

Shorter Catechism: Questions 45 & 47

Sins Forbidden in the First Commandment: Part 4

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. -Psalm 19:3

Word of God (Exodus 20 - KJV)

20 And God spake all these words, saying, ²I *am* the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

⁴Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: ⁵Thou 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; ⁶And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

⁷Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: ¹⁰But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the Lord thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: ¹¹For *in* six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

¹²Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

¹³Thou shalt not kill.

¹⁴Thou shalt not commit adultery.

¹⁵Thou shalt not steal.

¹⁶Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

¹⁷Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that *is* thy neighbour's.

Shorter Catechism

Question 45 - Which is the first commandment?

A: The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Exod. 20:3)

Question 47 - What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A: The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, (Ps. 14:1) or not worshipping and glorifying the true God as God, (Rom. 1:21) and our God; (Ps. 81:10-11) and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone. (Rom. 1:25-26)

Larger Catechism

Question 105 - What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment?

A: The sins forbidden in the first commandment are, Atheism, in denying or not having a God; Idolatry, in having or worshipping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; the omission or neglect of any thing due to him, required in this commandment; ignorance, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; bold and curious searching into his secrets; all profaneness, hatred of God; self-love, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; vain credulity, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments, hardness of heart, pride, presumption, carnal security, tempting of God; using unlawful means, and trusting in lawful means; carnal delights and joys; corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; lukewarmness, and deadness in the things of God; estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; all compacts and consulting with the devil, and hearkening to his suggestions; making men the lords of our faith and conscience; slighting and despising God and his commands; resisting and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.

Outline of Sins Forbidden

1. Atheism
2. Idolatry
3. False, Unworthy or Wicked thoughts of God
4. Searching into the Secrets of God. Profaning the things of God.
5. Hatred of God and Love of Self.
6. Unbelief and Heresy
7. Distrusting of God
8. **Pride**
9. **Presumption and Carnal Security**
10. **Trusting in means (both lawful and unlawful)**
11. **Carnal Delights**
12. **Blind Zeal and Lukewarmness**
13. Worshiping the Creature
14. Following the Doctrines and Commandments of Men
15. Grieving the Spirit of God
16. Hating God's Providence

I. Pride

- **Larger Catechism** – “...incorrigibleness, (Jer. 5:3) and insensibleness under judgments, (Isa. 42:25) hardness of heart, (Rom. 2:5) pride, (Jer. 13:15)...”
- **Daniel 4** - ³⁰ The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” ... ³⁴ And at the end of the time

I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom *is* from generation to generation. ³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?” ³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

- **Pride and its Anti-Christ nature**
 - **Philippians 2** - ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.
 - **Proverbs 16** – ¹⁸ Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ Better *to be* of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- **Incorrigibility** – Unable to receive correction.
 - **Jeremiah 5** - ³ O Lord, *are* not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, but they have not grieved; You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to return.
- **Insensibility under judgments** – Not seeing the hand of God in troubles and calamities that fall upon a person or nation.
 - **Isaiah 42** - ²⁵ Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger and the strength of battle; it has set him on fire all around, yet he did not know; and it burned him, yet he did not take *it* to heart.
- **Hardness of heart** – See Pharaoh. Deadness to spiritual affairs.

III. Presumption and Carnal Security

- **Larger Catechism** – “...*presumption, (Ps. 19:13) carnal security, (Zeph. 1:12)*”
- **Presumption** – Brazen or High Handed. Deliberate.
 - **Psalms 19** - ¹³ Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.
- **Carnal Security** – Complacent attitude towards our sin, and a lukewarm attitude toward God.
 - **Zephaniah 1** - ¹² “And it shall come to pass at that time *That* I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And punish the men Who are settled in complacency, Who say in their heart, ‘The Lord will not do good, Nor will He do evil.’”

IV. Tempting God and trusting in means (both lawful and unlawful)

- **Larger Catechism** – “...tempting of God; (Matt. 4:7) using unlawful means, (Rom. 3:8) and trusting in lawful means; (Jer. 17:5)...”
- **Matthew 4** - ⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”
- **J.G Vos** - “For a person to neglect ordinary care and precautions to prevent sickness or accident, and then claim to be trusting in God to keep him safe and in good health, amounts to tempting God, and therefore is wicked”
- **Unlawful means** – “the ends justifies the means”
 - **Romans 3** - ⁸ And *why* not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”?—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.
- **Trust in Lawful means**
 - **Jeremiah 17** - ⁵ Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.

V. Carnal Delights and Joys

- **Larger Catechism** – “...carnal delights and joys; (2 Tim. 3:4) ...”
- **2 Tim 3:4** - ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

VI. Blind Zeal and Lukewarmness

- **Larger Catechism** – “...corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; (Gal. 4:17, John 16:2, Rom. 10:2, Luke 9:54–55) lukewarmness, (Rev. 3:16) and deadness in the things of God; (Rev. 2:1) ...”
- **Zeal – Three wrong kinds**
 - **Corrupt: Gal. 4** - ¹⁷ They zealously court you, *but* for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, that you may be zealous for them
 - **Blind: Rom. 10** - ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.
 - **Indiscreet: Luke 9**- ⁵⁴ And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”
- **Lukewarmness**
 - **Rev 3** - ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.
 - **Heb 12** - ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel.