

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC40 “The Moral Law at the Beginning”

**Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 40—especially explaining how Adam was given the moral law from the beginning.**

Q40. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience? *The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.*

---

**(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](http://hopewellarp.org))**

---

Our shorter. Catechism. Question this week is what did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience? And the answer is the rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience.

Was the moral law. And so, We are. Instructed. Inhaled God created man as we already confessed in knowledge, righteousness and Holiness. He created Adam with a knowledge of God as God and Adam as his creature. He not only put the knowledge of this into Adam's heart. but he displayed his own goodness to Adam and the That he, Prepared the garden for him.

And put him in the garden. He showed Adam that he is he has a moral relationship. Not only with God himself who had given all of this provision, but most of all had provided Adam with a command. And so, In addition to the moral law, generally speaking, as Adam knew the character of God and knew God himself.

And he had the moral law of God, generally speaking, he knew himself also to be under moral obligation of obedience to God even in what for him was ceremonial law. That he was not to eat of the fruit of the tree of That was in the middle of the garden.

The center of the garden. That was a ceremonial law. That was something governing. Got ceremonially sacramentally his relationship with the Lord, the special relationship into which the Lord had brought him. This also was the nature, not only of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil in, which he would recognize by obeying the ceremonial law that God is the one who determines what is good and God is the one who determines what is evil.

But also another sacramental tree. The tree of. Which signed and sealed unto him. The life that he would have. If he kept this ceremonial law, that God had placed upon him But as is true. Which we see in the Lord's relationship with Israel and what we, in what we see in the Lord's relationship, even with the Church of Jesus Christ.

We have a moral obligation to keep the ceremonial law, which is one reason why people who Attempt to be too clever for their own good. They try to say things like, there's no such division of the law, but, of course, there is, there's laws that are connected to priesthoods.

So that the Bible says, of those laws, when there's a change in priesthood, there's change in law. There and there's the law that God thunders with his own voice. The law that God inscribes on tablets with With his own finger. The law that is reaffirmed even in the character of Christ and the repetition.

Of the commands in the New Testament. But there was the moral obligation to keep the ceremonial law. So, Adam both had the knowledge of God upon his own heart and the expression of what God is like and being made in God's image, a moral obligation to live in application of what the what God is like we've often said when we're talking about the moral law, that it is the application to our lives of the implications of the character of God.

Upon us. And so he had those things and not only in his relationship with God, but also in relationship with his wife, God. Strongly emphasized to Adam the difference. Between the woman and all of the other creatures. And so, all of the things in the second table of the law, Even and especially the seventh commandment.

The woman herself and his marriage to. She being born of his bone and Flesh of his flesh. Not only in having been made from his bone and his flesh. but also to be counted. Now as precious as his own bone and his own His own flesh. And so, All of the elements of what the Lord inscribed for us as the Ten Commandments were And there was the full moral law given to Adam.

even In the garden. So, What did God at first reveal to, man, for the rule of his obedience? And the answer is. The rule, which God at first revealed to, man, for his obedience was the moral law.