

Theology Simply Explained — WSC66 “God’s Own Reason for Us to Keep the Fifth Commandment”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 66—especially explaining that God has so ordered His world that personal, family, church, and national blessing comes through the keeping of the fifth commandment.

WSC66: What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment? *The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God’s glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.*

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Catechism question for this week because number 66, what is the reason annex to the fifth commandment? The answer is. The reason next to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity. As far as it shall serve for god's glory in their own goods to all Such as keep this commandment.

Now, in Uh, x is 20. He says that you may live long in the land, But in the, Giving of the 10 commandments in deuteronomy 5 at the end of the wilderness wanderings. As they are about to cross over the Jordan. And take the rest of the land. He adds.

That it may be well with you. To the living longer the land. Which is to say that god, who is the one who decides To defines what it being well with us means, Is adding the promise that this is A mechanism or a means. By which he will make it to go well with us.

He has designed in his ordinary providence. That each one in his, in his place and his relations to each of the others, in their places and their relations, we each fulfill our responsibility, whether it's a responsibility to submit someone under authority or whether it's a responsibility to lead. As someone in authority.

For the purpose for which god has given us that authority. So you have kings and rulers. Um, Who are supposed to be a blessing to their people. And you have the apostle talking about his apostolic authority saying that it is for building up and not tearing down. And that sometimes that building up comes by faithful church discipline, Um, oras equals.

We have duty to one another to regard others. Before we regard ourselves and always be respectful and always speak in a way that is useful and to edifying. A way that comes from grace and not from the flesh. And we've covered a bunch of these. As we have thought about the fifth commandment these last weeks, But, That ultimately it is god himself.

Who in his providence has to make everything. Bear the fruit that it's designed to bear. And he is so designed his world so that the keeping of this commandment He has set designed his world that the keeping of this commandment is how he brings happiness. Happiness to families, happiness to nations, happiness, to churches.

This is something that we see in the creation. Uh, five times we hear god. Say it was good. And then on the sixth day in the middle of the day he says it is not good. Well i guess. Fairly late in the day. He says, it is not good because Adam Um, Has been created and then he names all the animals and so forth.

And there's not a helper suitable for him and God finishes The creation of man with the creation of woman and not good goes to very good by the creation of the marriage relationships. A marriage relationship that if we look at Genesis 2 has within it authority and teaching Because Adam is the one who receives the instructions regarding the tree regarding the covenant of life or the covenant of works.

Whichever Um, Of those, we are going to use Those terms, we're going to use for it that he's the one who receives the instructions in the terms of it, and then his wife is created and he has to be her teacher. And the lord has given him. A leadership place in the world as a whole in which he names all of the other creatures.

And even when the lord, Brings her to him, he names her. Recognizing. That god has given him this place of leadership and responsibility even with respect to his wife who has every bit as much in the image of god as he is, who is a helper corresponding to his needs.

Now, it's important that when we recognize that this is part of the law of god and that the law of god is an expression of the character of god that we remember that there is not authority within the godhead because there's only one will in god. He is one god.

But one of the great truths about god, is that he is god. And his holiness, for instance, is the intensity of his commitment to himself. Has consistency within himself as adoration within himself within the three persons. So sometimes you'll think or hear and it's true in the way that we use it because we have never existed within the, the one god outside of time in space.

You'll hear that the word holiness means separateness, well, yes with respect to everything else, it means separateness but within god, it cannot mean separateness because god is not separate for himself. It is the intensity of his commitment to himself. And so it is actually an outworking of his holiness that he has created creatures to exist in.

In orders of Authority and submission so that he can communicate. Always to the creatures that he himself is at the top of that order. One of the things that the fifth commandment does for us, is it forces us to recognize that the one of the most basic truths about god is he is God, And one of the most basic trues are the first truth about anything or anyone else is He is not god.

And a great deal of our blessedness whether as a person or in the family, or in the nation, or in the church is bound up. And that truth Goddess god and nothing else is got And of course, the first place we start to learn that lesson as babies is When we learned that mom and dad are in charge and we are not in charge, this is somebody else's world with somebody else's order and We have to submit to the ones whom God has set over us just as we have to submit to God's providence and we eventually come to realize that part of his providence is the one who he's set over us.

