

tempt our neighbor to sin sexually, by our dress, words, or actions toward them. We should also warn our fellow Christians in love when we see them stumbling.

Discussion Questions

- What are ways that we should be careful not to tempt our neighbors to sin? Is there anything you need to change in your dress, words, or actions?
- Parents, how seriously have you taken the call to warn your children concerning sexual sin?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The seventh commandment requires us to preserve chastity. This is no light requirement for sinners who have fallen in Adam. They are filled with desires contrary to God's law and they hate his law in their hearts. Even for Christians the call to chastity is a difficult task. The old man is filled with deceitful desires. Sin takes the good and normal desires for marriage and intimacy and turns them into a twisted perversion to include sexual immorality, fornication, pornography, homosexuality and others. God does not leave us helpless and hopeless before these temptations. He gives us his Word by which we are instructed. He fills us with his Spirit who teaches us in our inner man. He gives us power to put off sin and put on righteousness. Another gift he gives us to aid in battling sexual temptation is marriage itself.

1 Corinthians 7:9 *But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.* Paul instructs unmarried believers who have a desire for marriage and someone they desire to marry to go ahead and get married. The desire they have is good at its root. If sin is tempting them, sometimes the best thing to do is to marry and enjoy God's good provision in that blessed estate.

Discussion Questions

- Why is marriage a good idea for believers who desire to grow in holiness?
- Does getting married remove all sexual temptation? What temptations are particular to marriage?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, March 16th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #76

Q: What is required in the seventh commandment?

A: *The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.*

Suggested Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The catechism speaks of the seventh commandment requiring Christians to preserve chastity, and to do this with regards our hearts, speech and actions. Chastity is a word we may not be familiar with now but it was well known to our Christian forefathers. Chastity means sexual purity. God made people, men and women, with a design for them to come together in marriage in a special way physically. This union is beautiful, creates a pleasurable bond, and produces children. Since God made sexuality to be beautiful and special it must be guarded and kept for the special time and situation of the marriage bed. When sinful people choose to defile the marriage bed by engaging in sexual unions outside of marriage they destroy chastity. God teaches his people to abandon the sexual perversion that the world engages in and to pursue holiness in the way we live. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor.* As Paul notes in this scripture, to live with chastity requires us to learn to control our bodies. We have to fight for control because our sinful flesh wants to engage in sin rather than pursue holy living. While the fight is hard, if you are a Christian you have the Holy Spirit within you and he will give your strength for the battle.

Discussion Questions

- Why is chastity so hard for Christians? What hinders you from pursuing purity?
- The world thinks chastity is old-fashioned and unnecessary. Where does that thinking go wrong?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Have you ever been watching a movie or listening to unbelievers talk and been shocked to hear the words they speak? Alongside taking God's name our culture often chooses to talk about sexuality in a way that is crude and vile. The catechism this week teaches us that the seventh commandment requires chastity in our speech. We are to be pure in the words we say. Ephesians 4:29 *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.* The reason God is so concerned with our words is because our words are a reflection of who we are internally. Luke 6:45 *...out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* God is concerned with the content of all of our speech. We must especially take care how we speak about sexuality and things regarding the marriage bed. That which is to be private between married couples ought not to be spoken about publicly without great care and modesty. What God has created with such care and beauty ought not to be treated with disdain for a course jest. Even more so we shouldn't take up the ways in which the world uses provocative speech to encourage one another to engage in further acts of sexual immorality. Though the world will think Christians are prudes for guarding their speech, we must honor Christ in all of the words we say.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever heard course joking about sexuality? How did it make you feel? Were you tempted to laugh along?
- Consider your own speech. How do the things you choose to say honor or dishonor Christ?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

So much of who we are as people is hidden under the surface. We speak and act in ways that show who we are underneath, yet so much more is going on in our heads than we let on. As sinners who have consciences given by God we can become very good at putting on a good face while hiding much of our sinful thoughts. While we may convince others around us, God sees the inner thoughts of our hearts. He knows who we really are. The importance of inner purity is why the catechism says we must preserve our own chastity in heart. We should act in holy ways with regard to sexuality and speak carefully with pure words. Even more so, we must seek to be pure even in our very thoughts. Jesus gets at this with his instructions concerning adultery in the Sermon of the Mount. Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. As with the other commandments, the seventh commandment goes straight to the heart. If we are going to be holy as God is holy then we must be pure in our innermost thoughts.

Discussion Questions

- Are your thoughts pure with regard to sexuality? Have you ever justified your thoughts by telling yourself you aren't doing anything wrong as long as it stays in your head?
- How does the gospel help us when we have had impure thoughts?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

While Cain tried to distract from his sin with the claim he was not his brother's keeper, that is not the way a Christian ought to think. We're all responsible to various degrees for who we lead into sin or who we fail to warn about their sinful ways. The catechism this week reminds us that we are not only to seek our own chastity but also the chastity of our neighbor. Jesus teaches such in the Sermon of the Mount when he addresses divorce. Matthew 5:32 *But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.* In most of his teaching on this in the other gospels Jesus emphasizes the sin of the one who divorces and marries another. Whoever does this commits adultery. Jesus adds a little in this passage. He says that when a man divorces his wife he *makes her commit adultery*. Jesus is pointing out that if a man divorces his wife and she remarries, he is actually responsible in some sense for her subsequent sin. His sin put her in a position of temptation to sin and when she sins he also is to blame. We must not