



Session 14

The Ten Commandments or “The Moral Law”
Our Duty to God

Session 14 Overview

Westminster Confession of Faith

- Chapter 21 Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day
- Chapter 22 Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

Catechism

- Q. 103. Which is the first commandment? (WSC Q.45)
- Q. 104. What are the duties required in the first commandment? (WSC Q.46)
- Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment? (WSC Q.47)
- Q. 106. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment? (WSC Q.48)
- Q. 107. Which is the second commandment? (WSC Q.49)
- Q. 108. What are the duties required in the second commandment? (WSC Q.50)
- Q. 109. What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment? (WSC Q.51)
- Q. 110. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.52)
- Q. 111. Which is the third commandment? (WSC Q.53)
- Q. 112. What is required in the third commandment? (WSC Q.54)
- Q. 113. What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment? (WSC Q.55)
- Q. 114. What reasons are annexed to the third commandment? (WSC Q.56)
- Q. 115. Which is the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.57)
- Q. 116. What is required in the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.58)
- Q. 117. How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified? (WSC Q.60)
- Q. 118. Why is the charge of keeping the sabbath more specially directed to governors of families, and other superiors?
- Q. 119. What are the sins forbidden in the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.61)
- Q. 120. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.62)
- Q. 121. Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of the fourth commandment?

Q. 103. Which is the first commandment? (WSC Q.45)

A. The first commandment is,

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exo 20:3)

Q. 104. What are the duties required in the first commandment? (WSC Q.46)

A. The duties required in the first commandment are,

- The knowing and **acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God**; (1 Chron. 28:9; Deut. 26:7; Isa. 43:10)
- To **worship and glorify him** accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; (Ps. 95:6–7; Ps. 63:6; Ps. 71:19; Isa. 45:23; Deut. 6:5)
- **Believing him**; trusting, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; being zealous for him; (Isa. 26:4; Ps. 130:7; Ps. 37:4; Ps. 32:11)
- **Calling upon him**, giving all praise and thanks, (Phil. 4:6)
- **Yielding all obedience and submission to him** with the whole man; (Jer. 7:23; James 4:7)
- Being careful in all things to **please him**, and **sorrowful when in anything he is offended**; and walking humbly with him. (1 John 3:22; Ps. 119:136; Mic. 6:8)

Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment? (WSC Q.47)

A. The sins forbidden in the first commandment are,

- **Atheism**, in denying or not having a God; (Ps 14:1)
- Idolatry, in having or **worshiping more gods than one**, or any with or instead of the true God; (1 Th 1:9)
- The **not having and avouching him for God**, and our God; (Ps 81:10–11; Rom 1:21)
- **The omission or neglect of anything due to him, required in this commandment**; (Isa. 43:22–24)
- Ignorance, forgetfulness, **misapprehensions**, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; (Jer. 4:22; Acts 17:23, 29; Ps. 50:21)
- Bold and curious **searching into his secrets**; (Deut. 29:29)
- 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; carnal delights and joys; (Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim. 3:2; 1 John 2:15–16; Heb. 3:12)
- **Vain credulity**, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, (John 4:1; Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:20;)
- **Tempting of God**; (Matt. 4:7)
- Using **unlawful means**, and trusting in lawful means; (Rom. 3:8; Jer 17:5)
- Corrupt, **blind**, and indiscreet **zeal**; (Gal 4:17; Rom 10:2)
- **Luke warmness**, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and **apostatizing** from God; (Rev. 3:16; Rev. 3:1; Ezek. 14:5; Isa. 1:4–5)
- **Praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures**; (Hos. 4:12; Col. 2:18)
- All compacts and **consulting with the devil**, and **hearkening to his suggestions**; (Lev. 20:6; Acts 5:3)
- **Making men the lords of our faith and conscience**; (2 Cor. 1:24)
- **Slighting and despising God and his commands**; (Prov. 13:13)
- **Resisting and grieving of his Spirit**, (Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30)
- 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. (Job 1:22; Dan. 5:23; Hab. 1:16)

Q. 106. What are we specially taught by these words “before me” in the first commandment? (WSC Q.48)

A. These words “**before me**” or “**before my face,**” in the first commandment, teach us, that

- **God, who seeth all things, taketh special notice** of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God:

“If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or extended our hands to a strange god; Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.” (Psa 44:20-21 NAS)

- 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.

