

Theology Simply Explained — WSC44 Prefacing the Ten Commandments into Its Place

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 44: What doth the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us? **The preface to the Ten Commandments teacheth us that because God is the LORD, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his Commandments.**

(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)

So the catechism question this week is what does the preface to the Ten Commandments? Teach us That falls up on your question from last week which is the the preface of the 10 to the Ten Commandments. And these words I'm Yahweh that God brought the out of the land of Egypt out of the house of Bondage.

So the Lord identifies himself, First of all, as the Lord the I am the one who has all being in himself, he alone is creator. He has being in himself, everything else is created. It gets as being from him and therefore he alone is sustainer. He exists perfectly without anything else but everything else depends for its continuing existence upon him.

Therefore, he not only designed all things and therefore is the perfect instructor for how to operate in the world that he created. But he has the right to tell us to do whatever he wants. He all things are from him and through him and therefore they are to them.

They are unto his glory and to be done according to his rules but he isn't just y'all way. He says I am Yahweh thy God. Now, there's a difference there between the way, he's god of all of the other nations and the way he's the god of Israel. At the time, Here's the creator of all the other nations.

He's the ruler of all the other nations just as when we say, the Lord is our God. Or Jesus is our God. We don't mean that he isn't the creator and king over and judge of all other people. What we mean is that he's taken us to be his covenant people.

He's redeemed us for Himself. He's gathered us to himself in a safety that he himself has provided by his atonement by his saving power. And so he's not only the Lord but he's the Lord Israel's God. This is one of the reasons why it was so sad for us.

As we read Israel's response to the Ten Commandments in the evening. Sermon this past Lord's Day. A couple days ago. It was a sad for us to hear Israel respond to the frightful glory and holiness of God by saying you go near Moses, but we don't want to go near because the Lord is the one who had brought them near in safety through his own saving purposes and power.

But as we saw by comparing and Deuteronomy chapter 5, they were right. They did not have a heart to fear the Lord or to obey the Lord. And so one of the things that that being his people, his own covenant people, and having him as our own covenant, God does, as it makes us to look to him, all the more to give us the right heart and the right sort of life that corresponds to those who are His people.

Because the Lord will not be mocked and those who are among his his people but do not fear Him and do not love him and do not obey, him shall be all the more frightfully destroyed judgment begins with the household of God. And so a Jew who trusted in being a Jew or someone called Christian who trusts and being called Christian or in their membership, etc, is not making right?

Use of belonging to God in the way. When he says, I am your God. We are to rejoice over belonging to him, but we look to him who attended for us who called us near, who drew us near to give us that heart, that fears him and obeys him the way he says in Deuteronomy 5.

Oh, that they did have such a heart and then we may be near him in safety. And so, one of the things that that this preface to the Ten Commandments subtly teaches us is that we need to be looking to the Lord to give us the sort of heart that we need to have as His people.

And we should expect, then in the commandments that follow that the Lord is going to demand, not just obey obedience behavior. I was gonna say oh baby you're not just obedience, not just behavior but he demands our heart that it would be out of love to him belonging to him desiring to please and honor the one who has saved us for himself.

So I am the Lord your God who have brought the out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of Bondage. We view, of course, everything that he commands as the right thing to do, but we do them not in order to become as people, but because he has already made us as people.

In fact, it is impossible for someone who has not been redeemed. Is not been converted made right with God through faith. In Jesus Christ is impossible for that person to offer. Obedience, that is from from the heart. And so in the way that he presents the Ten Commandments by giving this as the preface to the Ten Commandments, He's already teaching us that it is only the redeemed who genuinely truly obey him.

Although there is an outward. Conformity by which we can judge some works better than other works. It doesn't mean that all works are the same or all government laws are the same. We can judge all activities or actions all laws by conformity to God's law yet. There is no real obedience.

There is no, there is nothing done. That is actually good except by having been saved having been redeemed. When you want your actions to be good, that you should not want those actions to be good, so that you may be right with God. This is a wrong form of religion, even though it is the way our flesh tends to think I will make God happier with me by what I do.

No, we want God to be pleased with what we do because it comes from as having saved us. Everything we do, either comes from our flesh. Our original nature and Adam, or by the spirit from our new nature in Christ. And so even wanting God to be pleased with what we do comes from wanting to live out of having been saved, so that we can see already that he gets all the credit for it and that we're not earning favor with him by what we do even though we want it to please him because it comes from our new nature and Christ and even though he promises to reward it because he is good and generous and gives us rewards for goodness from our lives and in our behavior that that goodness itself.

Only comes from Jesus By the work of his Spirit So we're not taking away anything from wanting to. Please God, we're not taking anything from God. Giving us rewards. We're just recognizing that our obedience comes out of comes from having been redeemed, which means that when you're struggling with obeying God's laws, as we're going to hear about God's laws in the following series of catechism questions, when you're struggling with those things, One of the things you do is you call upon God as your Redeemer and you ask him to strengthen your faith in Christ and continue applying Christ to you.

By His Spirit, that he would give you that mind, and heart and desire. And delight that comes not from your former self the fleshiness, which still remains but is

not your current self but from your new self in Christ. And one of the things that sometimes when someone is taught well by lessons like this one and they cry out to God, for those things is a discover.

They don't yet have a new self and so they they come to wrestle with God by the Spirit opening their eyes to the to that. And as they cry out to God to save them, the Spirit gives them the new self that new life from Jesus from which heart obedience can come.

So the breakfast of 10 commandment teaches us that because God is the Lord and our God and our Redeemer brought us out of the house out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Therefore we are bound and we may even add we won't add to the shorter.

Catechism is not the children's catechism has some significant flaws disorder. Catechism was reasoned out by men wiser and and further ahead and grace and doctor than I am. So we won't actually modify it but you might add in your mind. Therefore we are bound and enabled to keep all his commandments because he is Yahweh because he's taken us to be his very own and made himself our covenant.

God, not just our Creator. God. And because he is our Redeemer and his having redeemed us, further obligates us to obedience, but it's also the only way that we're even able to obey in the first place.