

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC45 What Is the First Commandment

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 45: Which is the first commandment? **The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.**

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This week's question answer. And the shorter catechism, which is the first commandment and this is following up on, of course, the way in the is the moral lossomarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments. So it means the first of the 10. Now we find the Ten Commandments listed specifically as the 10 and two places in Scripture.

Exodus chapter 20 in Deuteronomy chapter 5 and it wouldn't be wrong by the way to take. What Westminster is calling the preface and include it as part of the first commandment. So you would say I am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before me. And one of the things that helps me to say that contextually is that each of the first four commandments have the phrase. Yahwe your God. Sorry not the first four each of the first five commandments, including honor, your father mother. That your days may be long upon the land, which Yahweh your God is giving you.

So we can think of them. That way, the preface is important and we studied the preface in the last two questions. So the way that this is been arranged, the first commandment is just thou shalt have no other gods before me. So you have that in Exodus 20 verse 3 and you have that in Deuteronomy 5 verse seven, it's important to know that God himself refers to the Ten Commandments or the 10 words as it were in Deuteronomy 4, verse 3.

Sorry 4, verse 13. So he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform the Ten Commandments and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. There are many people who want to get rid of the Ten Commandments who want to get rid of the moral law, they say.

Well, that law is part of all of the Israelite law that the Lord got rid of because there was the covenant with Israel at Sinai and the Ten Commandments are referred to as that covenant. And now God has a new covenant with the whole world in Jesus a new administration of the Covenant of grace.

Therefore, we get rid of the Ten Commandments but the fact that the Ten Commandments are foundational, moral law is reinforced by the fact that God himself wrote them on two tablets of stone. They are not like the outworking of those 10 commandments in the worship, life of Israel, in the ceremonial law, and in the National Life of Israel.

In the Civil law, The Ten Commandments are absolutely the basis for those two things. And so we're not surprised that God will refer to them as the covenant Sinai. But they are moral and perpetual and we have seen as in the evening sermons as we have gone through that, the Ten Commandments come from, even the creation.

They would have been known and understood from the garden and they would have been understandable in their present form prohibitions to sin, particularly after the fall immediately upon the fall when man became sinful. So this arrangement of the 10 is an arrangement that comes from God. The specialness of the 10 is a summary of the moral law, is a specialness and a summary.

It designation as a summary of the moral law that comes from God, which is why we would say the first commandment is, and then we would take the first of these ten commands, as they have been arranged and exist 20. And in Deuteronomy 5, you shall have no other God's.

Before me or as the translation that the assembly was using. When it put together, this catechism thou shalt have no other gods before me and we'll talk about what that requires and what that forbids and the significance of before me. But those are in the subsequent three or the following three, Catechism questions and answers.

So we'll wait until then and we'll just have this short lesson for this time.