

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC50 “Drawing Near to God in the Way That He Tells Us To”

**Pastor walks his children through** Westminster Shorter Catechism question 50—especially explaining how **treating God as God means drawing near to Him only in the way that He says to.**

Q50. What is required in the second commandment? ***The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in His Word.***

**(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))**

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All right, our shorter. Catechism lesson this week what is required in the second commandment and the answer is the second commandment requireth, the receiving observing and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God, hath appointed in his word.

God has given us the way of coming near to him. He has taught it to us in the Bible and the very first thing we do is we receive it we don't come up with it. God gives it to us. If we are ever worshipping in a way that God has not given us to worship, then we are breaking.

The second commandment we are not treating him as holy when we come near to him. No, we must only ever Worship in the way that he has said every decision that we make in the In the area of worship must be in order. carefully and excellently to do that, which God has commanded not to add to it at all.

If we are ever adding to it, then we're not being. not keeping it purely. we'll get to that in a little bit. So the second commandment requireth, the receiving that we receive from God, how to worship. And, of course, that means, especially now that we draw near through his son, his son is our Tabernacle that we ascend in his son, his son is our Ascension that we come with his son in hand.

Is our tribute. Known in English Bibles for whatever reason, as grain offering. his son. As our peace, The Fellowship that we have with God. The Lord Jesus, of course, He leads us from heaven in the reading and preaching of his word, when he Declares. His father's name to his Brethren.

Hebrews 2 and Psalm 22. Sings God's praise in the midst of the congregation. same places. he is the one who intercedes. always lives to intercede for us. And so, he leads in. The praying the T commands. For the worship. The Lord Jesus is the one who has Appointed and authenticates.

From Glory by his holy spirit, the sacraments baptism and the Lord's supper. He is our great high priest. so we may only do those things that God has commanded, especially because those are the things that Christ is leading from And we may only come. To God by him.

So there's the receiving and then there's observing. Not only are we to receive from God? The right way of worshipping him. But we are ourselves to do what he has said. And so there's observing and then there's the keeping Which means?

Protecting it. Maintaining it. Making sure that we don't add making sure. That we Don't take away. And that is the keeping that is especially related. Then To these two words pure and entire we receive of course and observe. Of course, the worship of God. Whatever God says, everything that God says that we are supposed to do.

In his worship, but especially in this language of keeping of guarding. The worship of God that we must be careful of Purity and entirety. Entirety that everything that he has said that we are to do in his worship, we should do it. And not just every worship action, or every worship element must be done.

But then of course that it might be done in the manner that he says, you know, so coming to God Through faith in Christ and Union with him. For instance, when the 21st chapter of the confession lists, some of these elements, it includes matter. You know, singing Psalms with Grace, in the heart.

The. Conscionable hearing. Of God's word. I think the word is faithful. Faithful preaching. We'll have to check that. I don't have a copy of Catechism in front of him or the confession in front of me right now. So, if you or I are attending Worship service. With a congregation that holds to the shorter catechism.

And what we sometimes, call the regulative principle when it comes to the second commandment. But if you and I are not participating from the heart in listening to the word breached or in praying together or in singing, Or. Taking the Lord's, supper in the right way, Etc. Than we are, then we would be not keeping the second commandment because we are The second commandment requireth, the receiving observing and keeping.

Pure and entire That every part of us, and of the way that he commands us to worship, We would be careful to do. We would guard? that we would do. So, there's a lot more. that's that's required. than just having the right elements. in the worship.

So the second commandment requireth receiving observing and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God. Appointed in his word. And so, not just the worship Services themselves. But all of those ordinances by, which God, Gathers, his church leads his Instructs. His church disciplines keeps his.

Pure and faithful. So the keeping of the Lord's day and the ordination, Of. the ministry elders and And deacons, and Even things like having family worship and pastoral visitation, which is commanded in God's word and is related to the The public Ministry. All of the ordinances of Christ and of course, including the sacraments which are ordinances But the preaching of his word is an ordinance, the singing of the Psalms is an ordinance, there are those ordinances that are part of the public worship and then there are those ordinances that are for the maintaining of the church that Christ gathers

For the public worship and all of those are necessary.

so very carefully. following whatever God says, For his church and for his people so that we might worship him rightly through Christ when we gather because this is the great thing that God is doing. He is gathering to himself a church. Household a family, a body for the Lord, Jesus of bride, but he's gathering to himself a church.

that would worship Him. In the way. that he says and so this is the way of fearing him. When they come in another way. God says this is what I have said by those who draw near to me. I will be treated as holy. And so, This relates even to the children's catechism question for this week about Halloween.

God's name. Part of treating him as holy. Is doing church and worship the way that he says. To do church, the way that he says to do worship so that we will

treat him as holy and come near. In the right way. This is the proper. Fear of the Lord.

so What is required in the second commandment? And the answer is the second commandment requireth, the receiving observing and keeping Pure and entire All such religious worship and ordinances. As God hath appointed. In his worked.