

Theology Simply Explained — WSC49 “The First Commandment After the First Commandment”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 49—especially explaining how **the first part of having God as our God is thinking about Him and worshiping Him only in the ways that He has given us to do so.**

Q49. Which is the second commandment? ***The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My 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)

Our shorter. Catechism, question for this week is number 49, which is the second commandment. And the answer is the second commandment is Thou shalt not make unto thee.

Any Graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the Earth? Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them. For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God. Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children.

Onto the third and fourth generation. Of them that hate me. And showing Mercy unto thousands of them. That love me. And keep my Commandments. So this week's question is just, which is the second commandment and we're going to get into, of course what it requires and what it forbids and The threat that God attaches and the promise that God attaches To the end of it.

But just for this week, why is this one second? Well, the first commandment you shall have no other gods. Before me really is Almost restating of the. First, great commandment or a summary for the entire first table of the law. that the second commandment. Forbidding idolatry the third commandment.

forbidding Blasphemy the fourth Commandment. Requiring. consecration of the Lord's day, that all of these are. subsidiary. Having God as our God. And owning God as our God, how Do you have God as your God? You keep the first commandment by. Keeping the second and third and fourth Commandments.

You do keep. keep the first commandment. And the other ways that we thought of when we were, Explaining and thinking about it refusing. all atheism. And refusing. Autonomy, and refusing, all sorts of other idolatries. But this is a big one. We can see just a little bit.

We'll get into this again in a couple of weeks. When he refers to those who break this, commandment as them, that hate me. The second commandment is second because If we try to come to God, Or to think about God. In any other way, than he has given. If we try to come to him in a way that he hasn't given, it's not really him to whom we're coming.

If we're trying to think about him, In a way. Other than that, which is, it's not really him. Of whom we are thinking. Again, this kind of like what we heard yesterday in Matthew 11? And the warning against playing at religion. As if it's some made-up game. For us to Act out, and With.

Dancing and pleasure or grieving and mourning. Religion must not be. For us a game that we play at God is real. As righteousness as Holiness is real, our sin and its guilt are real. The Lord Jesus. As God, the son who came to save us is real, his salvation is real.

His gospel is real. And so for men to play at these things according to their own ideas or their own desires, How, or To worship according to their own inventions. Is to reject the real God. And to remain. Really guilty. And go to a real hell. To reject the real sun, and his real salvation.

And so playing at religion is no small thing. It is a hating of God. And that's why. The second commandment or second. Because it is essential to the first. And we'll get more into that. In the subsequent questions. but just for this week. Which is the second commandment, and the answer is the second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee.

Any Graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the Earth beneath Is in the water under the Earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them. Fry. The Lord thy God am a jealous God. Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third, and fourth generation of them.

That hate me. And showing mercy into thousands of them. Don't love me and keep my Commandments.