

Theology Simply Explained — WSC10 “The Creature That Images God”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 10—especially explaining **what it means that man images God.**

Q10. How did God create man? ***God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Shorter Catechism question this week is number 10. How did god create men? The answer is. God created man male and female. After his own image. And knowledge righteousness and holiness. With dominion over the creatures.

Now, when the question, Points out that god created man-male and female. It is taking its cue from genesis 1. About 27. Which says so god created man and his own image in the image of god, he created him male and female. He created then Uh, one long sentence. So that when the holy spirit zooms in on the creation of man, in the second chapter, We would understand from his inclusion of male and female in the first chapter.

To mean, first of all, that marriage is essential to god's creation of man. That god was not done creating man. Until he had not only created the woman. But brought the woman to the man. And we know that because the account in genesis, 1 proceeds with god speaking to the man and the woman god blessed them and god said to them.

And so, Marriage as the lord has created it and designed it for our proper imaging of him. Is essential. To man being created in the imaging of

Is essential to man being created in the image of god. This is one of the reasons why satan. Attacks, not only. Men's knowledge and righteousness and holiness which of course satan does. He is the liar. He is. Uh, the temperature. But he attacks very specifically marriage itself. Even the fall he attacks.

In the context of marriage. Which we'll consider in more detail. When we come to the catechism question, About whether man continued in the estate were and he was created. So god created man male and female. The difference between male and female than necessity of male and female. Marriage between Uh, one man, and one woman the two Um, becoming one flash as the lord jesus.

Uh, Teaches us. Then it's just one and one because he uses the word, the two In matthew 19 and the parallel in mark. Uh, this is all from the lord, and if we alter it in any way, If we corrupt it in any way. Uh, we sin, not only against the instructions of god, the law of god, but we sin against the design and purpose of man himself.

And particularly, then we sin. Uh, against the image of god, we deface God's image. One of the reasons that fornication adultery and even those against nature contra natural, perversions Um, To which The lord's. Uh, righteously gives sinners over and Depravity of their minds. The great. Horror of those things is that they are blasphemies.

That they are defacings of. The image of god. So god created man male and female after his own image. This is the only creature. We are the only creature. Made after the image of god. Everything god does everything god says. Communicate something about him. But we are the only creatures who are a display.

Of what he is, like. And of course, we learn. By. Our redemption and the manner through, which he saves us and the adoption into which he saves us. That. We were created to be a display of what he is, like, Um, because he himself was going to take Our nature upon himself, sinlessly.

So that we might be joined to the sun, the second person. Of the godhead. Even angels, then who Are created in knowledge and righteousness and holiness. Are not created in the image of god. They are not in covenant with god. They do not come into union with god. They are not welcomed into.

Uh, the enjoyment of the fellowship of the godhead. Like man is And so, Often, when people think about well, what does it mean to be made in the image of god? They'll say well, man is a rational creature. Or he has a self-aware creature. And they are distinguishing between man and beast.

And yet. Man has made in the image of god in a way. That angels are not. Though, they are sometimes cold mighty ones. And there are a couple of scriptures that refer to sons of god, which probably refer to angels uh, by way of analogy. But wherever sons of god, may Refer to elect men.

Or men generally, but especially elect men. It is preferable because of man being made in god's image and angels not being made in god's image. To read it, as Elect or even redeemed glorified. Men. Uh, where that is theologically hermeneutically. Um, Appropriate. So god created man, male and female after his own image.

And now, here comes the part that we do share with the angels In knowledge. This is not just that we know things. Yeah, our dog knows where it's a miss. Um, Parrots do not process language necessarily the way we do, but Uh, they sure can remember things and connect sounds that they make Um, to various things.

The great knowledge here is actually Uh, not intellect. But personal knowing That we know ourselves and that we know god especially And so, when it talks about creating us and knowledge, it means a Right, acknowledgment of and interaction with god as god. And the right acknowledgment of and interaction with ourself and other people.

As people made in the image of god. And a right acknowledgment of and interaction with the rest of the creatures as those things that are created by god. And so, Uh the word knowledge here is a lot more than just data connection and data association. It is a theocentric, a god, centered word and idea.

