

## Westminster Shorter Catechism Study

### Session 25

#### *The Second Commandment*

#### *HOW Shouldn't We Worship?*

**Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?**

**A. The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.**

**Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?**

**A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.**

**"It forbids—**

- (1) The worship of false gods, and everything that represents them (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:21-25).
- (2) The worship of God by images. Pictures and other representations of created things are allowed us in works of art or for ornamentation. God ordered the making of the serpent of brass and the figures in the temple. But they are not to be used in worship (Deut. 4:15-19; Ex. 32:5; Num. 21:9; 2 Kings 18:4). This was the sin of Israel until the Babylonish captivity. Pictures and images were first introduced into the Christian Church for instruction, then as helps in worship, and finally as objects of reverence.
- (3) A ceremonial or ritual service, after the more spiritual form, has been enjoined (Acts 15:10-29; Rom. 14:17; Gal 2:11-14; 3:3; 4:1-11).
- (4) The neglect of God's ordinances, public worship and the sacraments (Heb. 10:25; Acts 2:42; Matt. 26:26, 27; John 6:53)."

**– A.A. Hodge**

**Leviticus 10:1** Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

3 And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.

**Jer. 19:4** " Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents

5 "(they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind),

**Col. 2:18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations --

21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,"

22 which all concern things which perish with the using -- according to the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

**Psalms 95:1** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.

4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also.

5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice:

8 "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.

10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.'

11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

**Psalms 96:9** Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD.

13 For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

**Exodus 19:4** 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

**Psalms 45:11** So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.

**Is. 54:5** For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

**Exodus 34:12** "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.

13 "But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images  
 14 '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),  
 15 "lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,  
 16 "and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.  
 17 "You shall make no molded gods for yourselves.

**1 Cor. 10:19** What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything?

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?