

Theology Simply Explained — WSC79 “The Heart and the Law's Heart”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 79—especially explaining and applying that **the tenth commandment concludes the second table of the law by showing just how much the heart is involved in all of the commandments regarding our neighbor, and it concludes the law as a whole by showing how the second table is an application/extension of the first.**

Q79. Which is the tenth commandment? ***The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

The shorter, catechism this week is, which is the 10th commandment. And the answer is the tenth commandment is thou shalt not cover the neighbor's house. Thou shalt not covet their neighbor's wife. Nor his man's servant nor has made servant nor his ox, nor his ass. Nor anything. That is thy neighbors.

Now, the placement of this one, as the tenth, the last of the ten.

Hopefully. Explained. And as illustrated, By the apostle, Paul's selection of this one. As the way in which the law, Was used by god to show the exceeding sinfulness of his sin. Roman 7, he's Talking about how the law is good, but he is bad. And The fact that he breaks the law.

Doesn't make the law bad. It makes. The law useful for exposing sin. And showing the greatness of sins. Sinfulness. And he picks this one. He says, Yeah, i thought i was doing a good job. Keeping my sin in check and then the law came along. And said, thou shalt not covet.

And there was Such wicked sin and so much sin in me. That my response to hearing thou shalt not covet was unable to do anything but covet. That.

The law exposes. That we Our law breakers that we are sinners that we are. Against god. And so you have That teaching of the lord jesus is, which we have been following throughout our study of the ten commandments throughout our time, in the shorter, get because of the dent commandments.

That the law's internal. That not murdering requires. Of our hearts that not committing adultery requires of our hearts. But here is where it's explicit even in the ten commandments because coveting is something that takes place in our hearts The tenth looks like it's redundant with the eighth.

He shall not steal your neighbor's stuff. And you shall not desire. Your neighbor's stuff. Except for, this is the one that That shows us, that Honoring. Authority. Not committing murder, not committing adultery. Not stealing. Not lying or bearing false witness that all of these have. That heart component. So, it's a conclusion.

To the second table of the law. Highlighting the heart component. Of all of the other commands. And it's a conclusion of the law as a whole. Because not coveting. What is our neighbors? Reminds us that The god who made us? Has also made others. And he is the one who is appointed to each his providence.

And so that's the connection between, loving the The lord, our god, with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. The first great commitment. The first table of the law. And loving our neighbor as ourselves. The second, great commitment. The second table of the law. Is we're not the only ones who are made in god's image who need to respond to him.

In the way that the first four commandments teach. He's made an entire world. Full of other image bearers who then are. Are our neighbors. And if they are in his image then a we love them for his sake. And b. We need to be content. With what the lord has decided to do with us.

And with what the lord has decided to do with then. Now, some of the specifics of that are going to come out more when we when we consider What this commandment requires and what this commitment, forbids. But for the purposes of this, catechism question were just thinking How does this?

This commandment being the 10th commandment function. Within the 10. And really, as a conclusion to the second table, also, Within the second table of the law. So, the lord The law of god.

Governs. Not just What we do externally. But what we do, Internally. And love of neighbor is not just. A matter that is between us and our neighbor. It is a matter between us and our god. And our neighbor and our neighbor's god. Not meaning, you know, false gods that our neighbor might worship instead of him.

Us, and our creator. And our neighbor. And our neighbors. Creator. So, that when you're memorizing this week, which is the 10th commandment, I hope you'll be thinking about the fact that the lord emphasized, those particular things. The relationship of the first great commandment to the second, the first table.

To the second. And also, The necessity of having our hearts governed by the law of god.