

# **The Principles of Christian Religion**

**A Study through the Baptist  
Catechism using Benjamin  
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

# Outline of the BC

- I. Introductory Questions: 1-6
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# Question and Answer 44

Q. 44: What is the duty which God requireth of man?

A. The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to His revealed will.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Micah 6:8; 1 Samuel 15:22

# Question and Answer 44

## 1. The Revelation of God's Will

- God has revealed his will (Psa. 147:19).
- He has revealed it plainly (Hab. 2:2).
- And fully (Acts 20:27).
- We should therefore seek to be acquainted with it (Psa. 25:5).

# Question and Answer 44

- Excursus: Revealed vs. Hidden Will
  - “Although the will of God, viewed in itself, is one and simple, it is presented to us in Scripture under a twofold aspect.” – John Calvin
    - I Thessalonians 4:3
    - Ephesians 1:5, 9, 11
  - God’s Revealed/Preceptive Will
    - His Word/Law
    - Can be Known
  - God’s Hidden/Decretive Will
    - His Eternal Decree
    - Cannot be Known (except retrospectively)

# Question and Answer 44

## 2. The Duty of Obedience to God's Will

- Obedience to God's revealed will is a duty (Deut. 10:12).
- It is the duty of all (Psa. 49:1, 2).
- But especially of the redeemed (1 Cor. 6:20).
- And it is their whole duty (Eccl. 12:13).

# Question and Answer 44

## 2. The Duty of Obedience to God's Will

- It is reasonable that God should be obeyed (Rom. 12:1).
- Obedience is due to him as our Creator (Isa. 44:21).
- And as our preserver (Deut. 32:6).
- And as our Master (Mal. 1:6).
- And as our Sovereign (Psa. 22:27, 28).
- God's commands should therefore take place of men's (Acts 4:19).

# Question and Answer 45

Q. 45: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Romans 2:14, 15, and 10:5



# Question and Answer 45

- Introduction: Moral vs. Positive Law
  - This distinction is a way of determining which Scriptural laws are still binding and which are not.
    - Moral Law
      - Valid and binding at all times for all people
      - Known through general revelation, clarified through special revelation
    - Positive Law
      - Valid and binding only for certain people or for a certain time (the duration of the covenant for which it was instituted)
      - Know only through special revelation

# Question and Answer 45

- Introduction: Moral vs. Positive Law
  - This distinction is also important in our discussions about . . .
    - Baptism (2LCF 28.1)
    - The Sabbath (2LCF 22.7)

# Question and Answer 45

## 1. Positive Laws

### a. Under the Old Testament

- There were positive institutions under the Old Testament (Heb. 9:10).
- These were suited to the infant state of the church (Gal. 4:3).
- But they are now abolished (Heb. 9:10).
- It is our great mercy to be free from them (Acts 15:10).
- We owe this liberty to Christ (Heb. 7:12).
- And we should stand fast in it (Gal. 5:1).

# Question and Answer 45

## 1. Positive Laws

### b. Under the gospel

- There are positive institutions under the gospel (1 Cor. 11:23).
- And these should be observed (1 Cor. 11:2).
- But the moral law is the principle rule of obedience (Deut. 5:2).

# Question and Answer 45

## 2. The Moral Law

- This law was originally written upon the heart of man (Rom. 2:15).
- Natural conscience influences this law (Rom. 2:14).
- The Gentiles then sinned by breaking this law (Jude 10).
- And they will be punished for the breach of it (Rom. 2:12).
- But this law is more fully revealed in the word (Deut. 5:3).

# Question and Answer 45

## 2. The Moral Law

- We should subscribe to the excellency of this law (Rom. 7:12).
- And enquire into its uses (Gal. 3:19).
- The saints are not under the law as a covenant of works (Rom. 6:15).
- But they are under it as a rule of life (1 Cor. 9:21).
- It is universally binding (Psa. 119:128).
- And perpetually so (Rom. 3:31).

# Question and Answer 45

## 3. The Uses of the Law

- The law curbs sin (1 Tim. 1:9).
- And instructs in duty (1 Tim. 1:5).
- It convinces of sin (Rom. 7:7).
- And aggravates sin (Rom. 5:20).
- And begets fear (Gal. 4:24).
- And silences carnal objections (Gal. 2:19).
- And leads the sinner to Christ (Gal. 3:24).
- The law then is of great advantage if

# Question and Answer 45

## 3. The Uses of the Law

### – The “Three Uses of the Moral Law”

#### 1) The Pedagogical Use

- Leading sinners to Christ

#### 2) The Civil Use

- Curbing evil in society

#### 3) The Didactic (or Normative) Use

- Guiding believers in grateful obedience