

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #24

I hope you have had the joy of meditating in Psalms 19 and 119!!!! Gold and Honey !

Prayer

Review

Q. 96 What particular use is there of the moral law to unregenerate men?

A. The moral law is of use to unregenerate men, to awaken their consciences to flee from wrath to come, and to drive them to Christ; or, upon their continuance in the estate and way of sin, to leave them inexcusable, and under the curse thereof.

I Tim. 1:9-10

Gal. 3:19-25

Rom. 1:20 with Rom. 2:15

Review the general three uses of the moral law

1. Reveals - Torch, light , lamp - to reveal sin, heightens awareness
2. Rule of life - like a family code
3. Restraint on sin - civil use

Law itself is powerless. Rom. 8:4

Q. 97 What special use is there of the moral law to the regenerate?

A. Although they that are regenerate, and believe in Christ, be delivered from the moral law as a covenant of works, so as thereby they are **neither justified nor condemned**; yet, besides the general uses thereof common to them with all men, **it is of special use**, to show them how much they are bound to Christ for his fulfilling it, and enduring the curse thereof in their stead, and for their good, and thereby to provoke them to more thankfulness , and to express the same in their greater care to conform themselves hereunto as the rule of their obedience.

Rom. 8:1,3-4

II Cor. 5:14,21

Rom. 7:2,3-6,22,25

Rom. 12:2

Gal. 4:4-5

5:23

3:13-14

Luke 1:68-69 and 74-75

Titus 2:11-14

What is a biblical definition of **legalism**?

What is a remedy for legalism ?

4 different legalists:

1. Auto save (rich young ruler)
2. Maintain save
3. Add to own laws (Pharisees)
4. Soft legalism - just do it - mentality like repaying God

Don't confuse law keeping with legalism . Ps. 40:8 and Ps. 119:16

What does true legalism lead to?

As always. extremes lead to gross errors.

Legalism.

Unbiblical mysticism.

Anti-nominianism

Should a Christian fear sin?

Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices by Thomas Brooks

God's grace in sanctification (growing in maturity, a **work** of God's Spirit) is as sweet and necessary as his grace in justification (an **act** of God's grace whereby sinner declared forgiven and righteous because of Jesus) .

Aside explanation of the theology of Biblical Law

(taken from Putting Truth to Work by Daniel M. Doriani, p. 260 ff)

1. Benefit - guidance
2. Source - grace
3. Goal - Love
4. Heart - godliness
5. Result - blessing

Q. 98. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the 10 Commandments, which were delivered by the **voice of God** upon Mount Sinai, and **written by him** in two tables of stone, and are recorded in the **20th chapter of Exodus**. The first four Commandments containing our duty to God, and the other six our duty to man.

Notice language: code of divine law, spoken and written by God, and of permanent validity.

First and second tables of the law Exodus 20:1-17 and Deut. 5:6-21

Exod. 34:1-4 Deut. 10: 4

How are the 10 commandments commonly divided ? Read Mat.22:37-40

They are a summary of the moral law, not a complete statement in detail. Other parts of the Bible fill it out.

Q. 99 What rules are to be observed for the right understanding (interpretation) of the Ten Commandments?

A. For the right understanding of the Ten Commandments these rules are to be observed:

1. That the law is **perfect, full and entire obedience of whole** man - Ps. 19:7 and Mat. 5:48 conclusion after a long sampling of " you have heard it said But I say unto you...." By Jesus
2. That the law is **spiritual**- here meaning that the law concerns not only outward actions, but our spiritual life of thoughts, mind, emotions, desires, motives, resolutions of the will. (" other powers of the soul" - memory, artistic sense, etc.) Ps. 119:96; Deut. 6:5 with Mat. 22:37-40. Ps. 516 and I Tim. 1:5 (heart issue)
3. That the several laws **overlap** and are **interconnected**
4. **Where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden; and where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded; so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included, and where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included.**

Dorani - " the law promotes positively the opposite of what it forbids, and vice versa."

5. That what God forbids is never to be done, and what God commands is always our duty, yet every duty is not to be done at all times.

World has other value system - end justifies the means. Not so says Paul Rom. 3:8

Begs explanation- Mat. 12:7 and Eccl. 3:1-8. Not an absurdity.....

This is difficulty of ethical questions.....

Conscience questions arise. (ex. Corrie ten Boon, Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

6. That under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded; together with all the causes, means, occasions, and appearances thereof and provocations thereunto

9th commandment forbids false witness, but also other lying too /Mat. 5 sum

I Thess. 5:22

Jude 23

Gal. 5:26

Col. 3:21

7. And 8. That we have a moral responsibility to our neighbor . But the degree of our responsibility is determined by our ' place'.

Some practical questions:

Is it right to arrange for someone else to do something that we will not do because we believe it to be wrong?

How are we to endeavor to help others practice righteousness and avoid to see him?

How should we try to be helpful to others in doing their duty?

Why should we take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them?

The difficulty and complexity of ethical situations and decisions shows the importance of having an absolute and perfect standard.

Next week: Q. 100-104. Maybe beginning on Q. 105. Next we will consider Q. 105-106.