

*his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1, 14). God reveals Himself to mortal man, through the written Word and through the Word made flesh. We should honor that revelation with thanksgiving and a desire to know Him more.*

#### Discussion Questions

- Do you think it matters how we treat our physical Bibles? Why or why not?
- Have you ever treated scripture like it wasn't very important?
- One of the most reverent things you can do with the Word of God is to believe it. Will you believe Christ today and trust His Word of grace to you?

#### **Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse**

The final element of this week's question is a call to reverence God's works. Psalm 107:22 says...*Let them declare his works with rejoicing.* What amazing things has God done that warrants rejoicing? For starters, He created all things. *Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created (Rev. 4:11).* He is the author of life. *Genesis 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

And throughout history He has worked out His redemptive will through providence, first saving the sons of Abraham from slavery in Egypt and ultimately saving the spiritual sons of Abraham from slavery to sin through the work of Jesus at the cross. We should honor and reverence the works of God because they are the fruit and proof of His character. God is at work in our world and in our hearts, and when we see His works we see the evidence of who He is. Unlike atheists who deny God's presence, evolutionists who explain away creation, and abortionists who despise the very life God breathed into man... Christians ought to take notice of and reverence the amazing works of God. God deserves all glory and honor. We must be careful not to behave or speak as though He doesn't matter, and this includes reverent and holy use of His names and titles, attributes, ordinances, words, and works, and anything else that signifies or communicates God to the world.

#### Discussion Questions

- If God has done a work in your heart how should you respond?
- If God has not done a work in somebody's heart, how would they respond differently?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

#### Baptist Catechism Question #59

**Q:** What is required in the third commandment?

**A:** *The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word and works.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Psalm 68:4 Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!*

## Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

If you imagine an average dad, how many names and titles might he have? You could refer to him by his first name, last name, or maybe a nickname. He might have an official title at his work, like manager or CEO. The word “Dad” is also a title, and so is father, uncle, brother, son, grandson, grandfather, great-grandson, great-grandfather, and brother-in-law. Perhaps his wife calls him “honey.” That’s 15 names and titles already, and each one is a different way to signify or represent him. In the Bible, there are over 700 names and titles for God. These include Yahweh, Ancient of Days, King of Kings, Redeemer, and Alpha and Omega, to name just a few. How we use these names and titles is important because they signify God. The third commandment instructs us to use them with reverence and holiness. “Holy” means set apart for special use, and “reverent” means with deep and solemn respect (to revere or worship). So, we should pray to God in a holy and reverent way. *I will call on the name of the Lord* (Psalm 116:17). We should praise Him in a holy and reverent way. *Let them praise thy great name* (Psalm 99:3). Whether addressing God directly or speaking to others about Him, our words and tone should honor the God behind the name. As Psalm 68:4 says, *Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him!*

### Discussion Questions

- When you pray, how do you usually address God? Do you ever repeat the same name often, almost as a filler word?
- How might using different names for God help you to be more reverent?

## Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Reverencing God also involves holy and reverent use of His attributes (inherent qualities and characteristics). If we look at an apple, what would its qualities or attributes be? It’s color is red, it’s taste is sweet, it is moist and juicy, etc. We can know the attributes of God only because He has revealed them to us in His Word, often through His names. Consider some examples: Elohim means strong One, divine (Genesis 1:1), Adonai means Lord, indicating a Master-to-servant relationship (Exodus 4:10), El Olam means everlasting God (Isaiah 40:28), and of course Yahweh, LORD “I AM,” meaning the eternal, self-existent God (Exodus 3:13). God is eternal, immortal, infinite, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and so much more. Just like it is possible to take God’s name in vain, it is also possible to speak of his attributes as if they are really not a big deal. But they are! We should talk, think, pray, and praise God’s attributes in a holy and reverent way that is full of wonder because they describe our amazing God. Romans 1:20 says *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.* God’s attributes on display leave us with no excuse *not* to worship Him. We should speak of these attributes accordingly.

### Discussion Questions

- Do you ever take some of God’s attributes for granted?
- Which one of God’s attributes is the most amazing to you? Why?

## Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week’s answer mentions the need to reverence God’s ordinances. An ordinance is a Christian practice “ordained” by God as a means of grace. Most Protestants recognize two ordinances—the Lord’s Supper and Baptism. But what does that have to do with taking God’s name in vain? Much like a name signifies the person it refers to, the ordinances are a visual “word” meant to communicate truth about Christ and our union with Him. What happens when ordinances are not done in a holy and reverent manner? When churches and leaders do not take them seriously and are flippant or silly with them? What if they, for example, have big fun water slides into the baptistry or use banana bread and orange juice for the Lord’s Supper? What if they speak about ordinances in empty, useless ways or just decide it is not important enough to do regularly? Either way, it reveals a lack of reverence for God and His ordinances. Psalm 98:7 says...*For God is greatly to be feared in the assemblies of his saints, and to be had in reverence by all them that are about him.* Passages such as 1 Corinthians 11 give us direction on how to do this rightly. We are to be holy and reverent when we take the Lord’s Supper and administer baptism because it is a declaration of who Christ is and what He has done.

### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever seen the Lord’s supper or baptism done in a way that did not honor Christ?
- If you are a Christian, share some ways you have obeyed this command to reverence God’s ordinances.

## Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week’s question also shows us that reverencing God includes reverencing His Word. Why is this? The first sentence in the 1689 confession reads...“The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience...” The Bible is God’s revelation to us about Himself, and it contains everything we need for salvation, belief in God, and obedience. We give glory to God by treating His Word as holy and using it in a reverent way. Psalm 138:2 says...*for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.* God’s Word is unique, and we should be careful in how we teach it, apply it, or use it. *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth* (2 Timothy 2:15). This might mean memorizing scripture accurately or being careful to quote it in context rather than simply picking out phrases to support our own ideas. We honor and reverence God’s Word because He reveals Himself to us through it. In fact, the fullest revelation of God to man is in the person of Jesus Christ, the living Word. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...and we have seen*