

point has become guilty of all of it. You and I deserve death for breaking the law, for sin in our lives. The good news is that Jesus kept all of the law perfectly for us, and we who have faith in Jesus Christ alone are credited with those good works to our account so that we stand righteous and clean before our Holy God. Jesus doesn't do away with the law, He keeps it on our behalf!

Discussion Questions

- If you haven't kept all of God's moral law, how can you stand before Him?
- Who represents you before God? Adam? Or the second Adam (Jesus)?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Let's review this week's catechism answer: "The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law." That means that from the very beginning God gave mankind a rule of life that was based on the very character of God. Because God is good and holy, the people made in His image are to be good and holy. But, ever since Adam, we have failed to live by this rule. Through Moses, God gave specific examples of the moral law in the ten commandments. This helped people to see how they ought to live but also exposed their failure and need for a savior. John Bunyan said, "The man who does not know the nature of the law cannot know the nature of sin. And he who does not know the nature of sin cannot know the nature of the Saviour." Because of what Christ has done by keeping the whole law for His people and suffering the punishment due to their sins, Christians do not live by works but by faith. Galatians 3:24–26 *So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*

Discussion Questions

- Before God gave the ten commandments, were people still expected to obey the moral law? How? Why?
- Why is the moral law still important for Christians today?
- Praise God for revealing His moral will to us, and for sending His Son to keep it for us.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, July 21st, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #45

Q: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A: *The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 2:14–15 [14] 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. [15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Last week we talked about obedience to God’s revealed will. This week we will talk about how the will of God (His law) was first revealed to man. God’s law has come to us in different forms, the first of which is called the *natural law* or the law of nature. When God created Adam, this law was already in place because it is tied to the very character of God Himself. God is good, perfect, and holy. The natural law flows from the essence of who God is, defining what is good and right precisely because God is good and right. People often get confused when using this term as if the law comes from nature or creation itself, but it comes from the Creator and that makes the law good, perfect, and holy. The natural law was written on Adam’s heart, giving him a basic knowledge of right from wrong, what we would call his conscience. There are other types of law we will talk about this week, but God has revealed this natural law to every human. Listen to Romans 2:14, *For when Gentiles, who do not have the [mosaic] law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the [mosaic] law. They show that the work of the [natural] law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.* Nobody is saved by keeping the law, but even people who do not know about God’s law keep some of it because it is natural law.

Discussion Question

- What kinds of things can you think of that people tend to know are right and wrong, even if they’ve never read the Bible?
- If we all have a conscience that shows us the law of nature, why do you think people still sin?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Natural law comes from God and tells us right from wrong, but God also reveals His will to us more specifically through what’s called *positive law*. These are commands that were given in addition to the natural law because Adam would not necessarily know these commands instinctively. Consider the 1689 confession chapter 4 paragraph 3 which says... “In addition to the law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” This describes the doctrine of positive law—the law that was added to the natural law by someone in authority (in this case God). “Positive laws are specific laws given by God for a specific people for a specific time” (Sam Renihan). The positive (or added) command to Adam to not eat of that specific tree made it sin to now do so. There was nothing naturally or morally wrong with eating of that tree until God said so. There are many positive laws given in scripture throughout the Old and New Testaments, and these positive laws are tied to the covenants and the members of that covenant. New Testament believers are not under the Old Covenant or its positive laws (sacrificial system, dietary restrictions, etc.), but seek to live by the positive laws instituted with the new covenant (baptism and Lord’s Supper).

Discussion Questions

- Are there rules at your house that are different from your friends’ houses?
- Why are some things inherently wrong for everybody, and other things are only wrong if a parent or some other rightful authority says so?
- Why do you think God made some specific rules for the Old Testament Israelites?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The next form of law we need to look at is part of the Mosaic law called the *ten commandments*. The natural law was written on the hearts of all men, but people could not see it with their eyes. In time, God further revealed His will by meeting with Moses on Mt. Sinai and clearly articulating for him the ten commandments. You can find these in Exodus 20. According to the 1689 confession, chapter 19 says this about the Mosaic law... “The same law that was first written in the human heart [natural law] continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness after the fall. It was delivered by God on Mount Sinai in ten commandments and was written in two tables. The first four commandments contain our duty to God and the other six our duty to humanity.” These ten commandments were also summarized by Jesus when He said in Matthew 22:37–40, *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.* While the complete Mosaic law includes 613 laws about worship, ceremonies, and holiness, many of which were positive laws specific to the OT Israelites, it also contains the ten commandments (or the moral law) which remains binding on all people, at all times, forever, because it is rooted in God’s character.

Discussion Questions

- Do you know the ten commandments? How many can you name?
- Why do you think God chose to give people specific examples of what it means to “love God” and “love your neighbor”?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The natural law first written on Adam’s heart and the ten commandments written on tablets of stone are the same law of God but seen in different forms. Together, we often call them God’s *moral law*. Chapter 19 of the 1689 confessions says, “The moral law forever requires obedience of everyone, both those who are justified as well as others. This obligation arises not only because of its content but also because of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Nor does Christ in any way dissolve this obligation in the Gospel; instead he greatly strengthens it.” Unlike positive law which can change or end, all of mankind is bound to keep the moral law perfectly. Adam sinned in the Garden as our federal head (or legal representative), and we inherited a sinful nature as a result. Although God has revealed His moral law to us, we fail to keep it. James 2:10 says *For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one*