

A second characteristic of Christian work is noted in the end of the proverb. *He who gathers in summer is a prudent son.* Not only should we work hard, we should also work with wisdom. Wisdom is needed when we are deciding on what sort of school or training to pursue, what job to apply for, what tasks are most important to accomplish with limited time, and how God honoring is any particular sort of work. All of these questions must be submitted to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- What are characteristics of Christian work? How does a Christian decide what job to take?
- How does Jesus supply us when we are lazy and foolish in our work

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The 8th commandment is concerned with both our own money and possessions but also with what we owe to others. Often we are tempted to steal from what belongs to others in order to gain for ourselves. The Word of God instructs us to do otherwise. Romans 13:7-8 *Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.* Here Paul directly connects the command not to steal with love. We see this when we realize that owing a debt, and not paying it, is the equivalent to stealing. Loving your neighbor requires you to do for him as you would have him do for you. This leads the Christian to deal honestly and pay what you owe. This might mean a more sober assessment before entering into debt. There are times when debt can be wise, perhaps in buying a house or car. Other times debt may be foolish, taking out loans for entertainment, or to pay for schooling with no benefit in the job market. Borrowing money from family can be a blessing, yet take care to commit ahead of time to paying back what you owe.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever paid for something and then realized later that you had underpaid? How did you handle it?
- How does the gospel help us to settle all our debts? With men? With God?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 6th, 2025)

Baptist Catechism Question #79

Q: What is required in the eighth commandment?

A: *The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.*

Suggested Memory Verse

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 ...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

As with the other commandments we turn this week to see what positive commands the 8th commandment requires. While the commandment is in the negative...*you shall not steal*...the commandment assumes a positive injunction. We are to obtain and manage our own money and possessions. Some might think that as Christians we shouldn't try to gain money or possessions. It sounds a little greedy and wordly. Yet Paul commanded this very thing in his letter to the Thessalonian Christians. 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 *...aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.* He instructs the believers to *work with your hands* and *be dependent on no one*. While some may try to gain wealth because they are worldly and want to build up treasures on earth, Christians work with their hands to provide for themselves and their families. They provide food, clothing, housing and other essentials. Paul also sees the manner in which they work and provide for themselves being part of the Christian witness to the outside world. Lazy workers who squander the money they have do not bring honor on the gospel of Jesus Christ to a watching world. Throughout this week we will look a little more at what it means for Christians to work and build wealth for the glory of God.

Discussion Questions

- What is the difference between seeking wealth to build up treasures of earth and seeking wealth as a Christian?
- How does your own attitude to work and money match up with God's commandment?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

In our catechism this week we see that the 8th commandment requires the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others. God's word commands his people to work diligently to provide for their needs. In addition to our own needs, a responsibility of Christians is to provide for their own families. Jacob discusses this with his father-in-law Laban after he had worked for 14 years without pay. Genesis 30:29-30 *Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the Lord has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?"* Jacob rightly was feeling the need to provide for his own growing family. Rather than castigate Jacob for being worldly for wanting to build up wealth for his family God blesses Jacob and greatly increases his possessions. If you have a family then it is your God-given calling to protect and provide for those under your care. In a married couple, both husband and wife work diligently to provide for basic needs as well as build up a stable household of money and possessions from which to extend care to others. 1 Tim 5:8 *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Discussion Questions

- Which should come first, giving to Christian ministry or providing for your family? Why?
- Why is caring for family so important for a Christian?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Has your family ever needed help from others? Has your family ever been able to help others who were in need? Needs could include money, borrowing a vehicle, helping with babysitting, fixing a toilet, or replacing a refrigerator. We've been looking at the call for Christians to work hard and provide for themselves and their families. Our financial stewardship doesn't stop there. In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul connects the 8th commandment to helping others. Ephesians 4:28 *Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.* While those of the world may build up money and possessions for themselves, we are called to think beyond our own homes. We are to be generous with what God has provided. Beyond family, we should think about our church family. Seek to know your brothers and sisters in Christ and be aware of their needs. Find ways to help that are proportional to the gifts that God has given you. If you have financial resources, think about budgeting some of that income to helping out those in need. You could also seek to be generous with your possessions such as vehicles, computers, lawn equipment, etc. Talents and professional training may be another way God is calling on you to serve. Finally, our service doesn't need to stay in the doors of the church. Often God will use the service of his people to unbelievers they meet along the way to share the love of Christ and spread his gospel.

Discussion Questions

- Why should Christians give generously to those in need? How does the gospel inform your answer?
- Have you ever felt selfish about the money and possessions God has given you? What can you do to cultivate a generous heart?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The 8th commandment requires us to work to provide for ourselves and others. But how should we work? Proverbs 10:4-5 *A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who brings shame.* This proverb gives us 2 insights into the manner with which we ought to work as Christians. The first characteristic of a Christian's work is diligence. Diligence is doing your work well, with attention to the task, and with a willing heart. We have all had times in which we have done our work lazily by just 'going through the motions.' The difference between a lazy worker just getting by and a diligent worker is vast. As the proverb points out, diligent work is often rewarded with riches. Sometimes diligent work will gain you a raise at your job. Other times the gain may be giving honor to Christ's name.