

Theology Simply Explained — WSC47 “Atheism, Autonomy, and Other Idolatry”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 47—especially explaining **it is a rejection of the Lord to fail to acknowledge and identify with the Lord, or to put anything else into His place.**

Q47. What is forbidden in the first commandment? ***The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to Him alone.***

(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)

Shorter catechism. This week is number 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment? And the answer is the first commandment. Forbidth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying.

The true God as God. And our God. And the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone. And so basically, the first commandment forbids Atheism, autonomy. And other. idolatry. So first atheism it forbids the denying or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God.

Romans chapter 1 teaches us that he has made his invisible attributes to be clearly seen in the things that are made. And that he made himself known to us. And so, God has as Ecclesiastes puts it put eternity in our hearts And yet it is beyond our finding out.

Because we must have it only from him. We are not able to attain the knowledge of God except by His giving to us. Knowledge of himself. Well, He has given us that knowledge of himself and he's put the evidence of himself and the creation so that The great thing that has provoked, the wrath of God.

That Romans 1 talks about the wrath of God is revealed against all unrighteousness. And ungodliness of men.

The great thing that has provoked, the wrath of God. wrath of God, that is revealed against all unrighteousness. And ungodliness of men is our suppressing pushing down upon The truth about God and unrighteousness, although we know that he's God, we neither glorify him nor give him. Thanks. And, of course, the most obvious form of that is atheism.

Saying in our heart and even in some cases, being so bold and Foolishly Fearless. As to say, with our lips, That there is no God. This is the first. violation of and opposition to Of the first commandment denying or not worshiping and glorifying. The true God as God.

The second third and fourth Commandments are going to deal. with more specificity. With. That which the first commandment requires so worshiping and glorifying. The true God is God having to do with worshiping his way and worshiping. with reverence, for his name. And even using, The time. That he has given us.

set times such as morning and evening, and especially The weekly Sabbath the Lord's day. That in the violation of any of those, there is a violation of this failing to worship and glorify. The true God as God. So the first commandment forbids atheism. And its atheism not to worship God.

Beginning at the end of our days, it's atheism. Not to spend the Lord's day in the worship of God. But it also, forbids autonomy. God is not just God. That we have to obey him and fulfill the purposes that he's given us. and find our help and our Delight in him, all those things.

Are true, but we have been created for and especially now redeemed for Covenant relationship with God. Fellowship with God. Belonging to him. So that we are not our own. So, this isn't just follow God's rules. This is live in relationship with him. That you're not a free agent, you're not.

You're not by yourself or belonging to yourself? you are Bound to him and belonged to him. when God created Adam, he created Adam in Covenant with him. In what is called? The Covenant of works. And when God, When man fell in the Covenant of Works.

God redeemed him. And brought him into the Covenant of Grace. So that man has never been autonomous. And so we not only are we Not only does it forbid denying or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as God, but it also forbids denying or not worshiping and glorifying the true God as our God.

So failure to live in Covenant with him as bound. Damn by a relationship, a binding relationship that he has brought us into with himself. Living autonomously as if. We can. just give God, the things that he is due, but Otherwise have kind of our own purpose in ourselves or our own separate life from him, rather than a shared life in him.

And with him, And then, Not just then atheism and autonomy but all other idolatries. Giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to him alone, we're created in such a way. That we have a chief purpose that we aim at. We have a chief pleasure that we desire, we have a chief power that we depend on.

But if we're failing to have all of those things in the Lord himself and in the Lord himself as the one to whom we and our life, belonged in Fellowship. Because we are designed to have those things. We're going to have them on something else if we don't have them on him.

And so if God is not our chief pleasure, something else is a chief bledger that the other things that we do and desire are all going to serve. If God is not our chief power, if he is not our ultimate trust, then something or someone else. And again that autonomy thing just sticks out there.

Often we make ourselves our chief pleasure ourselves, our chief power ourselves, our chief purpose, But there are those who Who have attached that to something else in life as well? But whatever, whatever else is in that competition or Vise, for the those places in our thoughts, are affections our choices.

You know, whatever. Whatever else. There is as far as that goes, those are the things to, which we are in danger of giving that worship and glory to, which is due to God alone. So what is forbidden in the first commandment? Atheism. Autonomy. And all other idolatry or as our shorter, catechism has it The first commandment for bedith.

The denying or not worshiping and glorifying. The true God as God and our God. And the giving of that worship and glory to any other. Which is due to him alone.