

why we so desperately need the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. By His sacrifice, our sins are washed away and we are brought near to God.

#### Discussion Questions

- When you sin, are you more likely to compare yourself to others or to the standard we have in Jesus?
- How does God see your sin?

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

As we come to an end of this week's question, we should understand that all sins, no matter how big or small they are, can be forgiven in Christ. Listen to what Romans 5:20–21 says. *Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Add up all the sin in the world and it doesn't compare with the grace of God to make a way of escape. In and through Christ, we are made righteous *and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus* (Romans 3:24). Jesus shed His blood for us and died on the cross to pay our penalty, our judgment. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ alone and trust that he traded places with us, we are born again and become victorious over sin. 1 John 5:4–5 *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe?*

#### Discussion Questions

- Do you believe God has mercy and forgiveness for sinners? Have you experienced that mercy?
- What does the Bible say we must do to be saved from our sin? Have you done this?

# Baptist Catechism

## Family Worship Guide



## West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025)

### Baptist Catechism Question #88

- Q:** Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?  
**A:** *Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.*

#### Suggested Memory Verse

*Romans 5:20–21 says. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*

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

This week's question has an archaic word in it that has kind of fallen out of use. What do you think “heinous” means? Going back to its root, it means to hate or be hateful in a shocking way. Some modern writers tend to replace this word with easier sounding terms that miss the jaw dropping shock factor of how bad it really is. So, our question asks whether all transgressions (doing what God forbids) of God’s law are equally *shockingly* bad. The simple answer that we will explore in more depth this week is no! Although any sin is enough to separate us from God, some sins are actually considered worse than others. As we continue our study this week, we will see that some sins are just more evil, heinous, abominable than others in and of themselves, while other sins are considered more evil, heinous, and abominable because of what they result in. It is important we understand that it is ALWAYS God who determines HOW sinful any particular sin is. Not us! There are lists in the Bible that show what kinds of things God finds heinous or abominable. Consider Proverbs 6:16-19. *There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*

### Discussion Questions

- Does anything on the list in Proverbs 6 surprise you?
- If you made a list of sins that you think are “the worst,” how might your list be different from this one? Why?

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

Have you ever thought something or someone was “aggravating”? To aggravate is to make something worse, like the way salt can aggravate an open wound. Believe it or not, it is possible for us to “aggravate” our sin by adding to it and making it even worse. Sometimes, we sin and don’t even realize it, but other times we commit sins of omission by failing or refusing to do what we know is right. James 4:17 says, *So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.* Even worse are sins of commission when we actively go against God’s law in thought, word, or deed. For example, in Genesis 3:6 Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree even though God had commanded them not to. Sin that is committed in knowing rebellion to God are generally viewed as more heinous than sins done through ignorance. How else do we aggravate sin? When we sin publicly, leading other people to sin or marring the name of Christ and destroying our public witness, that is usually seen as more heinous than private sins. Imagine yourself as a judge hearing a case. You might also consider the context and facts of what happened. In courts, sometimes judges hear that there were extenuating circumstances that end up lessening the severity of the punishment. God knows all and always does what is right. Any sin deserves judgment, but His mercy abounds.

### Discussion Questions

- Can you think of any other ways we tend to “aggravate” our sin and make it even worse?
- When you consider that God knows our hearts and the circumstances behind every sin, does that bring you comfort? Why or why not?

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

In the Bible we see all kinds of sins at all kinds of levels. Consider Matthew on the subject of anger and hatred. Matthew 5:21–22, *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.”* There is a difference between murder and hate, but they have the same root and Jesus says they end up with the same judgment. In John 19:11 Jesus is standing before Pilate and says... *“You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”* Who had the greater sin, Pilate or the pharisees who gave Jesus to Pilate? In Leviticus 10 we hear the story of Aaron’s sons. *Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.* There are distinctions, but God is the one who determines how sinful something is.

### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever compared yourself to other people whose sins were “worse” than yours?
- Is this way of thinking helpful? Why or why not?

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

God sees some sins as more heinous than others, but comparing our sins to those of other people isn’t particularly helpful. All sin, no matter the level, puts us in the same position with the same judgment and the same answer. What matters is not how we compare to others but how we measure up to God’s standard. Romans 3:23 says, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* We break God’s perfect law every day in thought, word, and deed. We can not meet His standard and we deserve death and punishment for our sin. *For the wages of sin is death...(Romans 6:23).* God is Holy and pure, and Psalm 5:4–6 says, *For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.* Our sin has placed us in a bad position. Isaiah 59:2, *but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.* Judgment day is coming when Christ returns. We will all stand before him with every sin laid bare. That is