

New City Catechism Class

Week Eleven

Q11: What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

A11: Sixth, that we do not hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbor, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Seventh, that we abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

Romans 13:9 “For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,’ and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (ESV).

Discuss the question:

- Who sets the requirements for obedience to these commandments?
- Why does He require these things of us?

Discuss the Scripture (vv. 8-10):

- What is the one "debt" that we are to owe?
- Why will we always owe this "debt"?
- What does it mean that "the one who loves another has fulfilled the law"?
- What are the commandments that are listed, and how are they similar to each other?
- What does it mean that the commandments are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- How might thinking in terms of love change the way we think about obedience?
- How does the answer push us in the direction of Jesus’s interpretation of the law in the Sermon on the Mount for commandments six, seven, and eight?
- How are we tempted to rationalize our obedience to these commands as the Pharisees did?
- How can we be broken over our sin but not impaired by it?

How do these commandments and the New Testament's interpretation of them confront you and help you to see the sweetness of Christ?

How do these commandments and the New Testament's interpretation of them equip you for life in the kingdom of God?