

## Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

### Women's Thursday Bible Study - #27

Prayer

Review Commandment #1. Pattern: text, required, forbidden, reasons annexed to

From last week: Heidelberg Catechism: Q. #95 **What is idolatry?** A. Idolatry is having or inventing something in which to put our trust instead of, or in addition to , the only true God who has revealed Himself in His Word.

Calvin said our hearts are " idol factories."

Questions from Daniel M. Doriani 's book:

For self diagnosing and reflection- complete the sentences:

Life has meaning only if..... I have worth only if.....

What potential loss worries me most?

What loss might make life meaningless?

How do I comfort myself when life turns against me?

So 1st commandment deals with **WHO** , the object of worship

The 2nd commandment deals with **HOW** God is to be worshipped , I.e. Not by the use of images or any representation of God .....

So both have something to say about **idolatry**. **WCF – 21.1 read John 1:21-24**

**Known as the regulative principle of worship**

**Q. 107 Which is the second commandment?**

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not (1) make unto thee any graven image, or the likeness of anything that is in the heaven above 'or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. (2) 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 showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

**Q. 108 What are the duties required in the second commandments?**

A. The duties required in the second commandment are, the **receiving, observing and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his Word**, particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ, ;the reading, preaching, and hearing of the Word of God, the administration and receiving of the sacraments, church government and discipline, **the ministry and maintenance there of**, - religious fasting, swearing by the name of God and bowing onto him,

(As also) the disapproving, detesting ,opposing, all false worship and according to each one's place and calling, removing it and all monuments of idolatry .

- receiving
- observing
- preserving

Deut. 12: 28-32

Mat. 28:18-20

Acts 2:42

II Kings 18:4-5 Hezekiah ' s reforms

Jer. 10: 8 ff satire on idolatry

Hab. 2:18-20

Isa. 40:18-25

What is the general subject of the second commandment?

What two classifications may the ordinances of divine worship be divided?

What is meant by false worship?

Remember the different spheres of authority of human society beginning with the family ,the church and the civil government.

Does the principle of religious liberty imply that every person has the right to worship as he pleases or according to the dictates of his own conscience?

- distinction in moral and civil ' right'

Let's think about the American ideal of tolerance.....

- (Vos) there may be a day coming when orthodox Bible Christians will suffer persecution as " enemies of democracy"

**Q. 109 What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?**

A. The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, **all devising, counseling, commanding, using, and anywise approving any religious worship not instituted by God himself;** tolerating a false religion;

Deut. 12: 28 - 32

Rev. 2 - Jesus holds against the churches.....

Num. 15: 39 " not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to where after....

You the making of any representation of God, of all or any of the three persons (of the Trinity) ,either inwardly in our mind or inwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshipping of it , or God in it or by it;

Deut. 4:15-19

Acts. 17:29

Rom. 1:21-25

the making of **(images)** any representation of feigned deities and all worship of them or service belonging to them, all superstitious devices ,corrupting the worship of God, adding to it or taking from it, whether invented and taken up by ourselves or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever, simony, sacrilege, all neglect ,contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God has appointed. Col. 2:18-23

How should we regard pictures of Jesus? What about other " aids to worship"?

What might be some examples of corrupting the worship of God in our day and time?

- irreverence
- Use of phones during
- Use the back for listing !!!!!!!

What about when there is sincerity and good intent? I Sam. 15:21-23 Saul condemned by Samuel

**Q. 110 What is the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it?**

A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it, contained in these words, "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children upon the third and fourth generation of them that hate me and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments " are, besides **God's sovereignty** over us and **propriety in us**, his **fervent zeal for his own worship**, and his revengeful indignation against all false worship, as being a spiritual whoredom; accounting the breakers of this commandment such as hate him, and threatening to punish them unto divers generations; and esteeming the observers of it such as love him and keep his commandments, and promising mercy to them unto many generations.

Sum of this under three heads:

**God's sovereignty** over us

**God's propriety in us - ownership**

**God's zeal** for his proper , exclusive worship. Will surely punish and richly reward

Ps. 95:2-3,6-7 and 96:9-10

Ps. 45:11

Rev. 15:3-4

Ex. 34:13-14

Deut. 4:23-24 and Heb. 12:29

What is God's attitude toward false worship?

What are s the figure of speech often used in the Bible to bring out the hateful wickedness of false worship? Hosea 2:2-4

In view of the reasons annexed to the second commandment, what should be our attitude to the worship of God and our practice ?

**Next week: Q. 111-114 on the third commandment.** The next section on the fourth commandment is lengthy , so go ahead and begin that in Q. 115-122, and we may be able to begin to dive in!

(1)Roman Catholic, (2)Lutheran/Anglican, called the normative principle of worship (3) Presbyterian and Reformed, called the **regulative principle of worship** .

How do these differ?