

New City Catechism Class Week Eight

Q8: What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

A8: You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below – you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me." (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What is meant by the phrase, "law of God"?
- What does it mean that the "law of God" has been "stated"?
- Why is it important that we spend time thinking about the Ten Commandments?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What is the background (context) for the giving of the Ten Commandments?
- Who is this scripture speaking of when it says, "You"?
- What are "other gods," and what is their relationship with the one true God?
- Why is there a complete ban on "other gods" in the law of God?
- Do we have a problem with "other gods" in our culture/city today? Can you identify some "other gods" in our culture?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What is the significance of the order of the Ten Commandments?
- From examining the Ten Commandments, what can we learn about what is valuable to God?
- Under the Old Covenant, what was the penalty for breaking any of these Ten Commandments?
- How do these commandments point us to Christ and the gospel?

Are there things in your life (other gods) that are hindering your fellowship with the one true God?

Galatians 3:24 says that, "the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith." Is the Law moving you to run to Christ, or are you using it to earn favor with God?