

1st WLC

What the 1st Forbids

WLC 1:105 What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment? The sins forbidden in the first commandment are, Atheism, in denying, or not having a God;(1) Idolatry, in having or worshipping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God;(2) the not having and avouching him for God, and our God;(3) the omission or neglect of any thing due to him, required in this commandment;(4) ignorance,(5) forgetfulness,(6) misapprehensions,(7) false opinions,(8) unworthy and wicked thoughts of him;(9) bold and curious searching into his secrets;(10) all profaneness,(11) hatred of God;(12) self-love,(13) self-seeking,(14) and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part;(15) vain credulity,(16) unbelief,(17) heresy,(18) misbelief,(19) distrust,(20) despair,(21) incorrigibleness(22) and insensibleness under judgments(23) , hardness of heart,(24) pride,(25) presumption,(26) carnal security,(27) tempting of God;(28) using unlawful means,(29) and trusting in unlawful means;(30) carnal delights and joys;(31) corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal;(32) lukewarmness,(33) and deadness in the things of God;(34) estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God;(35) praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures;(36) all compacts and consulting with the devil,(37) and hearkening to his suggestions;(38) making men the lords of our faith and conscience;(39) slighting and despising God and his commands;(40) resisting and grieving of his Spirit;(41) discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us;(42) and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune;(43) idols,(44) ourselves,(45) or any other creature.(46)

1A. Summary of what this command forbids

The 1st forbids putting anything above God by seeking, serving, valuing, desiring, wanting, pursuing, trusting in, looking to, hoping in, or loving anything more than the triune God.

2A. Anything can be an idol such as money and possessions

1) Money

Job 31.24-25, 28; to trust in gold is to trust in a false god.

Mat. 6.24; service is either/or; this command forbids serving any earthly thing

Col. 3.5; ⁵ **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.** This text calls us to a battle with sin within us (in you); this is literally, “in your members”, which refers to the members of our bodies as representatives of the self as to how we express the remnants of sin that remain with us all our days. God teaches us in this way over the journey as a testing time in the wilderness on the way to the glory of the heavenly Canaan.

2) Discontentment

What does it mean to be discontent?

What is wrong with discontentment?

What other sins reveal discontentment?

How does this all relate to the 1st commandment?

3) What does it mean to say that we could hold to what we believe to be true (and it may in fact be true) in a way that commits doctrinal idolatry?

What cluster of graces are important in this connection and why?

3A. Atheism

What is the difference between theoretical, virtual, and practical atheism?

What is the harm of each with respect to worshipping and serving the creature instead of the Creator?

What do these different forms of atheism reveal about Satan’s devices?