

worship him. John 4: 20-23. And in Matthew 12:6 Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders who accused him of breaking the Sabbath. Jesus said, *I tell you, something greater than the temple is here.* So now in Jesus we have a fuller and better expression of the worship that God desires. No longer do we have the types and shadow of the old covenant, nor are we bound by the holiness codes regarding cleanliness and other requirements for worship. But that doesn't mean we are free to worship God in any fashion we choose! Remember Jesus told the woman in the Father is seeking those who would worship him in spirit and in truth.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to worship the Father in “spirit and truth”?
- Why was Jesus’ statement to the woman about worship no longer being tied to a specific place or ethnicity so radical? What impact does it have for us today?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When the gospel message began to take root in Ephesus, Demetrius the silversmith rose up among those who made their living from the shrines dedicated to the false worship of the goddess Artemis. Seeing many people turning from idol worship to the worship of Christ, Demetrius stirred up a riot, claiming that both the livelihood and the preeminence of their goddess would be in danger should Paul and his companions carry on in their gospel ministry. This is a fascinating story of what happened in a pagan city long ago, but there are also implications for us as well. Whenever idolatry is uncovered and exposed, wherever the gospel light starts to shine, there will be resistance. As those who have received the gospel and endeavor to worship God in the truth of Jesus Christ, we also must be on the lookout for the resistance we have in our remaining sin. Since we live in the reality of God’s power at work within us, and the flesh that continues to fight against God, we too must be on the lookout for hidden areas of resistance within us. We don’t have outward idols of silver or temples dedicated to the worship of false gods in our time, but the threat of idolatry is with us, nonetheless. 1 John 5:12 concludes with the following warning: *Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

Discussion Questions

- How do things like materialism, success, or personal comfort become idols in our hearts?
- When the Gospel challenges our comforts, priorities, or beliefs, how do we tend to react? What are some ways we might resist God’s truth in subtle or hidden ways?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 13th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #57

Q: What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

A: *The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God’s sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Exodus 34:13–14 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God).

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week's catechism focuses our attention on the "why" behind the second commandment. In the answer to the question, we read that the first reason annexed to the second commandment is that God is sovereign. Because God is God, he decides how he ought to be worshiped. He consults no one and asks no one their opinion on the matter. David describes it this way in Psalm 24 1-4: *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.* David opens the Psalm by observing God's claim on everything as the creator. He then asks the question who may enter God's holy dwelling place. The answer is one who is pure in heart, and pure in worship. God as Sovereign demands worship that is true and will not share his worship with an idol. God demands that we put away all false worship of lesser Gods and worship the true God, who alone is worthy of our reverence.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think David emphasizes both God's ownership of the world and the need for clean hands and a pure heart to approach Him?
- How does this challenge our attitude toward daily worship?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

God's claim on the people of Israel is absolute. On at least sixteen different occasions in the Old Testament, God reminds his people of their slavery in Egypt, his deliverance, and as a result their due obedience and worship. Because God purchased the people from Egypt, the people of Israel belonged to God. So too under the New Covenant, God has purchased a people for himself. In 1 Peter 1:18-19, the Apostle makes this distinction: "... you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot." Because the New Covenant was made through the blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, how much more do we belong to God? Because we have been given a grace to partake in a salvation much greater than deliverance of Israel from Egypt, our devotion to God ought to be much greater too. We are not simply delivered from an outward slavery, but a slavery to sin. Paul puts it this way: *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.* Romans 6:17-18.

Discussion Questions

- In what ways does the deliverance from slavery to sin exceed the deliverance of Israel from Egypt? How should this greater deliverance motivate us to a deeper level of devotion and obedience?
- How does understanding the value of Christ's sacrifice impact our worship?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever been jealous of someone else? Children are sometimes jealous of their siblings. Maybe there is a special treat that they get, or a privilege that is different than their brothers and sisters. Adults can be given to jealousy of other's success in raising their children or terms of material wealth. The prohibition to desire what others have is actually the subject another commandment. So how is it that we can speak of God's jealousy? God is said to be a jealous God as we see in this week's suggested memory verse. God's jealousy is not covetousness, but a holy desire for His own glory. Jesus demonstrated this in an episode recorded in the Gospels that we know as the "cleansing of the temple." *The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."* John 2: 13-17. Here we see that Jesus is zealous for the pure worship of God. The temple, which represented God's meeting place with man had become a place to do business. The temple worship was perverted and had become a means of doing business rather than the worship of the true God. So, Jesus was zealous for God's honor and drove out those who had perverted the worship of God.

Discussion Questions

- In John 2:13-17, Jesus is described as being zealous for God's house. How does His reaction in the temple demonstrate holy jealousy?
- What does it mean to be "zealous for God's honor" in our own lives today?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Jesus has a fascinating interaction with a woman of Samaria recorded in the Gospel of John. Jesus discusses the fact that the time had come where the worship of God would no longer be associated with a certain ethnicity or place. The woman beings "*Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.*" Jesus said to her, "*Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to*