusting in the government as many do or trusting in any other man or trusting in any false deity that they get lured into by the lies of men and the lies of demons.

I'm sure you've seen even on the Kindle books on the mythologies of different cultures and how they come to trust and one or another of these false gods that are really just demons posing as God's. Or as the papists pray to saints When prayer is an act of worship prayer.

Presumes omniscience and omnipresence and omnipotence that they would be able to hear us and that they would be able to be wherever we need them. To be to answer the prayer that they would be able to do something about it. Only God can do any of those things and therefore only to God.

May you pray. Sit next to me. And then there are those who take olds of allegiance recently. Some of us were among some. Hopefully well-meaning Christians who are pledging allegiance and they added a phrase that wasn't originally in the pledge under God than yet. The pledge as a whole commits, the sort of allegiance, the sort of refusal to acknowledge any other that really only belongs to God.

And so there are many acts of worship that we may do onto the Lord alone, that many unthinkingly, do unto other people, or things, or entities. And so, this commandment helps us? Remember that got a loan. Maybe our strength upon which we depend got alone, maybe our purpose to which we are devoted.

God alone. Maybe our desire and whom we are delighted and that dependence and that devotion and that delight must not be extended to anything else. And if we do so we thank God that we have Christ and His righteousness who never had any other God before the Lord. And since it came up and the little kids cut, because I'm class at the Lord, on the Lord's day, it should know that that word.

Before me means something to the effect of against my face not that we can have a list of God. So long as he is the first one, don't have anyone before him have him first and then he can have the rest after him. No, the work before him means We are always before his face.

We belong to him. And if we depend upon or are devoted to or are delighted in anything else, in an ultimate way, other than him, anything besides him, where the dependence is not a dependence upon him to use them where the devotion is not a devotion to him in whom we serve, where the delight is, not an enjoyment of him.

In his good gifts, If we are devoted to dependent upon or devoted to or delight in anything apart from him than it is a front and a front right to his face as if you had seen me right in front of your mom, go and plant a big romantic kiss on another woman right in front of her face.

But when you and I treat anything else as God or divine, God says, that's right. In front of his face that we're always before him in that way and that should encourage us. Always to depend upon him because we're before his face, and to be devoted to him because we're before his face, and to be delighted to in him, because we're before his face and not to give any of those things to anything other than him.

So what is forbidden in the first commandment The, first commandment forbiddeth, the denying or not worshiping and glorifying the true goddess, God and our God, and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone.