

Theology Simply Explained — CC98 “God's Ways for Us to Get Goods”

Pastor walks his children through Children's Catechism question 98—especially explaining how material things are a good gift from God, when obtained (and employed) in the good ways that God has given us to do so.

Q98. What does the eighth commandment teach us? ***To be honest and industrious.***

(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)

All right, Sophia your catechism question this week. As children's catechism number 98. What does the eighth commandment teach us? And the answer is to be honest and industrious. This is a very helpful, catechism answer. Because, We might think that Thou shalt not steal. Just teaches us not to take other people's things.

Or to touch or damage other people's things. But when the scripture tells us, Thou shalt not steal. It's telling us that God has appointed to each one. Their portion that they have. And so, you can know that. Whatever you have is a gift from God, but also That God has appointed to us or prescribed for us.

The proper way of increasing, what we have, what we have, is a good gift from him. It is to be enjoyed. As an enjoyment of his goodness. Unto his glory and it is to be employed in a way that seeks that he would be glorified among his image bearers.

So stuff is not bad. Stuff is one of the ways that we enjoy God's goodness to us. And one of the ways that we display and communicate God's goodness to others and before others, so that God may be worshiped. This is a helpful, correction. Too many people in recent decades and centuries many have had this idea that stuff is bad, but stuff is not bad. Just like many, have had the idea that Authority is bad. but Authority is not bad. And that usually Those philosophies usually break down. Because people think that say that Authority is bad until having destroyed.

The other authorities, they end up being the one in Authority and suddenly they're still attacking the people who used to be an authority as bad and they don't say, well now I'm bad because I'm in Authority. So no one is what we call a critical theorist consistently. then no one is a communist consistently.

Those who say, owning personal property, personal ownership of stuff is bad, and that everyone should have everything in common Etc. you usually are actually not usually always when men say that those who rise to the top of a society that tries to operate that way, are the ones who personally have often a lot more than those, who are at the top of societies where everyone has personal stuff.

So, stuff is not bad. And God has assigned to each one, his stuff and therefore we should we should respect that. His things are his things. But God has also appointed to us, then if it's if it's appropriate and and good for us to have good things from God, so that we can both enjoy them and employ them.

For his glory. We see here that God has also appointed the correct means the correct ways of getting more stuff. And that is not just hard work, but productive work. To be industrious. To do things that provide value to others and value to ourselves in such a way that we are both productive to ourselves.

And therefore, Ours are sometimes a means directly by which the Lord prospers us, or Are productive enough for others. That by the Lord using us to prosper them in such in some way they are willing to To trade the the produce of their own productivity. which is a means, by which we are enriched, by which we are enabled to have more to enjoy as good from God, and more, especially to employ, because it's not just the industriousness of work.

That is a means by which God increases our abortion. But also there is industriousness of generosity. Wisdom and planning and compassion and observation so that we see. whom God has especially providentially assigned to us by giving us a connection with them and opportunity to help them. And then this especially applies to our own household when talking about charity to others.

God says, he does not provide for his own house, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever and that comes from the eighth commandment, seeing that everything that we are, everything that we are able to do everything that we have and everyone with whom we are connected.

To us in the Providence of God, and since he is assigned to us our portion and since he has assigned the right way of obtaining things. And one of the right ways of having our portion increased and blessed to us is generosity. And one of the right ways of other people, having a portion assigned to them and increased to them is our generosity to them.

Then we say, my wife, and my children are the ones that God has especially assigned to me to prosper. And not just my children that I can see already because they are here but just as I seek to prosper my children spiritually who have not yet been born. which is the, the most important Prosperity.

So, I teach you the Bible and the gospel, and when you grow up and God gives you children, you teach them the Bible and the gospel. And then then they grow up and God gives them children. They teach their children. and that is a wonderful passing on of a spiritual Heritage and inheritance.

Well, we are also to be thinking of the generations that come from us and how we leave, and provide things for our children. That we would accumulate and provide and help you rather than Mom and Dad. spending as much as they want to enjoy themselves as much as they can, they're generous to their neighbors.

Especially they're generous to their brothers and sisters in the church, but most of all they are generous to their children and their children's children. By being wise with the good things God has given us. and by teaching our children too, so that they will not squander what they have but by faith in Christ.

And the grace of Christ, they will take good care of what God has given them and work hard and be generous look to God, to bless them. And so this isn't preserved and increased over time. Now. not only then are we to be industrious as the second part of your Of your catechism answer says, but we were also to be honest.

which is to say although things are good. For the purpose of enjoying, God's goodness and employing those things for for his glory. And in the way that he has taught us to The obtaining of things is only good. If it is the way that God has said to everyone kind of inherently knows even if they're pushing down on the knowledge of God.

Everyone knows in their hearts. that there's a right way and a wrong way of getting things. And the thief. often Almost always is trying to cover up that he has gotten these things in the right way. or in the wrong way, make it always trying to make it seem like you got it in the right way.

And theft itself is a dishonest deal all by itself. It says of something that is not rightly yours that it is rightly yours. and so there he is. There is an honesty tied to getting things by work, or generosity or inheritance in God's good Providence, to us over against stealing or cheating with an, which is another form.

Of stealing or not, keeping Our obligations, making promises to trade and then we get out the part that was promised to us but we don't follow through or we invent some technicality upon, which we don't end up giving what we had promised them and all of those are forms of dishonesty.

And this is one of the places where Whether or not we have an honest heart, whether or not, we have what we call Integrity really comes out because those who are dishonest at heart, they are often controlled by their desire for things. And the dishonesty of their heart will be.

Displayed or exercised, most of all in, how they get things in the wrong way. They serve property and possessions and pleasure, which are their true God, instead of the instead of the Living God. And so, When they steal in one or another of these ways, they show themselves to be dishonest.

So, a very short answer. To be honest and industrious, but A very helpful answer I'm thankful for this children's catechism answer. What does the eighth commandment teach us? And the answer is to be honest and industrious.