And so, he designed this creation of a new relationship with Authority and submission, and leading, and being led and teaching, and being taught. Um, And it's this new relationship of marriage that That takes us as it were on day six, from not good alone to very good. Now, there's relationship.

Now there's marriage and now, There is the keeping of the fifth commandment with respect to people because there's more than one of them. And one of the

things, of course, then that god has Commanded them to do. Once the two of them are made is to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, which means An exponentially increasing number of permutations of the keeping of the fifth commandment.

Uh, because the ones who fill the earth must all in their in their various places and relations function. The way that god has Given those places in relations to function as we all under god, love him and serve him obey him. And find that him being god and us being.

Not god and us. Therefore following, his directions is the way to blessedness and happiness in him himself. One of the great books in the bible Uh, for seeing this as the book of proverbs, where it talks about. What, you know, the difference a good father or mother can make the difference, a good son or daughter, well usually son can make the difference, a good wife can make The difference of bad wife can make the difference.

Good rulers, make the difference bad rulers, make the difference, good masters make the difference badmasters, right? The difference good servants makes your employees or slaves, the different, the difference, bad employees make So that this principle that god has built. Uh, into his creation into our relationships into the societies that he is ordained.

The family, the church, the nation, he has built into it that the path to happiness for everyone is each fulfilling their role for filling their duty giving honor to the others. And preference. To. To others in how we do. So and of course, we have mentioned several times as we've been studying the fifth commandment, the perfect example of jesus, you know, what, a joy he must have been to have as a son Um, And any displeasure in it would have just been because the sinfulness of Joseph and Mary.

Uh, what a joy he must have been to have as a brother. And although perhaps in your flesh, you might have been to irritated by the fact that he was always good. And mom and dad were so Uh well pleased with him. And so the jealousy and envy of your heart would make you sit sin against him in that way.

But he was also always preferring. You always loving you. Only ever speaking kindly to you, we can hardly imagine what it is to have such a sibling, even in a happy family, a godly family. Um, Well, so jesus is the great example and then when he is About to take the throne of his kingdom.

He reminds those whom he is going to make lesser authorities within Within that kingdom, the apostles that they must not be. Like leaders among the gentiles who domineer Over those who are subject to them. But he who is lord of all was among us as one who serves. And the happiness of the church in every day.

In that everyday. Operation and life of the church. Much depends upon our following. Our savior's example, example, in keeping the fifth commandment. And this continues even Of course, within the home when the apostles giving children instruction, In ephesians 6, he says children obey your parents In the lord. And so he speaks to christian children and he tells you that the only way of immune Is through faith in jesus and that the primary purpose of your obedience is The glory of jesus, he repeats the promises.

Uh, quoting from the deuteronomy 5 edition of the ten commandments. Um, That your days, maybe that is the first commandment of the promise that your days may be. Long in the land and then it may go. Well with you. Because that is still. How god has? Ordained organized. Established for life and for the family to work.

So if we are miserable in our home, one of the first things we should do is Think. How am i leading my wife? My children, how am i submitting to my husband? My dad my mom. How am i preferring my brothers or sisters to myself because the keeping of the fifth commandment is god's plan for glorifying jesus by producing happy homes.

Through the, through the instrument or the mechanism of jesus, like people. People who are like jesus living with one another in accordance with the fifth commandment. And it doesn't just tend towards happiness and tends towards health. He extends our life. Even something is Scientifically observable. As the reduction of stress is as i work on my health, one of the things that i keep coming across in the literature, it's how important it is.

To reduce cortisol to reduce stress. Um, And hopefully in in god's mercy to me i will think about that with respect to each of you and want. To reduce your stress. Uh, even that would be an application of the fifth commandment. So, the reason he gives us is Because he is god and we are not.

And that is the key to happiness and life. And health and life. And one of the ways that we follow that, Uh, the primary way that we follow that is by keeping the fifth, commandment in these authority, and relational structures that he has put into life. So that we would learn ultimately To submit to his authority.

And ultimately, That we must live in relationship with him properly, just as he has, designed our life, with all of these other relationships that we need to live in properly. So he gives us that as the reason and it's what in it, in the holy spirit's wonderful way. Just a few hebrew words, he opens up the teaching of the whole bible.

Inhale. Even from the creation god has designed Our lives to work this way. Amen.