

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
 - B. The Gospel and the Means of Grace: 90-114

Introduction to the Decalogue

- Interpretation

- J. Douma (cf. WLC 99)

1. “The Decalogue must be interpreted spiritually.”
2. “The negative commandments (‘You shall not . . .’) include positive commands, and vice versa.”
3. “. . . [W]here one sin is mentioned, the commandment intends to cover the entire range of related sins.”
4. “Those commandments concerned specifically with love toward God weigh more heavily than those commandments concerned specifically with love toward neighbor.”
5. “The starting point and goal of all the commandments is love.”

Question and Answer 54

Q. 54: Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou 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; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.¹

¹ Exodus 20:3

Question and Answer 54

- Intro to the Second Commandment
 - Questions raised by the Second Commandment:
 - How is this distinct from the First Commandment?
 - Does it forbid making images of any creature or just images of God?
 - Does it forbid just the worshiping of images of God or even the very making of them?
 - Does this include images of Jesus?
 - What is the connection between the commandment and the reasons attached to it?
 - Is there more to it than just the matter of images?