

### Discussion Questions

- Is it ok to pursue obedience to God's law because it benefits us? Why or why not?
- In what ways is covetousness a failure to love your neighbor?
- What are some areas of your life where discontent is hindering your life as a Christian?

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

Covetousness and contentment are often thought of as emotions, feelings we can't control. Scripture shows us the folly in this way of thinking. God forbids coveting and commands contentment, so how do we grow in obedience to this command? If I were to give some practical "rules" for contentment, it might go something like this: 1. Believe in God. All discontent is ultimately unbelief at heart. 2. Work to gain assurance. As you see the fruit of sanctification in your life, it will be easier to trust God for the glory yet to come. 3. Grow in humility. The man who is consumed with pride is always sure that he deserves more. The humble man recognizes he deserves nothing. All he has is seen as an underserved gift from his great God. 4. Maintain a clear conscience. Guilt breeds discontent and an unsettled soul. 5. Learn to deny yourself. In Mark 8:34, Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." 6. Get heaven into your heart and meditate on the glory that is coming. Look not to the dark side of your condition, but the light. Consider that you are a soldier, a pilgrim, a beggar. Don't let your hope depend on outward things. 7. Finally, pray regularly and fervently. Ask the Spirit to give you the kind of peace that passes all understanding as you wait patiently for the promises of God.

### Discussion Questions

What is a rule for contentment that you want to keep in front of yourself this next week?

# Baptist Catechism Family Worship Guide



## **West Oaks Baptist Church**

(in preparation for Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

### **Baptist Catechism Question #86**

**Q:** What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

**A:** *The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.*

### **Suggested Memory Verse**

***Romans 13:9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.***

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

Why should we put off covetousness and pursue contentment? Consider two good reasons to hear and heed God’s tenth commandment to us. First, we ought to pursue Christian contentment because that is God’s command. *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome* (1 John 5:2-3). Secondly, we ought to pursue contentment because of the sureness of God’s promises. The Bible teaches us that whatever our lot in life, all things happen according to God’s providence, and we have no right to question Him. *I am mute; I do not open my mouth, for it is you who have done it* (Psalm 39:9). God also assures us that those things are ordered for our good. Romans 8:28 says, ... *we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* We seek contentment first out of obedience, but also because we believe that God is both sovereign and good and whatever he chooses to give (or withhold) is ultimately what is best for us.

#### Discussion Questions

- Is the fact that God commands it a sufficient reason to be content? Why do you think He also gives us other reasons?
- How do the promises of God encourage our contentment? What promises are you trusting?

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

If you think of having a “comfortable life,” what comes to mind? Do you think about a nice house, a good job, a sweet family, or an early retirement? A life of ease and plenty is what most people would consider to be the core of a comfortable life. However, the pursuit of these things often produces the very opposite. James 3:16 says, *For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.* If we look to our outward circumstances or material possessions as the source of our comfort, we will inevitably destroy that very comfort with covetous grasping. The Heidelberg Catechism gives us a much better perspective. It answers the question this way: “My only comfort in life and in death is that I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death— to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.” Looking for comfort in temporary things that won’t last will let you down and leave you searching. You can only find lasting comfort in the One who lasts forever. His love satisfies.

#### Discussion Questions

- What typically is included in your idea of a ‘comfortable life’?
- What two kinds of comfort distinguish the World and the Christian? Which do you find yourself pursuing?

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

Some people seem to have great reasons for discontentment. Consider those who have lost a child prematurely to death, or those who have lost a loved one to unbelief and the world. Many feel they have nothing to say to someone in such despair. We think, “How can I speak when the weight of their loss is so heavy?” We may even feel they have acceptable cause to hold onto their discontent. Yet, it is God who both gives mercies and takes them away. Thomas Watson draws this comparison, “Perhaps God hath taken away the cistern, that he may give you more of the spring; he hath darkened the star-light, that you may have more sun-light.” This is not a superficial promise of the health and wealth preacher who might ask you to give up some things of this world to gain more things of this world in return. Rather, God intends you shall have more of himself, and is he not better than ten sons? (or any other thing that you may have lost). In fact, God has taken some from you (maybe even taken a loved one), and yet He has given you His own beloved Son. Our losses in this life are real, but they do not compare with the immeasurable gain we have in Christ. As Job said, *“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord”* (Job 1:21).

#### Discussion Questions

- What sort of suffering are we more likely to give a pass when it comes to a lack of contentment?
- Realizing there may be some things God has taken away, share with one another what God has given you.

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

What benefits come to one who possesses Christian contentment? Contentment makes a man, woman, or child ready and able to serve God. We are often hindered from lives of service to God, love to our fellow men, and joy in our Christian tasks, by the covetousness of our hearts. We know we are supposed to *rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep* (Romans 12:15), but it’s hard to be happy for someone when we covet their blessings or to be compassionate when our wicked hearts find delight in seeing others brought low. This is the effect of sin in our hearts. But, when by God’s grace we are blessed to put off covetousness and put on a contented spirit, we find the wheels of the Christian life to be suddenly oiled. That which was a struggle becomes natural and light. Prayer comes more quickly, meditation on God’s word more nimbly, and service to God more single-mindedly. As you grow in contentment, you will find you can rejoice in God. How can you rejoice in God when you grumble about his provision? Contentment leads to thankfulness for God’s mercy. The covetous one is always fretful at what he is missing, not stopping long enough to thank his Savior.