

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
- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
- III. What Duty God Requires: 44-114
 - A. The Law and our Inability: 44-89
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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.¹

¹ 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

Question and Answer 46

Q. 46: Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.¹

¹ Deuteronomy 10:4; Matthew 19:17-19

Question and Answer 46

1. The Summary of God's Law

- The moral law was in force before the Ten Commandments were given (Gen. 18:19).
- Parts of it were published before (Gen. 9:6).
- But it was at last summed up in the Ten Commandments (Deut. 4:13).
- These commandments were spoken (Deut. 4:12).
- And God spoke them (Exod. 20:1).
- They were written (Luke 10:25).
- And God wrote them (Exod. 32:16).

Question and Answer 46

- Excursus: The Moral Law and the Ten Commandments
 - This is a point on which most Christians for most of history have agreed.
 - Only recently has it been disputed.
 - Both Dispensationalism and New Covenant Theology teach that God's moral law is not summarized in the Ten Commandments.
 - They believe that only those commandments that were in force before the Mosaic Covenant and are explicitly reiterated in the New Testament are binding on NT believers

Question and Answer 46

- Excursus: The Moral Law and the Ten Commandments
 - So are the Ten Commandments a summary of the Moral Law?
 - What is the “law” that is written on the hearts of all men?
 - Romans 2:12-29
 - Were all Ten Commandments in force before the Mosaic Covenant?
 - Are all Ten Commandments still in force under the New Covenant
 - 1 Cor. 7:9; 2 Cor. 3:3; Eph. 6:2-3; 1 Tim. 1:8-11

Question and Answer 46

- Excursus: The Moral Law and the Ten Commandments
 - 1 Tim. 1:8-11
 1. “Ungodly” (cf. Acts 13:43, 50; 16:14; 17 ;4, 17; 18:7)
 2. “Sinners” (cf. Gal. 2:15; Rom. 2:22)
 3. “Unholy” (cf. Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2)
 4. “Profane” (cf. Isa. 56:2,6; Ezek. 22:26; Matt. 12:5)
 5. “Those who strike their fathers and mothers”
 6. “Murderers”
 7. “Sexually immoral, those who practice homosexuality”
 8. “Enslavers”
 9. “Liars, perjurers”

Question and Answer 46

2. The Mediators of God's Law

- Christ was concerned in giving the law (Acts 7:38).
- It was given by the hands of Moses (John 1:17).
- And by the ministration of angels (Acts 7:53).

Question and Answer 46

3. The Giving of God's Law

- The law was given with much pomp (Deut. 33:2).
- And with great terror (Exod. 20:18).
- The sight hereof was terrible to Moses himself (Heb. 12:21).
- And it struck an awe upon the people (Exod. 20:18).
- It is necessary that what was delivered with so much terror should be obeyed with fear (Heb. 12:28).