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.” (1Ch 28:9 NAS)



Q. 107. Which is the second commandment? (WSC Q.49)

A. The second commandment is,

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” ,(Exo 20:4-6)

Q. 108. What are the duties required in the second commandment? (WSC Q.50)

A. The duties required in the second commandment are,

- **the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word;** particularly (Deut. 12:32)
 - **Prayer** and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; (Phil. 4:6; Eph. 5:20)
 - The **reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word;** (Deut. 17:18–19; James 1:21–22;)
 - The administration and receiving of **the sacraments;** (Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 11:23–30)
 - **Church government** and discipline; (Matt. 18:15–17; Matt. 16:19)
 - **The ministry** and maintenance thereof; (Eph. 4:11–12)
 - Religious **fasting; swearing** by the name of God, and **vowing** unto him: (Joel 2:12–13; Deut. 6:13; Ps. 76:11; Isa. 19:21)
 - As also the disapproving, detesting, **opposing all false worship;** and, (Acts 17:16–17; Ps. 16:4)
 - **According to each one's place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.** (Deut. 7:5; Isa. 30:22)

Q. 109. What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment? (WSC Q.51)

A. The sins forbidden in the second commandment are,

- All devising, counseling, commanding, using, and anywise **approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself**; (Num. 15:39; Hos. 5:11; 1 Kings 11:3)
- **The making any representation of God**, of all or of any of the three persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; All **worshiping of it**, or God in it or by it; (Deut. 4:15–16; Rom. 1:21–23,25; Gal. 4:8; Ex. 32:5;)
- The making of **any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them**, or service belonging to them; (Ex. 32:8; 1 Kings 18:26, 28)
- **All superstitious devices**, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, **whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others**, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever; (Acts 17:22; Col. 2:21–23; Ps. 106:39; Matt. 15:9)
- Simony; sacrilege; **all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.** (Acts 8:18–19; Rom. 2:22; Matt. 23:13; Acts 13:44–45)

Q. 110. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.52)

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it, contained in these words,

For I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments; (Ex. 20:5–6)

- are, besides **God's sovereignty over us**, and propriety in us, his fervent zeal for his own worship, and **his revengeful indignation against all false worship, as being a spiritual whoredom**; (Rev. 15:3–4; Ex. 34:13–14; 1 Cor. 10:20–22;)
- accounting the breakers of this commandment **such as hate him**, and **threatening to punish them unto divers generations**; and (Ezek. 16:26–27; Hos. 2:2–4)
- esteeming the observers of it **such as love him** and keep his commandments, and **promising mercy to them unto many generations**. (Deut. 5:29)

Q. 111. Which is the third commandment? (WSC Q.53)

A. The third commandment is,

"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Ex. 20:7)

Q. 112. What is required in the third commandment? (WSC Q.54)

A. The third commandment requires, that

- **The name of God**, his titles, attributes, ordinances, the Word, sacraments, prayer, oaths, vows, lots, his works, **and whatsoever else there is whereby he makes himself known**, (Matt. 6:9; Deut. 28:58; Eccl. 5:1; Ps. 138:2;)
- **Be holily and reverently used** in thought, meditation, word, and writing; by an holy profession, and answerable conversation, **to the glory of God**, and the good of ourselves and others. (Mal. 3:16; Ps. 8:1, 3–4; Ps. 105:2, 5; 1 Pet. 3:15; Phil. 1:27)

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1Co 10:31 NAS)

