

greatest laws: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. That will be covered in more detail in next week's question.

Discussion Questions

- What is the benefit of having a “good summary” of something?
- Should we think of the Ten Commandments as a checklist? Why or why not?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever read through the table of contents at the front of a book before getting started? It can be helpful to see what kinds of things will be talked about, in what order, and where to look for more information. It is a summary of what the book contains as a whole. The moral law is rooted in God’s character and is in some ways unsearchable, so God has given us a summary in the Ten Commandments. When we ask, “What is God like?” and “What does He require of me?” the Ten Commandments give us our first answer. There is more to it, of course, but in this summary we find a good starting place. And what are we to do with this tool God has given us? The law of God is useful for restraining sin in the world, exposing our need for a savior, and showing us what is pleasing to God. Chapter 19 of the 1689 says, “These uses of the law are not contrary to the grace of the Gospel but are in sweet harmony with it, for the Spirit of Christ subdues and enables the human will to do freely and cheerfully what the will of God as revealed in the law requires.” Christ kept the whole law for His people. The more we grow in our understanding of that law, the better we will understand the love of our Savior and the more we will become like Him.

Discussion Questions

- What are some benefits to memorizing the Ten Commandments?
- If Jesus forgives sins, why should Christians try to obey the moral law?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, July 28th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #46

Q: Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A: *The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 10:4 And he wrote on the tablets, in the same writing as before, the Ten Commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

We saw last week that the moral law was given long before Mount Sinai in the form of natural law. We have many examples of this moral law being followed (or broken) by people in the Bible even though it was not written down. Take Abraham as an example... Genesis 18:19 *For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.* Long before the giving of the moral law in the form of the Ten Commandments, Abraham was to instruct his family to keep the “way of the Lord,” meaning God’s rules and law (the moral law in the form of natural law). Connected to his obedience to “the way of the Lord,” were God’s promises of land, of becoming the father of many nations, and most importantly, of a spiritual seed—the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Bits and pieces of the moral law were occasionally published before the ten commandments, such as Genesis 9:6 *Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.* People knew according to their conscience and natural law that murder was wrong, and yet people still sinned and committed murder. God progressively expounded on the moral law, exposing sin and highlighting the need for a savior until the mystery of Christ was revealed.

Discussion Question

- Does your boss or a parent ever remind you not to do things that you already know are wrong? Why do you think that is?
- Why do you think God slowly explained more of His will over time rather than lay it all out right at the beginning?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Even though people should have known the moral law through natural revelation, God chose in time to reveal it more clearly in the Ten Commandments. We don’t have to imagine what that day was like, it is so well described in Deuteronomy 4:11–14 *And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.* The people heard God speaking from the fire and smoke; they felt the rumbling of the mountain and were terrified. They asked for Moses to go and speak with God alone for fear they would die. God gave the two tablets with the Ten Commandments and instructed Moses to teach them, but when he came down, Israel was worshipping a golden calf! In Deuteronomy 9:17 Moses says... *I took hold of the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.* This was the first set of the moral laws written by the very finger of God. Before Moses could even read them to the people, they were broken. The covenant was broken, and the tablets were in pieces.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Moses broke the tablets?
- Have you broken God’s commandments? What can be done?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When God first gave a written version of the moral law in the Ten Commandments, it was such a blessing. But, they were soon broken and laying in a pile of rubble. What now? Would people continue to have to live with the moral law only in the natural form? Thankfully, God is merciful. Consider Deuteronomy 10:1–4 *At that time the LORD said to me [Moses], “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to me on the mountain and make an ark of wood. And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets that you broke, and you shall put them in the ark.” So I made an ark of acacia wood, and cut two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand. And he wrote on the tablets, in the same writing as before, the Ten Commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me.* Now the people could see and read a summary of God’s moral law. Unlike the civil and ceremonial laws of the Old Testament, the moral law is perpetual and everlasting. And although the moral law is not limited by the specifics outlined on those tablets given to Moses, the Ten Commandments are where we best see God’s moral law summed up.

Discussion Questions

- When Moses broke the physical commandments (the tablets), what did God provide?
- When people spiritually break the commandments, what does God provide?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we talked about how God gave the people Ten Commandments, but that the moral law is more than just 10 rules. How is that so? Have you ever had to summarize something? When you summarize, you condense something to give just the main points. The moral law is broad and runs through the whole Bible, but we have a clear summary of it in the Ten Commands given by the Lord on Mount Sinai. There is more to following “the way of the Lord” than is specifically listed in the Ten Commandments, but these commandments are like the headings or categories of all the duties of the law contained throughout the Bible. If we make a category called “toys,” what could you put under that category? Dolls, planes, legos, blocks, puzzles, crayons, etc. A short list of the Ten Commandments can be found starting in Exodus 20:3-17. 1) No other gods before me 2) No idols 3) Don’t take God’s name in vain 4) Remember the Sabbath 5) Honor your father and your mother 6) Don’t murder 7) Don’t commit adultery 8) Don’t steal 9) Don’t lie 10) Don’t covet. These commands are expounded on by Christ himself, the prophets, and the apostles, showing that each one represents a category of related requirements for both the outer man and the inner man. In fact these 10 commandments can be further boiled down to the two