This is one of the reasons why Uh, modern day science, although it may be May lead to accuracy because of God's merciful consistency in his providence. It may lead to accuracy or reliability or repeatability in understanding things in In the creation. If it does not come. From knowledge of god as the creator and knowledge of the things that he made as his creatures and and intention to interact with the things that god has made as.

Subsidiary to and part of our interaction with the creator. It is not actually knowledge. It is a perversion, it is an attempt to know without god. And knowledge without god is superstition or magic. It is theologically spiritually. Not too much different. Then familiar spirits or divination, or mediums or necromancy or all of the false and wicked attempts to have Supernatural knowledge or supernatural power apart from god.

That belong to the nations that knew not caught. And about him. The people of god were warned. Now what makes science useful over against those things is

That whether or not the people doing it, know it. They are actually making use of God's wisdom in creating things and god's faithfulness in his providence, in sustaining them according to their nature's.

According to their kinds.

And so god created man with knowledge which is to say especially that god created man to know god god created man in. Righteousness. He didn't just make us. Moral creatures that are capable of morality. He made us creatures who obey him. Who obey his word. Who live consistently with what he has told us about himself and what he has told us about ourselves.

And so our fall from righteousness came. By an attack on his word. Has god really said. And in that way, we fell from a proper knowledge. Because as we departed from god's self-revelation, in the knowing of ourselves and of the creature and therefore we departed from god's self-revelation in knowing him.

We also departed from the morality. Of thinking and feeling and choosing. According to a right knowledge of god and according to our right knowledge of ourselves, And so, we began to employ the various faculties of our souls. Thinking and feeling and choosing. The mind the affections and the will.

In a way that was disobedient, too or inconsistent with his work. And consistent with the right knowledge of him and ourselves. And he created us originally and holiness. We had not been polluted. By our sin. We had been especially consecrated to him. As the worshiping creatures on the earth.

Angels also were created, as worshiping creatures. And therefore have a holiness that is distinct from the rest of the creation. But we were created not just for the knowledge of god, but for the worship of god. And when we sinned, We treated ourselves as profane as common like we were any of the other non-worshiping creatures.

And our unrighteousness and our guilt. So polluted us that we actually were no longer fit. For the worship of god, there had to be a tournament. To reconcile men to him. That we might even continue to worship. Which is why you don't have the first sacrifices in leuiticus chapter 1.

Which actually have the first sacrifice in Genesis chapter 3. Where the lord is the one, who provides the substitute. And the lord is the one who covers the man and the woman not merely, so that we would not immediately perish. But so that there might be a restoration of the ability to draw near to god approach him and worship him, because that is what we were made for.

And so that the man and the woman would know that this is what they were made for. What was the first thing they had? As soon as they were created, An evening. In which they worship god. And what was the very next thing that they had a morning? In which they worship God.

And, On that morning. Is there a worshiping god? What does God do? He consecrates that whole day and blesses that whole day. For the worship of god. So here he gave them right before family. Worshiped, the first evening. Of their life, the last evening of the creation, he gave them commands about all these things to do with the animals.

But when they get up the next day and they have their second family worship there morning worship on the first sabbath. What they find is that the lord consecrates and blesses that day and they're not to do all those things with all. The other creatures that have been commanded until the day after that, So that they might know that first and foremost, there existence.

Is four. The worship of god. So, not just righteousness. But holiness. A devotion. To the adoration of god's glory, and the adjoinment enjoyment. Of god's glory. This was how he created us. And then, of course, the next day, Uh, they were to begin doing all of the things that he Uh, told them to do.

I in verse 28. To take dominion to be fruitful and multiply fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion. Over the fashion, over the birds and over the Um, the creatures on the land. As well. And so, the dominion that they have over the creatures would be Uh, a reflection of there being made in the image of god, all dominion belongs to god.

And an expression as they did it not for their own glory, but for god's glory, That they will worshiping creatures. Created and holiness. So there's a lot there, isn't there? And that. Relatively short answer. How did god create, man? God created, man, male and female after his own image and knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, With dominion over the creatures.