

A Command Celebration

“Remember the Sabbath day, *to keep it holy*. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a *Sabbath to the LORD your God*. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and *rested on the seventh day*. Therefore, *the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy*.

1. God Has Set Apart the Sabbath as Holy.

2. Yahweh Demands His People Keep It Holy.

3. Jesus Is the Lord of the Sabbath.

CONCLUSION: We often receive the good gifts God gives us with skepticism or outright disdain. Perhaps this is nowhere else more apparent than with His gift of Sabbath rest. *How dare He command us to rest and enjoy His completed works of Creation and Redemption?!* It is only our pride that objects. Let us delight in our good God and join in the holy celebration He has provided for us!

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 116. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment *requires* of all men the *sanctifying* or *keeping holy to God* such set times as he hath appointed in his word, expressly *one whole day in seven*; which was the *seventh* from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, and the *first day of the week* ever since, and so *to continue to the end of the world*; which is the *Christian sabbath*, and in the New Testament called *The Lord's Day*.

Deut. 5:12-14; Gen. 2:2-3; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 20:7; Matt. 5:17-18; Isa. 56:2, 4, 6-7; Rev. 1:10.

Q. 117. *How* is the sabbath or the Lord's Day *to be sanctified*?

A. The sabbath or Lord's Day is to be sanctified by an *holy resting* all the day, not only from such works as are at all times sinful, but *even from such worldly employments and recreations as are on other days lawful*; and making it our delight to spend the whole time (except so much of it as is to be taken up in *works of necessity and mercy*) in the public and private exercises of God's worship: and, to that end, we are to prepare our hearts, and with such foresight, diligence, and moderation, to dispose, and seasonably to dispatch our worldly business, *that we may be the more free and fit for the duties of that day*.

Ex. 20:8, 10; Ex. 16:25-28; Neh. 13:15-22; Jer. 17:21-22; Matt. 12:1-13; Isa. 58:13; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Ps. 92 title; Isa. 66:23; Lev. 23:3; Ex. 20:8; Luke 23:54, 56; Ex. 16:22, 25-26, 29; Neh. 13:19.

Q. 119. What are the *sins forbidden* in the fourth commandment?

A. The *sins forbidden* in the fourth commandment are, *all omissions of the duties required*, all careless, negligent, and unprofitable performing of them, and being weary of them; all profaning the day by idleness, and doing that which is in itself sinful; and by *all needless works*, words, and thoughts, about our worldly employments and recreations.

Ezek 22:26; Acts 20:7, 9; Ezek. 33:30-32; Amos 8:5; Mal. 1:13; Ezek. 23:38; Jer. 17:24, 27; Isa. 58:13.