

that it is good and right for our keeping of the first commandment to include worship directed to Jesus, the Son of God.

Discussion Questions

- We are required to glorify God because of who He is. Have you done that lately?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The first commandment is stated in terms of what not to do: Do not have any other Gods before me. But, included in that simple prohibition is the requirement to actively know and acknowledge two things. 1. That God is the only true God, and 2. That He is our personal God. As we submit ourselves to these two great truths, the natural outflow should be worship as we glorify Him for who He is. Anything less than this is a denial of God's supreme place in the lives of His people, but how could we ever possibly give God the kind of worship He actually deserves? Our understanding is limited and our motives are never pure. Can our feeble worship be acceptable to a Holy God? In Christ, it can! Because Jesus died in the place of sinners, He also imputes to believers His own righteousness that they might become children of God. And, because of Christ's righteousness, we know that our worship is accepted. Like living stones, Christians are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5). God has required our worship in the first commandment, and in Christ He has also made it possible. *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace...* Hebrews 4:16.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever felt unworthy to approach God with your worship?
- Reflect on who God is and then praise Him today with boldness because of Christ.

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 1st, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #51

Q: What is required in the first commandment?

A: *The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God, and to worship and glorify him accordingly.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

How would you define the word *required*? The dictionary would say... what is necessary to be done, made, or provided. For example, I might say that I require food and water because they are necessary for me to live. I can also require something from someone else who is under my authority. I require my kids to do chores because they are necessary for the daily running of a household. This week's question asks what God requires of us (what is necessary and why) and indirectly points to His authority and power to require it. Some people want to think that God can't require anything of us, but many scriptures specifically mention things that God does require. Consider Micah 6:8 *and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?* (Also Duet 10:6). When teaching on the purposes of God, Paul says in Romans 9:20–21 *But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?* In this passage, who is the molder, who is the potter, who is the creator? God alone is. As Creator, He has the power and authority to make requirements of His creation. He can do whatever He wants with us, and He can require anything He wants from us.

Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things are required of you each day by your parents, teacher, or boss? What happens if you don't do them?
- In your heart, do you *want* to know what God requires? Why?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The first commandment teaches us that God requires us to know and acknowledge Him to be the only true God. There are certainly a lot of false gods and idols competing for our worship, so how do we know the one true God? Through God's Holy Word – The Bible. Scriptures tell us it is our duty to know God (1 Chron 28:9), and to acknowledge Him. *In all your ways acknowledge him...*(Proverbs 3:6). As we get to know God, we develop a trust and confidence in Him (Psalm 25:2). Knowing Him goes beyond intellectual agreement. As He loves us and takes care of us, He changes us. Paul describes this kind of change in the people of Thessalonica. *For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God...* (1 Thessalonians 1:9). With the life change that the Gospel brings, we are called to submit to God and acknowledge Him as Lord. James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* Not only is submission required, but we are actively called to resist the devil. This is what a believer's life should look like when knowing and acknowledging God as the one and only true God.

Discussion Questions

- Can you know something or someone without acknowledging it? What is the difference?
- Are there areas of your life that do not seem to acknowledge God?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God requires that people know and acknowledge Him as the one true God, but that alone is not enough. We should also know and acknowledge that God is OUR God. The Psalmists declared it this way: *that this is God, our God forever and ever* (Psalm 48:14). The great Shema says in Deuteronomy 6:4–5, *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.* How can you love God as YOUR God with all of your heart, soul, and might if you don't acknowledge Him and proclaim Him as Your God? The Bible calls those who don't belong to God His enemies, people who oppose the presence and purposes of God in this world. So how should those who belong to God act? They should publicly profess God (1 Tim 6:12), and profess it with joy and without regret (Acts 16:34). Joshua called the people together to re-covenant and remind them to serve God faithfully and without hesitation. They said... *we will serve the LORD* (Joshua 24:21). David offers a prayer stating *O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own* (1 Chronicles 29:16). Christians show the world that He is OUR God by the way we live and acknowledge that everything comes from Him. We are his people, He is OUR God.

Discussion Questions

- Do you have an intimate knowledge of God? Or do you just know about Him?
- If you belong to Christ, how would you explain to someone else what it means to become a child of God?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Because God is the true God, and OUR God, the first commandment also requires that we worship and glorify Him accordingly. What does that look like? Worship can be defined as an expression of reverence and adoration, and scripture tells us proper worship is to be done inwardly and with our whole being (Psalm 103:1). The more we reflect on the magnitude of who God is, the deeper and more reverent our worship will be. The object of our worship matters, too. Because there is only one true God, only He can be worshiped truly. But, what about Jesus? One of the ways we know that Jesus confirmed His deity is that He willingly received worship that belongs to God alone. Think of the Magi that bowed down and worshiped Him (Matt 2:11), or when he entered Jerusalem and the people paced palm leaves in his path and worshiped Him (Matt 21:9). When women went to the tomb of Jesus after the resurrection, He appeared to them and do you know what they did? Matthew 28:9 *And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.* Scripture teaches us