

## Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) - 2020-2021

### Women's Thursday Bible Study - #29

Prayer

John Calvin's quote

Read a paragraph from Tabletalk, 6/15)

Sadly we have limited this commandment , to its technical abuse, while actually it is pervasive and permeates all our life.

Maybe the most violated of all - could we make that case?

Mat. 12:36-37 words are indicators

Q. 111-112 last week's # 28 handout

#### **Q. 113 What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment?**

A. The sins forbidden in the third commandment are, the not using of God's name as required; and the abuse of it in an ignorant, **vain**, irreverent, **profane**, superstitious, or wicked mentioning or otherwise using his **titles, attributes, ordinances, or works**, by **blasphemy, perjury**, all **sinful cursing, oaths, vows**, and lots; violating of our oath and vows, if **lawful**, and fulfilling them if of things **unlawful**; murmuring and quarreling at , curious prying into, **and misapplying** of God's decrees and providences; **misinterpreting**, misapplying, and any way **perverting** the Word, or any part of it, to profane jests, curious and unprofitable questions, vain janglings, or the **maintaining of false doctrines**; abusing it , the creatures, or anything contained under the name of God, to charms, or sinful lusts and practices; the **maligning, scorning, or reviling**, or any wise opposing of God's truth, Grace, and ways; making a **false profession** of religion in hypocrisy, or for sinister ends; being ashamed of it, or a shame to it, by **uncomformable, unwise, unfruitful and offensive walking, or backsliding** from it.

The Shorter Catechism says "all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh Himself known." Lev. 19:12 Matt. 5:33-37 James 5:12

First, definitions:

Vain- in this context, primarily meaning for anything false or wrong

Profane- to treat something That is holy as common or ordinary- comes from " before the temple"

Blasphemy- name-calling or any kind of wicked words directed against God

In OT, punishable by death

Perjury- sin of making false statements under oath, that is taking God as a witness that I am telling the truth, when I am not

Sinful cursing- directed toward someone as a wish for calamity

Profanity- usually we mean abusive, vulgar, irreverent use of language (to fortify what being said )

Oath- God being called upon as a witness to what could be in doubt, so between God and others - swearing of a promise

Vow- voluntary engagement to God - Nazarite, Hannah's ( Eccl. 5:4-5)

Can be unlawful , sinful. ( Jephthah's and Herod's)

Sinful oaths-

**Important to see that not only the name of God, but his titles, attributes, word and works, i.e. Anything in which God has revealed his nature and character.**

What are "minced oaths" ? Vos, p. 308

Let's discuss the application to us of some of these phrases:

What is meant by maligning?

Scorning?

Reviling?

What are two other common ways men oppose God's truth?

These are stirred up by Satan. (1)

(2)

How do we professing Christians sometimes become a shame to the gospel of Christ? Have you seen this as taking the Lord's name in vain?

**Q. 114 What reasons are annexed to the third commandment?**

A. The reasons annexed to the third commandment, in these words, "**the Lord thy God**" and "**for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain**," are because he is the Lord and our God, therefore his name is not to be profaned, or any way abused by us, especially because he will be so far from acquitting and sparing the transgressors of this commandment, as that he will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment, **albeit many such escape** the censures and punishments of men.

**No one ultimately gets away with anything. God has established spheres of discipline/punishment. Often they are ineffective, abused, neglected, etc.....**

Civil government

Church

Family

Also special providences of judgment . think of Ananias and Sapphirs in Acts, or Hophni and Phineas in I Sam, Eli's worthless sons)

All the commandments of God form a unity as the law of God, but this one concerns the seriousness of regarding God's name , honor and authority.

**Next week:** Q. 115-121. Sanctifying and celebrating the Sabbath