

Even here there is hope for the one that has believed in Christ. Although God will not tolerate sin, in love He sent His son to take on that sin and satisfy God's justice for those who believe. In Christ we are counted righteous.

#### Discussion Questions

- Are there some things that your parents or boss will "let slide"?
- Are there other things you know they will not tolerate?
- If you are a Christian, how would you explain to someone else why Christ had to die?

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

There is something satisfying about settling accounts and getting what is due: receiving a paycheck for work that has been done, or even paying off a debt, or returning a favor. It puts things back as they should be. It makes things right. When God judges the world, He does it rightly. And in doing so, He makes things right. There are many verses about righteous judgment, but let's start with John 16:8–11. Speaking of the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, it says, *And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.* God has all authority and has given Christ the right to judge. John 5:22–23 says...*For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.* Christ has already judged the ruler of this world (that is Satan-John 12:31) to be an enemy of God and will cast him into the eternal lake of fire to be tormented day and night for eternity (Revelation 20:10). Those who do not believe in Christ will be righteously judged as sinners condemned to hell. That is what they deserve. It is right. Our great hope is that in Christ, instead of being righteously judged, we might be judged righteous.

#### Discussion Questions

- Why might some people think it's unfair that God would judge sinners and punish them in hell?
- If you stood before God as judge today... how would he judge you?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



### West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

#### Baptist Catechism Question #61

Q: What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

A: *The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Matthew 12:36–37 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, [37] for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

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

When God delivered the ten commandments at Mt. Sinai, He chose to attach a reason to the third one. Why did He do this? We owe all obedience to God because He is our creator. He does not have to give us any explanations or reasons for the things He requires of us. But, in this week’s catechism question we see that He did give a reason, reminding the people that *God will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain*. This reason serves as a warning to those who might be tempted to take the third commandment (or any of the commandments) lightly. Surprisingly, it also serves as a comfort to those who have ever felt discouraged by the lack of justice we sometimes see in our world. *Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb* (Psalm 31:1-2). We see a similar reminder in Galatians 6:7, where Paul urges the church, *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap*. God will not be mocked. His justice is sure, and it will be satisfied. As sinners, our great and only hope is that it will be satisfied in Christ on our behalf.

#### Discussion Questions

- Have you been frustrated that someone else had sinned and seemed to be getting away with it?
- Have you ever been tempted to sin with the hope that you could get away with it?
- What is wrong with these ways of thinking?

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

Some of the ten commandments are valued by our society, and breaking them is considered a crime worthy of punishment (stealing, murder, etc.). But others, like the command not to take the Lord’s name in vain, are not taken very seriously by most people and will rarely result in any consequences in this life. But, this week’s question reminds us that those who break the third commandment are covenant-breakers, sinners who deserve God’s judgment. Galatians 3:10–11 says, *For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”* The penalty for breaking the law is death (Romans 6:23), but Galatians 3:11 goes on to say, *Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”* While the Old Covenant was based on obedience to the written law, the New Covenant is a covenant of grace. Speaking to Christians, Paul says *Jesus has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life* (2 Corinthians 3:6). Breaking the third commandment brings certain death. By grace, Jesus Christ took on that death at the cross. Through faith in His finished work, the Spirit now brings us life.

#### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think some sins are considered crimes in our legal code and some are not?
- If the third commandment was the only one you ever broke, would you still deserve death?

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

The answer to this week’s question acknowledges that covenant breakers “may” escape punishment from men. Why is this? First, mankind does not always take sin seriously. Romans 8:7–8 says...*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* Second, the moral law is not merely about our external actions but also involves what is in the heart. Do you remember when Samuel was sent to anoint a new king for Israel? He went to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse to look at his sons. They passed before him from oldest to youngest. Upon seeing the firstborn, Samuel thought to himself he has a kingly appearance and is tall, but the LORD said this is not the king. The LORD tells Samuel...*“Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart”* (1 Samuel 16:7). Because man can only see the outside of a person and his/her actions, it is possible to hide some sins and, in a sense, “get away with it,” escaping punishment from other men or governments. But, 2 Corinthians 4:18 reminds us that we live in a temporary and transient world. *For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

#### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God sometimes allows wicked men to escape earthly punishment?
- Do you have any unconfessed sin that you are hoping has been overlooked and forgotten?

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

Today let’s consider the last phrase of the catechism answer: “...yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.” In those moments when injustice seems to prevail, we are reminded that our just God is all-knowing and in control. Isaiah 55:8–9 says...*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* God will not suffer sinners to escape judgment. What does suffer mean? In this older use of the word it means tolerate or to put up with. This answer essentially says God will not tolerate these men to escape eternal judgment. It is possible they might escape punishment while here on earth, but they cannot escape punishment from God. It would be an affront to His justice. Proverbs 11:21 says...*Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.*