Q. 113. What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment? (WSC Q.55)

A. The sins forbidden in the third commandment are,

- The **not using of God's name as is required**; and the abuse of it in an ignorant, vain, irreverent, profane, superstitious, or wicked mentioning or otherwise using his titles, attributes, ordinances, or works, by blasphemy, perjury; all sinful cursings, oaths, vows, and lots; (Mal. 2:2; Acts 17:23; Prov. 30:9; Mal. 1:6–7, 12; 1 Sam. 4:3–5)
- **Violating of our oaths and vows, if lawful**, and **fulfilling them, if of things unlawful**; (Ps. 24:4; Ezek. 17:16, 18–19; Mark 6:26; 1 Sam. 25:22, 32–34) IE 2 party covenant
- Murmuring and quarreling at, curious prying into, and **misapplying of God's decrees and providences**; (Rom. 9:14, 19–20; Deut. 29:29; Rom. 3:5, 7; Rom. 6:1–2; Eccl. 9:3)
- Misinterpreting, misapplying, or anyway **perverting the Word**, or any part of it, to **profane jests**, curious or unprofitable questions, vain jangling, **or the maintaining of false doctrines**; (Matt. 5:21–22, 27–28, 31–35, 38–39, 43–44; 2 Pet. 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:4–7, 6:4–5, 20; Titus 3:9)
- Abusing it, the creatures, or anything contained under the name of God, to charms, or **sinful lusts and practices**; (Deut. 18:10–14; Acts 19:13; 2 Tim. 4:3–4; 1 Kings 21:9–10)
- The maligning, scorning, reviling, or anywise **opposing of God's truth**, grace, and ways; **making profession of religion in hypocrisy**, or **for sinister ends**; (Acts 13:45; Ps. 1:1; Pet. 4:4; Acts 13:45–46, 50; 2 Tim. 3:5; Matt. 23:14)
- Being ashamed of it, or a shame to it, by unconformable, unwise, unfruitful, and **offensive walking, or backsliding from it**. (Mark 8:38; Ps. 73:14–15; Eph. 5:15–17; Isa. 5:4; Rom. 2:23–24)

Q. 114. What reasons are annexed to the third commandment? (WSC Q.56)

A. The reasons annexed to the third commandment, in these words,

“The LORD thy God, and, For the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain,” (Ex. 20:7)

- Are, Because **he is the Lord and our God**, therefore **his name is not to be profaned**, or anyway abused by us; (Lev. 19:12;)
- Especially because **he will be so far from acquitting and sparing the transgressors of this commandment**, as that he will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment, (Deut. 28:58–59; Ezek. 36:21–23)
- Albeit **many such escape the censures and punishments of men**. (1 Sam. 2:29; 1 Sam. 3:13)

Q. 115. Which is the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.57) (First Day Sabbatarianism)

A. The fourth commandment is,

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.” (Ex. 20:8–11)

Q. 116. What is required in the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.58)

A. The fourth commandment requireth of all men

- the sanctifying or keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his Word, expressly one whole day in seven; (Gen. 2:2–3; Deut. 5:12–14)
 - Which was **the seventh** from the beginning of the world **to the resurrection of Christ**, and (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Acts 20:7; John 20:19, 26)
 - **The first day** of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the **Christian sabbath**, and in the New Testament called the **Lord’s Day**. (Rev. 1:10)

Q. 117. How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to be sanctified? (WSC Q.60)

A. The Sabbath or Lord's Day is to be sanctified by

- An **holy resting all the day**, 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; (Ex. 20:8, 10; Ex. 16:25–28; Jer. 17:21–22)
- 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) **in the public and private exercises of God's worship**: (Matt. 12:1–5; Isa. 58:13–14; Luke 4:16; Cor. 16:1–2)
- 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**. (Ex. 20:8; Luke 23:54, 56; Ex. 16:22, 25–26, 29; Neh. 13:19)

Q. 118. Why is the charge of keeping the sabbath more specially directed to governors of families, and other superiors?

A. The charge of keeping the Sabbath is more specially directed to governors of families, and other superiors, because

- They are bound **not only to keep it themselves**, but **to see that it be observed by all those that are under their charge**; (Ex. 20:10)
- And because **they are prone oftentimes to hinder them by employments of their own**. (Ex. 23:12)

