

Theology Simply Explained — WSC80 “Treasuring God Is the Foundation of Being Content and Charitable”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 80—especially explaining and applying that **treasuring God is the foundation of being content and charitable.**

Q80. What is required in the tenth commandment? ***The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.***

(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)

All right, our shorter. Catechism this week is Number 80. What is required in the 10th commandment? And the answer is the 10th commandment require with full contentment. With our own condition. With a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor. And all that is his Now. The 10th commandment requires, full contentment with our own condition.

We see this plainly in the words, thou shalt not covet. Which are repeated in the commandment itself. And this actually ties to the fact. That the commandments begin with, i am yahid. Thy god. If you have the lord himself you ought not need anything else. When asap discovers in psalm 73, that he has been being.

A beast towards god. That is enjoying the good things that God gives him like a beast does. Um, enjoys being warm and safe and having food. Etc, without enjoying god himself. Which the beast does not at least does not. Aware of god, having an eternal soul Um, And when he was, Coveting.

The creaturely things that the wicked seemed to have, but he did not have, he was being like a beast towards god. But when he went to worship and he encountered God himself and realized Who it is that he had. And was not really caring so much that he had that he had god and he hadn't really been caring about that.

But that here he was at public worship where god displays that he is attuned for our sins, so that we may have fellowship with him, and he has god. And not only does he have God now. But as imperfect as his believing in god and loving god, and fellowship with God is now It will eventually be perfected.

That is his end but what is the end of the wicked, man? He does not believe in god. He does not love god. He does not have fellowship with god. And soon all the creaturely good that he has will also be yanked right out from underhand. And he will be destroyed.

Need a set in a slippery place and he will follow at once. So, Asap. On that realization realizes that he already has god. Nevertheless, i am continually with you not. I will be with you one day. I'm continually with you, you guide me by the hand and afterward you will receive me into glory and that's when one of the great statements of contentment.

In the whole bible occurs. Whom have i in heaven, but you And on earth, there is nothing. I desire beside you. So the key to the contentment that the last commandment requires Is the reality, the truth that the preface to the 10th commandment proclaims. I am yahweh. Your god who brought you up out of the land of egypt out of the house of bondage.

The lord has saved us for himself, that we would be his That he would be ours. That we would have fellowship with him. That he would lead us through our whole life. And that everything else we have in it from a creaturely standpoint. Whatever else we have comes in the context of being given to us by our god.

Whom we have. The lord jesus teaches. This in a similar fashion, the that closing section of matthew chapter 6, which we often quote about the flowers being well, clothed than the birds being well-fed. But how much more our Heavenly father. That the god of heaven has adopted us as children.

And that we have him, we have his fatherhood, we have our sonship to him, we have our fellowship with him, and if we would just understand that we have god himself, How that would keep us, help us against the coveting. That comes from a sinful heart. And so, that's the first part.

The tenth commandment require a full contentment with our own condition. What is our own condition? Well, first and foremost, we are, we've been created by god and redeemed by god, we've been created to know him. We've help from that, we've redeemed, been redeemed that we might know him. Even though we had fallen from it, That's our uncondition.

Now, our own condition also includes what family we have or don't have what wealth we have or don't have what food we have or know what clothing we have or not what safety earthly speaking we have we're don't have And yet, we have it. And we must be fully content then.

We must never be in a situation. Where we thought, if only i had Something that the Lord does not assign to us. And certainly then, We must not in our hatred towards others, if we don't love god with our whole heart mind, heart soul, mind, and strength. Then we are unable to love our neighbor.

Uh, correctly, because we have to love our neighbor as ourselves as ones who are made in the image of god. And so if we're not content to have god, then we will We are already halfway to coveting, but our neighbor has And whatever it is that we think we ought to have, will often be something that somebody else has.

And in the Hostility of heart. Towards other image. Bearers that failure to love God and be content with him. Produces that hostility of heart that has produced by that. Uh, we will cover what they have. But, If we love god. And we are content with him. We ought also then To know that it is in god's wisdom that he has assigned.

Uh, to our neighbor, whatever our neighbor has And we will be glad for him to have whatever good comes from. The end of god, we have god himself. That is not improvable by adding all of the created things to us. And so the first thing that this charitable frame of spirit, Towards our, our neighbor produces, the first thing that is required towards our neighbor.

Is that we would desire for him to have God himself. This desire for his conversion. This desire for him to stop pushing down on the truth and unrighteousness. The desire for him to be able to see the goodness of god and all the created things. But that god himself is more good than all created things together.

And then specifically because he is a center like we are We desire for him. To see the mercy of god, towards sinners in jesus christ. The righteousness and atonement that has been offered. By god's two sinners. In jesus christ, we desire for our neighbor. To come to faith. But this charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that.

Is his Also is glad for him then to have other every other good gift. We don't begrudge him. Um, whatever else, the lord gives him. This is something that is greatly missing in our society. And we're not just we don't just have this. Uh, this struggle of various groups against one another in hostility against one another, because we fail to obey the eighth, commandment that shall not steal.

We have it, because people, Don't know. God and are not content with him. And so, The poor and the rich and The those in power and those not empowered. Those with certain abilities and those without those abilities etc. And you, we have all of this tension in the hostility.

Uh, between groups and it's like we were thinking about in james chapter 4, in the sermon, Yesterday. Um, We hate and are hated, we murder. Um, In our hearts and some even with their hands. Because we desire and do not have. And we, Um, We do not have because we do not ask.

And we ask and don't have because we ask a miss that we would spend it on our pleasures. And so instead of seeing prayer as the most wonderful thing because in prayer, we don't have the things we are asking for. But the god Who knows what best to give us?

That's what prayer has. That has got. First and foremost. And those who instead of, Saying, oh, and prayer, i have god. That's so wonderful. They think in prayer, i can get from god, the created things that i want, which would be so wonderful. Two very opposite things, too, very opposite approaches to the same action, isn't it?

And yet he says, if you want the things and god as a means to get the things then you're hating, god friendship with the world is enmity with god. That's what that's talking about. Not that you shouldn't have unbelieving friends, although they make bad companions and there's other scripture on that.

But, Friendship with the world, the desire that god would be a way for you to get the things that's enmity towards god. But love for god, says whatever things he gives me that's fine because i have him And now you don't have that desire and do not have that that leads to an uncharitable.

Frame of spirit towards your neighbor. And towards all that is his or titus 3. That we too once walked in the foolishness hating and being hated and then all of the the other wicked things that are described their entitus 3 Um, Three through 11. So, the 10th commandment requires.

Full contentment. Oh, let's use the Older language of the catechism for you, the 10th commandment requireeth. Full contentment. With our own condition. What a happy house, we would have. If all 10 of us, We're fully content with our condition. And, you know, we'd have difficulties but we wouldn't be at each other's throats about the difficulty.

Because we'd have peace and joy. The fact that i am god And we would be able to love one another. In the midst of all of our Interacting and trying to make this life that we share together work. Now, the 10th commandment require worth full contentment with our own condition.

With a right and charitable frame of spirit. Toward our neighbor. And all that is his And may the lord give us that. Full contentment with him. And that right and charitable frame of spirit towards others that comes From that contentment.