

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC68 “The Principle of—and Priorities for—Preserving Life”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 68—especially explaining and applying how God’s plan to adopt renewed image bearers establishes the value of that image and demands that we preserve our life and others’ both eternally and temporally.

WSC68: What is required in the sixth commandment? *The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.*

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Characters and question this week is number 68. What is required in the sixth commandment? Answer is that the sixth amendment requireth all lawful endeavors? To preserve our own life and the life of others.

This comes from. The reason that killing is wrong. The reason that murder. Is wrong. And that was given in genesis chapter 9. It was true already. Of course, and Joseph's chapter 1. But it was explicit.

But it was explicitly stated by god and Genesis chapter 9. When he said not only that he would require man's. Been accounting for man's blood from but man, and beast. But that when a man, Murdered. That it was required to kill that man. That he had forfeited his life.

Because he was attacking not a man, but he's attacking god. God has put his image in men. That's the only created thing. That God made in his own image. And so, Whereas it breaks the Eighth, commandment. Thou shalt not steal. To destroy any property. Or anything else in the creation needlessly?

And not in a way of managing it properly and using it in a way that the lord is authorized. About being careless. And destroying it. Man has a special place in creation. It's not just squandering something that god has made and Some good thing that god has assigned its good place and purpose.

Man's good place and purpose is to image. God To be a display of God himself to know, god. And eventually to be brought into, The fellowship of god, the love of god, the joy of god. The purpose of. Everything, creating anything. Was to fulfill god's plan. Adopting children in christ.

Choosing them in the son of his love. To be made, holy and to blameless. In love. That we would be brought into that fellowship. That The sun has had with the father and with the spirit from before the world began, But at the climax of history, Jesus was praying.

That what he was about to do on the next day? When he went to the cross, Would have its fulfillment when those for whom. He was dying. Those who were the fathers, those who being the fathers are his and this, Glorious covenant from eternity between the father and the son and the spirit.

That men, these men would be brought. To where he is. To see and to know and to participate in The sort of shared life, shared, love, shared, joy, and delight. That god has within himself. This is the great generosity of god. In creation. The creation exists. It happened in order to serve Redemption.

And so, With redemption as the purpose of all things. God made man in his image. And god gives them that instruction in Genesis 9. When? The reason he doesn't wipe out everyone in the flood. Even though, that's what we deserved. And god demonstrated by the flood that he could do it.

And he demonstrated by the flood as we heard yesterday. When we heard the appointed day of judgment preached from the end of Acts 17. Not just that he could do it but they, he would to it. The reason that he would wait to do it. Is because he is saving some.

Like you saved Noah. That there are some whom he chose. Like he chose Noah. There are some whom his grace would find. And like, noah they would find grace. In the eyes of the lord. There are some whom that grace would bring to faith in jesus christ. So that they would be counted righteous.

There are some who like Noah believing in the christ to come. Would then start being made like christ. There are some whom. For whom that process. Of having been made like christ so that they could enjoy, god would ultimately be completed. And so, in order for that redemption to take place, First there had to be the creation.

Of creatures. That are made in the image of god. With the capacity. For knowing him and having fellowship with him and delighting in him. This is the purpose of a man. And this is the purpose that is ultimately fulfilled. When we become united to the last atom, The new man.

And we become the new creation. Recreated in the image of god in christ. And then conformed. To jesus. And so, Murder. Attacks. God. A tax man being made in the image of god. Attacks the purpose of all things being created so that there could be men who are made in the image of God attacks.

The purpose of redemption. So that there could even be men who having been made in the image of god could be renewed into the image of god in union with christ to have the fellowship and love and pleasures of god forever. And when god's images despised in another human being, All of that is despised.

That's why. It's such a horror that we Would be hateful towards one another. Bitter towards one another. That. Some moment or event. In our lives. We would respond to by fury and despising and hostility. Of another human being. Let alone another christian. How much worse? Another question, right? If the reason that murder is wrong is because of the image of god and a man Well then how much worse when that hatefulness that quick anger?

That hostility. Is towards. One who is renewed into the image of god in the last man, the lord jesus christ. And so what is required in the sixth commandment? We'll talk more about the wrong stuff next week. What is required in the sixth commandment is that we love god's image in men.

That every single one whom he has made in his image. We see them as a testimony to the fact that god is determined to share. His life. His love his fellowship. His delight with particular creatures. And those particular creatures are meant and so they are valuable. With. An infinite value.

