

Lord's Day 34

Heidelberg Catechism

The Third Part – Of Thankfulness

Question 92

What is the law of God?

Answer

God spake all these words, Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5, saying:

I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

- 1 *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
- 2 *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 showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
- 3 *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.*
- 4 *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, 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.*
- 5 *Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*
- 6 *Thou shalt not kill.*
- 7 *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
- 8 *Thou shalt not steal.*
- 9 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*
- 10 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.*

Question 93

How are these commandments divided?

Answer

Into two tables:¹ the first of which teaches us how we must behave towards God; the second, what duties we owe to our neighbor.²

(Continued...)

1 **Ex. 34:28, 29**

And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

2 **Deut. 4:13**

And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

Deut. 10:3, 4

And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me.

Question 94

What doth God enjoin in the first commandment?

Answer

That I, as sincerely as I desire the salvation of my own soul, avoid and flee from all idolatry,³ sorcery, soothsaying, superstition,⁴ invocation of saints, or any other creatures;⁵ and learn rightly to know the only true God;⁶ trust in Him alone,⁷ with humility and patience⁸ submit to Him;⁹ expect all good things from Him only;¹⁰ love,¹¹ fear,¹² and glorify¹³ Him with my whole heart; so that I renounce and forsake all creatures,¹⁴ rather than commit even the least thing contrary to His will.¹⁵

(Continued...)

10 Ps. 104:27

These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.

Isa. 45:7

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

11 Deut. 6:5

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Matt. 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

12 Deut. 6:5

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Matt. 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

13 Matt. 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

14 Matt. 5:29, 30

And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Acts 5:29

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Matt. 10:37

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

15 Matt. 5:19

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

3 1 Cor. 6:9, 10

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Cor. 10:7

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

1 Cor. 10:14

Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

4 Lev. 18:21

And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

Deut. 18:10-12

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

5 Matt. 4:10

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Rev. 19:10

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

6 John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Jer. 17:5

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Jer. 17:7

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 Heb. 10:36

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Col. 1:11

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Rom. 5:3, 4

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Phil. 2:14

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

1 Pet. 5:5, 6

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Question 95

What is idolatry?

Answer

Idolatry is, instead of, or besides that one true God who has manifested Himself in His Word, to contrive or have any other object in which men place their trust.¹⁶

16 2 Chron. 16:12

And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

Phil. 3:18, 19

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Gal. 4:8

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

Eph. 2:12

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: