

1st.2a.Westminster Catechisms

The first commandment is, **You shall have no other gods before me** (Ex. 20:3; Deut. 5:7)

1. Why is it important to read the 1st in the context of the preface: (Ex. 20.2, I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery)?

2. What do we learn about God from the preface?

3. What do we learn about the law from the preface?

4. WSC, 46: What is required in the first commandment?

The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly. Note how these texts support this answer:

1 Chronicles 28:9 ⁹"And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

Isaiah 45:20-25 ²⁰"Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, you survivors of the nations! They have no knowledge who carry about their wooden idols, and keep on praying to a god that cannot save. ²¹Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. ²²"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. ²³By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.' ²⁴"Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. ²⁵In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory."

Matthew 4:10 ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "' You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

5. WLC, 104: What are the duties required in the first commandment?

A. The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God;(1) and to worship and glorify him accordingly,(2) by thinking,(3) meditating,(4) remembering,(5) highly esteeming,(6) honouring,(7) adoring,(8) choosing,(9) loving,(10) desiring,(11) fearing of him;(12) believing him;(13) trusting,(14) hoping,(15) delighting,(16) rejoicing in him;(17) being zealous for him;(18) calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks,(19) and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man;(20) being careful in all things to please him,(21) and sorrowful when in any thing he is offended;(22) and walking humbly with him.(23)

6. In order to digest the answer to 104, how might we outline the list so we can summarize the 23 points into *two* main points?

7. Then, in order to take it all in more easily, how can we subdivide these two main points by combining the things that go together and listing them with the first or second main point?

8. How can we subdivide the first main point?

9. How can we subdivide the second main point (note the word: *accordingly*)?

10. How can we list the combinations with the first or second main point (perhaps some with both)?

11. What are some lessons and helpful insights that the framers point us to in their texts selections?

- (1) 1 Chron. 28:9; Deut. 26:17; Isa. 43:10; Jer. 14:22
- (2) Ps. 95:6,7; Matt. 4:10; Ps. 29:2
- (3) Mal. 3:16
- (4) Ps. 63:6
- (5) Eccl. 12:1
- (6) Ps. 71:19
- (7) Mal. 1:6
- (8) Isa. 45:23
- (9) Josh. 24:15,22
- (10) Deut. 6:5
- (11) Ps. 73:25
- (12) Isa. 8:13
- (13) Exod. 14:31
- (14) Isa. 26:4
- (15) Ps. 130:7
- (16) Ps. 37:4
- (17) Ps. 32:11
- (18) Rom. 12:11 with Num. 25:11
- (19) Phil. 4:6
- (20) Jer. 7:23; James 4:7
- (21) 1 John 3:22
- (22) Jer. 31:18; Ps. 119:136
- (23) Micah 6:8