In a way that other things can never. Be compared to. Never no other created thing can be compared to a man. And one of the great blessings is when we realize Each of us that each one of us, each of you need to realize for yourself, you are made in the image of god, so that you'll know your purpose.

The first great way to keep the sixth commandment is to believe in Jesus Christ. Because that's the promotion of your life. Not just of the present, sorry the preservation of your life, not just that you might exist longer in this state and this creation. But that you might But that you might forever.

In the eternal state in the glorified state, in the new creation. Enjoy God fully and glorify God fully renewed in the image of Jesus Christ. And even that for the rest of this life, from the moment that you believe in Him. You would be one of these who are not just in His image once, but are in His image twice and the second time permanently and perfectly, Unstoppably.

And it shall be completed. So the first way to obey the sixth commandment the first thing required, by the thanks commandment is turn from your sin, believe in Jesus Christ, rest upon His obedience, counted for you, His sacrifice, putting away your sin. Being kind to your brothers and sisters being kind to your neighbor.

Doing things in such a way that help them live longer and more prosperously in this world. Even doing things in such a way that you pray by God's blessing on it. And His appointing of particular means that He will use to bring them to faith. All of those things are second Or secondary.

To the first requirement of the sixth commandment. That you would believe in Jesus. And have your life preserved forever. Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord, Jesus will be saying None who believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ will be put to shame. They will not believe in Jesus and find out that somehow it fell short of what they had hoped for in it.

Hope in Christ will be fully repaid. None who believe in Him will be put to shame. And so, If that first great lawful requirement to preserve your everlasting, life is the first part of keeping the six command. The second part, Is to take care of your life in this world, to recognize that you are already imaging God.

And if you are a Christian, you are doubly imaging, God And so you're enjoying Him in this world and you're serving Him in this world ought to be as full and as excellent as possible. And so it requires such things, as arranging our schedule so we get good enough, sleep.

And planning to have exercise. And enjoying all sorts of good food, but only enjoying them to the extent that won't harm us or hinder us. Because you don't need to have.

You don't need to have 15 pounds of steak and five pounds of lobster. In order to have the enjoyment of stake and lobster. You don't need to have four peanut butter.

You don't need to have four peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to enjoy that God created peanuts and He created jelly. And He created wheat with wonderful gluten in it. So that all of these things could be by the skill and wisdom, He has given men be arranged into something. Wonderful called a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and you know million parts of the goodness of God.

Can be had in a bite. And the contentment doesn't come from my belly as full and there are neurochemicals. That say four belly, feel good. The enjoyment comes. From the God who made you in His image? So that you wouldn't just be like animals that say full belly, feel good.

And be a beast towards Him. But you would be like your redeemer. Who says, man, lives by every word, the proceeds from the mouth of the good God who sometimes gives me bread. And the enjoyment of the bread. Is excellent in so far as it's an enjoyment of God.

So preservation and promotion, Of the life that He has given us in this world so that we can not only enjoy Him, but also serve Him. We don't know how many days we've been allotted in this world. But we do know that under God's providence, there are things that make us more able to serve more excellently and things that make us less useful.

And less vigorous in our service. And so there's the preservation of our eternal life. There's a preservation of our earthly life. And then you turn around and you recognize, You're not the only one who's made in the image of God. And so they're keeping of the sixth commandment. Requires things, especially like praying for regeneration, praying for faith.

Bringing. People, you don't see that many people now, but it will be a part of your life, someday inviting, and bringing people to the worship of God and a place where they will hear the gospel proclaimer. That includes things. Like, for those who God has, especially assigned to you in the congregation, Not having merely worldly.

Fellowship. That the sort of Lord fellowship that you're aiming at to have at the on the Lord's day would actually shape the fellowship that you have the seven days a week. That the things that you that you aim to do with one another would promote both eternal life and excellent.

In vigorous earthly life that even when you're enjoying, the things of this world with others. You enjoy them in such a way in which you're both encouraging one another not to indulge the flesh. But to be enjoyers of God and servers of God with the flesh, even in this world.

And so not wasting money and not wasting time. And not doing things that exalt in rejoice in the same sorts of things that the world. Rejoices in and exalts and And then, of course, the more basic things like You want to spend ways? You want to live in such a way?

That promotes others earthly life as well, not just there. Eternal life.