

ways how He ought to be worshiped. We have a record in the sacred scriptures, and we ought to derive our worship of God from what the bible says, not any tradition of man. Jesus spoke to the traditions of the Pharisees that had supplanted the teachings of God. *Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat." He answered them, "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"* Matt 15: 1-3. Besides being on the lookout for adopting into our worship false ideas from our culture (as we discussed previously), we also must reject any traditions that contradict Gods' word.

Discussion Questions

- Have there been traditions that you previously held that, in time, were shown to be unbiblical? How did you come to see things correctly?
- Can you think of a family member or friend who may believe themselves to be a genuine believer, but are holding to unbiblical traditions? If so take a moment and pray a silent prayer for that person now.

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Keeping all of God's commands and holding purely to His word when it comes to worshiping Him may seem like a tall order. The truth is that no one has perfect theology, and no one perfectly keeps God's commands regarding worship. Except for one! Psalm 40: 6-8 *In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.* The author of Hebrews tells us that this passage applies to Christ- not only did he perfectly worship God, every moment of every day, he himself became a holy and pleasing sacrifice to God. He took away sins, unlike the sacrifices offered repeatedly under the old administration. The author of Hebrews goes on to say that *we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*, Hebrews 10:10. So, while we may be influenced by our culture, or have embraced traditions of men, in Christ we find forgiveness for our breaking of 2nd commandment. Thanks be to God that, while we strive to worship Him purely and entirely, we have a faithful Savior who forgives! Jesus perfectly keeps the second commandment and offers worship to God that is completely acceptable. And in Christ, we now offer worship to God that he finds altogether pleasing.

Discussion Questions

- How is what the author of Hebrews' words in Chapter 10 good news for you?
- Romans 2 says that God's kindness is meant to lead us to repentance. Do you see God's kindness to you Christ? Is there anything that you may need to repent of in this moment?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, September 29th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #55

Q: What is required in the second commandment?

A: *The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances, as God hath appointed in his word.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 32:46 "he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law."

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

For Christians, it may be self-evident that God alone is to be worshiped, and that the way in which we worship of God must be directed by God alone. However, consider the context of the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments were given on Mt. Sinai after Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. The Hebrew people had been living for 400 years among a people that worshiped all manner of creatures, from bugs to kings, the land of Egypt was filled to overflowing with false worship. Herodotus, a Greek historian noted the Ancient Egyptians for being particularly religious, given to worship a host of deities, many represented by animals or men, and even gods that appeared to be combination of the two! So then it would be important for God’s people, coming out of such a place to know the proper way to worship God. Our catechism answer for this week speaks of “receiving”, “observing”, and the “keeping pure” or God’s worship as shown to us in his word. First, we are to receive the worship of God. As the ancient Israelites did, so must we put away idols and come to the mountain of God’s revelation. Next, we must observe, that is to obey, all that God has instructed us to do as it pertains to worship. Finally, we are to keep pure the worship of God. This means we are not free to worship God in any manner we choose, but rather we are to worship Him as he has instructed us, that is, in accordance with his word.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever met someone who wants to worship God based on their own thoughts about God? How might you help this person see the importance of God’s instructions about worship?
- There is much talk about music style and sermon length among church goers. Are these important factors in evaluating a church’s worship? Are there more important qualities than these?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When theologians speak of revelation, they often break this concept into two distinct parts -natural revelation, and special revelation. Natural revelation leads us to worship God for His power and beneficence in creation. Because it’s obvious to the human mind (though these thoughts are suppressed by sinners, Romans 1:18), all humans know instinctively that we ought to worship God, our creator. But can we know how we ought to worship God apart from his special revelation, that is, apart from his word? There is a fascinating vignette in Genesis Chapter 4. Two brothers, Cain and Abel, bring God a sacrifice. One sacrifice was from the flock, and the other from the produce of the field. One was accepted, and the other was not. How could have Cain and Abel have known what would please the Lord, unless he had told them? While it isn’t in the text of scripture that God had in fact instructed the men on how they ought to worship, it is indicated by the words from verse 6 and seven: *Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?”* What can we learn from this episode? We must worship God in accordance with the revelation of his word. Just like Cain and

Abel, we know that we ought to worship. But if we are to worship in a way that is acceptable, then it must be in accordance with what God has said that He will accept.

Discussion Questions

- Discuss Abel and Cain’s offerings. What is the difference between the two? Since both produce and animal sacrifices were accepted by God in the Mosaic Covenant, why do you think Cain’s offering was rejected?
- Can God reject our worship?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

One sin that the people Israel was constantly falling into was adopting practices of worship from the surrounding people in the land of Canaan. Idol worship, sexual immorality, and even child sacrifice were all parts of how the Canaanites believed they could honor their gods. Throughout pages of the old testament, there is a constant refrain, and that is “stay away from the Canaanites!” This can be seen throughout the history of God’s people. Lot is nearly swept away in God’s judgment of the wicked Canaanites in the valley of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham made his servant swear that he would not take a daughter for Isaac, his son from among the Canaanites. Esau, Isaac’s son married a Canaanite woman, which the bible tells us “made life bitter” for Isaac and Rebecca. When the Israelites entered the land, God told them to wipe out the inhabitants, warning that any survivors would be a constant hindrance in their obedience to God. God also warns them not to intermarry, because joining with the peoples of Canaan through marriage would introduce idolatry. The books of Judges, Kings, Chronicles, and the prophets show a successive pattern of failure to keep the worship of God pure, resulting in spiritual adultery on the part of Israel. On our time, we don’t have physical idols, but we are living amongst a people that mirror the wicked practices of Canaan. Sexual immorality, child sacrifice, and the worship of a host of false gods is all around us. Be on your guard against Canaan!

Discussion Questions

- Are there any areas of the church where there is evidence of worldliness?
- Is there anything that God has shown you about your own worship that has been influenced of the world?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever heard someone say “That’s the way we’ve always done it”? If so, you’ve touched on a tradition! As Christians, we want to be aware of traditions. Not all traditions are bad. Some have spoken of the “Reformed Tradition”, referring to a theological understanding that emphasizes covenant theology and the sovereignty of God. However, we must be aware of tradition when it comes to the worship of God. Rather than say “That’s the way we’ve always done it,” we should ask “What is the way that the bible prescribes?” God’s worship has been instituted by God himself. Throughout human history, God has made it clear at different times and at different