

Discussion Questions

- How clearly are God's commands revealed in nature?
- How are the laws written on unbelievers hearts different from what God writes on the hearts of His people in the New Covenant?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we noted that God's revealed will comes to us in the books of creation (nature) and the Bible (special revelation). In the natural world God reveals His will clearly enough for all men to know their basic duties before Him and to be condemned for their disobedience to His commands. While this revelation is perfect and good, it is not enough for us to comprehend the fullness of our duty to God. In His kindness He has given us a book which contains *everything* we need to know to follow and please God. The fullness of this revelation is what Paul and the apostles taught the early church. Acts 20:27 *for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.* In this Bible we have all the commands and duties which we are to follow to please God. Not only does God reveal His commands in the Bible, He also reveals the gospel. If God had just given us commands, we would never be able to please Him. We are sinners and from our hearts we rebel against the duties evident in both books of revelation. In His Bible God has revealed to us the beauty of His gospel (good news) which tells of how Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became a man to save sinners. He died the death we deserved for our rebellion and he gives us new hearts which can desire to do our duty to God out of love for Him.

Discussion Questions

- If God reveals his commands in nature, why do we need his Word?
- How is the Gospel different than the duties of God's Word?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, July 14th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #44

Q: What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A: *The duty which God requireth of man is, obedience to his revealed will.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Ecclesiastes 12:13 *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The chances are you have at some point asked yourself, “what should I do with my life?” This is a common question for young people, especially when they are preparing to leave their parent’s home. It is a question that college students ponder as they sign up for classes and pick a major. Young couples ask this question as they consider marriage and children. It hits us when we chose careers and consider changing jobs. Even at the latter stages of life this question excites or haunts people who are approaching retirement. The world has many answers to this question but ultimately they answer from man’s perspective. The wisest man in the Old Testament asked this question as well. His answer captures what the world gets so wrong. Solomon concludes in Ecclesiastes 12:13 *The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.* The purpose in your life is to obey the God who made you. When you ask yourself, “what should I do with my life?” your answer must consider what talents you have. You will need to ask what responsibilities are yours. What do you owe to family or church? You will want to evaluate your desires and dreams. You will also need to count the cost for whatever choices you make. Ultimately, however, you must consider first and foremost, “What does God require of me?” If God made you then He has the ultimate authority for how you ought to live.

Discussion Question

- When you consider what you want to do, how often does God come into the picture?
- How does decision-making look different when God is your first consideration?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week we are considering what our duty is as people made in the image of God. Our modern world is a little allergic to that word *duty*. People would rather talk about their dreams and ambitions. They like to consider giftings and opportunities. They aren’t as excited about the idea of duty. Older generations had a stronger sense of duty. People used to consider their duty to their families, their communities, and their nation to be of primary importance. This sense of duty is that made our success in World War II possible. Each of these duties is actually derived from our first duty to our God. Our question this week answers what our duty to God is. *The duty which God requireth of man is, obedience to his revealed will.* We will be considering what God’s revealed will is. We find God’s will revealed in both nature and in His Word. In order to do what God requires in these 2 books we need a transformation of our minds and heart. Romans 12:1-2 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* Only by turning to Jesus in repentance and faith can you begin to understand and take up your duty to follow Him.

Discussion Questions

- What are some basic duties that God requires of you?
- Why can’t an unbeliever know and carry out the duties of God?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We are considering our duty to God this week. Often people are confused about why we would consider such a question. Many who say they believe in God think of Him as a grandfatherly figure in the sky who just wants us to be happy. Why would He have any other instructions for us beyond doing what we want? Others have a more hostile view of God. They think of Him as the cosmic killjoy who wants to take away all our fun. Further, there are many who either deny God exists or never even consider that He might have something to say in their lives. Ultimately, each of these kinds of people asks not, “what would God have me do?” Instead they ask, “what do people tell me I should do,” or, “what do I want to do?” They seek to follow the commands of men rather than the commands of the living God. The apostles had a very different view than this. Acts 4:19 *But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge.* When they were commanded by the authorities to stop preaching in the name of Jesus they chose to listen to the commands of God. If you are a Christian your first question as you live your life ought to be, “What would God have me do?”

Discussion Questions

- Who do people listen to when they consider their duty?
- Are there any areas of your life where you are tempted to listen to what men tell you to do rather than God?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The question this week answers what God requires man to do. *The duty which God requireth of man is, obedience to his revealed will.* We will be unpacking what God’s revealed will tells us over the next number of weeks. First, however, we must ask where we can find the revealed will of God. The answer Scripture gives us is that God reveals His will to us in 2 books. He reveals His will in the book of creation (or nature) and in the book of Scripture (or special revelation). While we will focus most of our attention on the commands of scripture it is important to see that God does reveal His will to man in nature. This is why all men everywhere can be held accountable for disobeying God. Romans 1:32 *Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.* Paul says that all men know that they will be punished for disobeying God’s commands. They don’t need to Bible to tell them this. He continues in the next chapter to show how these commands are written into our very makeup as people. Romans 2:14-15 *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts.*