

New City Catechism Class

Week Seven

Q7: What does the law of God require?

A7: Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.

Matthew 22:37-40 “And he [Jesus] said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets’” (ESV).

Discuss the question:

- What is the law of God?
- What is the meaning of the word “require” in this sentence?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Where do we find these two commandments in the OT?
- What does it mean to love the Lord your God “...with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”?
- What does it look like to love our neighbor as ourselves?
- Who is our neighbor?
- What is a common way to summarize what Jesus is saying in Matthew 22:37-40 (cf. Rom 13:9; 1 Cor 9:20-21; Gal 5:14, 6:2; James 2:8)?
- What does it mean that on these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What does it mean that the law requires *personal* obedience?
- What does it mean that the law requires *perfect* obedience?
- What does it mean that the law requires *perpetual* obedience?
- What is being communicated by the final sentence?

Is your obedience to God an attempt to establish your relationship with Him, or is it a response to His saving work?

What are some practical ways in which your life would change if you consistently lived in light of this truth?