Q. 119. What are the sins forbidden in the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.61)

A. The sins forbidden in the fourth commandment are,

- **All omissions of the duties required**, all careless, negligent, and unprofitable performing of them, and being weary of them; (Ezek. 22:26; Amos 8:5)
- **All profaning the day by idleness**, and doing that which is in itself sinful; (Ezek. 23:38)
- **And by all needless works**, words, and thoughts, about our worldly employments and recreations. (Jer. 17:24, 27; sa. 58:13–14)

Q. 120. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.62)

A. The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment, the more to enforce it, are taken from the equity of it, God allowing us six days of seven for our own affairs, and reserving but one for himself, in these words,

“Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: from God’s challenging a special propriety in that day, The seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: from the example of God, who in six days ... made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: and from that blessing which God put upon that day, not only in sanctifying it to be a day for his service, but in ordaining it to be a means of lessing to us in our sanctifying it; Wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.” . (Exo 20:9-11)

Q. 121. Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of the fourth commandment?

A. The word *Remember* is set in the beginning of the fourth commandment, partly, because

- Of the great benefit of remembering it, we being thereby **helped in our preparation to keep it**, and, in keeping it, better to keep all the rest of the commandments, and to continue a **thankful remembrance of the two great benefits of creation and redemption**, which contain a short abridgment of religion; (Ex. 20:8; Ex. 16:23; Ezek. 20:12, 19–20; Gen. 2:2–3; Ps. 118:22, 24)
- And partly, because **we are very ready to forget it**, for that there is less light of nature for it, and yet it restraineth our natural liberty in things at other times lawful; (Ezek. 22:26; Neh. 9:14; Ex. 34:21)
- That it cometh but once in seven days, and **many worldly businesses come between, and too often take off our minds from thinking of it**, either to prepare for it, or to sanctify it; (Deut. 5:14–15; Amos 8:5)
- And **that Satan with his instruments** much labor to blot out the glory, and even the memory of it, **to bring in all irreligion and impiety**. (Lam. 1:7; Jer. 17:21–23; Neh. 13:15–22)

Next Lesson – Session 15

- Westminster Confession of Faith
 - Chapter 22 Of Lawful Oaths and Vows– False witness
 - Chapter 24 Of Marriage and Divorce-Adultery
- Q. 122. What is the sum of the six commandments which contain our duty to man?
- **Q. 123. Which is the fifth commandment? (WSC Q.63)**
- Q. 124. Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?
- Q. 125. Why are superiors styled Father and Mother?
- Q. 126. What is the general scope of the fifth commandment?
- Q. 127. What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?
- Q. 128. What are the sins of inferiors against their superiors?
- Q. 129. What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?
- Q. 130. What are the sins of superiors?
- Q. 131. What are the duties of equals?
- Q. 132. What are the sins of equals?
- **Q. 133. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.66)**
- **Q. 134. Which is the sixth commandment? (WSC Q.67)**
- **Q. 135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment? (WSC Q.68)**
- **Q. 136. What are the sins forbidden in the sixth commandment? (WSC Q.69)**
- **Q. 137. Which is the seventh commandment? (WSC Q.70)**
- **Q. 138. What are the duties required in the seventh commandment? (WSC Q.71)**
- **Q. 139. What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment? (WSC Q.72)**
- **Q. 140. Which is the eighth commandment? (WSC Q.73)**
- **Q. 141. What are the duties required in the eighth commandment? (WSC Q.74)**
- **Q. 142. What are the sins forbidden in the eighth commandment? (WSC Q.75)**
- **Q. 143. Which is the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.76)**
- **Q. 144. What are the duties required in the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.77)**
- **Q. 145. What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.78)**
- **Q. 146. Which is the tenth commandment? (WSC Q.79)**
- **Q. 147. What are the duties required in the tenth commandment? (WSC Q.80)**
- **Q. 148. What are the sins forbidden in the tenth commandment? (WSC Q.81)**