

# New City Catechism Class

## Week Nine

**Q9:** What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

**A9:** First, that we know and trust God as the only true and living God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry and do not worship God improperly. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence, honoring also his Word and works.

**Deuteronomy 6:13-24** "It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you." (ESV)

\*Exodus 20:3-7, Deut 5:6-21

Discuss the question:

- Why dig further into the 10 Commandments? Didn't we cover this last week?
- Why focus on the first three commandments together? In what ways are they related?
- Why do you suppose the 10 Commandments begin with these 3 commandments?
- Why would God "require" such a singular focus and reverential mindset from us?

Discuss the Scripture:

- What is the broader context of Deuteronomy 6? What is God doing with His people?
- In Vs 13, Moses says "It is the LORD your God you shall fear..."
  - What is the significance saying "the LORD your God"? Why not just say "God"?
  - Why does Moses command Israel to fear God?
- Why does Moses command Israel to serve God? Shouldn't this go without saying?
- Why tell Israel to swear in God's name? How do we reconcile this with Matt 5:33-37?
- Why does Israel need to be reminded to not go after other gods?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- How do we come to know & trust God as the only true & living God? (Deut 7:7)
- These commandments are addressing a people that had been taken out of a pluralistic society (Egypt) and were in the midst of a culture with many false/pagan "gods".
  - How does this address you and I today?
  - How can this go beyond the worship of pagan gods?
- How is it that we might be tempted to worship God improperly?
- What does it look like to treat God's name with fear and reverence?
  - What are some of ways in which we are tempted to dishonor His name?
- How is honoring God's Word & works part of a reverential fear of His name? (Ps 86:8-10)

*"You've made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you" (Augustine)*