

New City Catechism Class

Week Ten

Q10: What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

A2: Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.

Leviticus 19:3 “Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.” (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- In what ways is the Sabbath day concept a relevant issue today?
- In what ways is the issue of obedience and respect for parents relevant today?
- Why is it important to ask what God requires in regard to these things?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Read Exodus 20:8-11 and Deuteronomy 5:2-3.
- What was the Sabbath? What are its origins?
- What are the reasons given for observing the Sabbath? What relevance do these have today?
- In what ways might Sabbath day violations be connected to idolatry?
- What are the purposes of the Sabbath?
 - To remind us of our creaturely *dependence* (humility).
 - To remind us of God’s work of *redemption* on our behalf.
- How might honoring father and mother be connected to the previous commands?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- Is it possible to distinguish between the *practice* and the *heart* of the Sabbath?
 - Where are these distinctions made in the answer?
 - Is it possible to have a full day’s rest and still violate the Sabbath?
 - Is it possible to so devote ourselves to serving that we violate the Sabbath?
- Is it appropriate to distinguish between *physical* and *spiritual* work?
 - How are these ideas related to the purposes given above?
 - How might these distinctions help us to apply Sabbath concepts today?
- What are the dangers of requiring Sabbath observance in order for our salvation?
- How does obedience to the 5th commandment help children learn the gospel?
- What role do parents have in helping children obey the 5th commandment?

What do your attitudes and practices toward your work, career, or money indicate about your trust in and devotion to the one true God?

What might your current personal devotion to public and private worship indicate about your attitude toward God?