

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC46 What the First Commandment Requires

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 46: What is required in the first commandment? **The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.**

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So, our catechism question this week is, what is required in the first commandment. The answer is The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God. And to worship and glorify Him accordingly. So, you can hear three pairs there of things that are required.

In the first commandment, The first pair is to know and acknowledge knowing is intellectual acknowledging is in the life. So it's necessary that you know, that God is the only true God that there are no others. That is a knowledge that you see in the world has divine attributes.

That there is one a great mind and being who is good and righteous and so forth. All these things that you see in the creation that he alone can be. God, that there is not room for another God and you can see it even more. Clearly, of course in his word only God who has revealed Himself in Jesus as the triune God Father, Son.

And Holy Spirit has made himself known in his son. That is the only true God. No one has seen God at any time, but the only begotten who is from the bosom of the Father. He has fully revealed him. And so the God that we see in the word and in the world is the only true God.

So you are to know that but you're also to acknowledge that which means you are to interact with it. Acknowledging is knowledge and action. It's kind of like the difference between knowledge and wisdom this knowing and acknowledging. So that's the first pair you to know and acknowledge not just to know the true facts about God being the only true God.

And a true facts about God, taking for himself, a people, so that he would call them his own covenant people and he would call us his own covenant. God, we are to know that he has brought us into special relationship with him, and we are to then interact with Him as our very own covenant God.

So there's that knowing and acknowledging thou shalt have no other Gods before me. Not thou shalt deposit or thou shalt identify in your mind, but thou shall have no other gods will for me. So knowing and acknowledging and the second place where to know and acknowledge that he is the only true God, we've explained that already there cannot be any other.

There's only the one who is known in Jesus, The Pharisees did not. No one acknowledge the. The one true God, Jesus told them that they did not know his father because they did not recognize him. And so, we must not say, we must be careful with ideas like Judeo-Christian faith, because the Judaists and the Judaizers who continue today as those, who refuse to recognize, Jesus don't know.

God only those who know God in Jesus Christ. No God. Okay, So the second pair is to be the only true God and our God. So you don't just know in your head that the true God is the one who is revealed him in himself in Jesus, you know, Jesus and you know, the Father and, you know, the Father and the Son by the work of the Holy Spirit because he is the one who is convinced you that Jesus, your Creator.

There's also your Redeemer. He's the one who convinces. You that God the Father is your Father and enables you from the heart to call him your Abba like your baba, or your papa that knowledge that you have of him not just knowing about him but acknowledging him that comes from the Holy Spirit.

And we know God the Father as your very own father and when you know God the Son as your Creator and your Redeemer, then you know that it's got the spirit who has made those things known to you and so we can know the way that that works in our head, we can evacuate theology about it to know that he's our God.

But then there's also the actual interacting with the father and interacting with a son and interacting with the Spirit having this fellowship with the spirit, that is the acknowledging. So that's the second pair. The only true God and our God. And what is the third pair? It's what we are to do with him to worship and glorify him accordingly worship in the narrow sense.

Meaning that offering of the heart to God in those acts of worship that he has commanded. So it's the offering of the heart to him as we pray, the offering of the heart to him as we read. And here his word exploit the offering of the heart to him in the singing.

So, there's that worship in the narrow sense and then glorify goes along with that because there is worship in the broad sense, too. Isn't there, there's the continual giving of glory to God in the life and we often think of Romans 12:1 offering our bodies as living sacrifices unto God.

So this glorifying him with the life. And if the first question of the catechism was miss first, answer to the Catechism was, man's chief endless. Glorify God and to enjoy him forever. Why is the enjoying of him? Not here. Well because the main way of enjoying it, The only right way of enjoying him actually.

The only real way of enjoying him is in the offering of soul and body to him. If we are trying to enjoy him in some other way, Then we're not actually enjoying him. We're enjoying a false idea. If you're enjoying the true God then you're enjoying him by worshiping in and glorifying him.

So that's the last pair worshiping and glorifying the first commandment require us to know and acknowledge God to be the own God to be the only true God and our God and to worship and glorify Him accordingly. So, very short answer, but packing in three very important pairs to hold together.