Westminster Larger Catechism

Questions/Answers Related to The Ten Commandments

Question 104

**What are the duties required in the first commandment?**

The duties required in the first commandment are, the knowing and acknowledging of God to be the only true God, and our God; (1 Chron. 28:9, Deut. 26:7, Isa. 43:10, Jer. 14:22) and to worship and glorify him accordingly, (Ps. 95:6–7, Matt. 4:10, Ps. 29:2) by thinking, (Mal. 3:16) mediating, (Ps. 63:6) remembering, (Eccl. 12:1) highly esteeming, (Ps. 71:19) honouring, (Mal. 1:6) adoring, (Isa. 45:23) choosing, (Josh. 24:15,22) loving, (Deut. 6:5) desiring, (Ps. 73:25) fearing of him; (Isa. 8:13) believing him; (Exod. 14:31) trusting (Isa. 26:4) hoping, (Ps. 130:7) delighting, (Ps. 37:4) rejoicing in him; (Ps. 32:11) being zealous for him; (Rom. 12:11, Num. 25:11) calling upon him, giving all praise and thanks, (Phil. 4:6) and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; (Jer. 7:23, James 4:7) being careful in all things to please him, (1 John 3:22) and sorrowful when in any thing he is offended; (Jer. 31:18, Ps. 119:136) and walking humbly with him. (Micah 6:8)

Question 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; (Ps. 14:1, Eph. 2:12) Idolatry, in having or worshipping more gods than one, or any with or instead of the true God; (Jer. 2:27–28, 1 Thess. 1:9) the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; (Ps. 81:11) the omission or neglect of any thing due to him, required in this commandment; (Isa. 43:22–24) ignorance, (Jer. 4:22, Hos. 4:1,6) forgetfulness, (Jer. 2:32) misapprehensions, (Acts 17:23,29) false opinions, (Isa. 40:18) unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; (Ps. 50:21) bold and curious searching into his secrets; (Deut. 29:29) all profaneness, (Tit. 1:16, Heb. 12:16) hatred of God; (Rom. 1:30) self-love, (2 Tim. 3:2) self-seeking, (Phil. 2:21) and all other inordinate and im-moderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from Him in whole or in part; (1 John 2:15–16, 1 Sam. 2:29, Col. 3:2,5) vain credulity, (1 John 4:1) unbelief, (Heb. 3:12) heresy, (Gal. 5:20, Tit. 3:10) misbelief, (Acts 26:9) distrust, (Ps. 78:22) despair, (Gen. 4:13) incorrigibleness, (Jer. 5:3) and insensibleness under judgments, (Isa. 42:25) hardness of heart, (Rom. 2:5) pride, (Jer. 13:15) presumption, (Ps. 19:13) carnal security, (Zeph. 1:12) tempting of God; (Matt. 4:7) using unlawful means, (Rom. 3:8) and trusting in lawful means; (Jer. 17:5) carnal delights and joys; (2 Tim. 3:4) corrupt, blind, and indiscreet zeal; (Gal. 4:17, John 16:2, Rom. 10:2, Luke 9:54–55) lukewarmness, (Rev. 3:16) and deadness in the things of God; (Rev. 2:1) estranging ourselves, and apostatizing from God; (Ezek. 14:5, Isa. 1:4–5) praying, or giving any religious worship, to saints, angels, or any other creatures; (Rom. 10:13–14, Hosea 4:12, Acts 10:25–26, Rev. 19:10, Matt. 4:10, Col. 2:18, Rom. 1:25) all compacts and consulting with the devil, (Lev. 20:6, 1 Sam. 28:7,11, 1 Chron. 10:13–14) and hearkening to his suggestions; (Acts 5:3) making men the lords of our faith and conscience; (2 Cor. 1:24, Matt. 23:9) slighting and despising God and his commands; (Deut. 32:15, 2 Sam. 12:9, Prov. 13:13) resisting and grieving of his Spirit, (Acts 7:51, Eph. 4:30) discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; (Ps. 73:2–3,13–15,22, Job 1:22) and ascribing the praise of any good we either are, have or can do, to fortune, (1 Sam. 6:7–9) idols, (Dan. 5:23) ourselves, (Deut. 8:17, Dan. 4:30) or any other creature. (Hab. 1:16)

Question 112

**What is required in the third commandment?**

The third commandment requires, That the name of God, his titles, attributes, (Matt. 6:9, Deut. 28:58, Ps. 29:2, Ps. 68:4, Rev. 15:3–4) ordinances, (Mal. 1:14, Eccl. 5:1) the word, (Ps. 138:2) sacraments, (1 Cor. 11:24–25,28–29) prayer, (1 Tim. 2:8) oaths, (Jer. 4:2) vows, (Eccl. 5:2) lots, (Acts 1:24,26) his works, (Job 36:24) and whatsoever else there is whereby he makes himself known, be holy and reverently used in thought, (Mal. 3:16) meditation, (Ps. 8:1,3–4,9) word, (Col. 3:17, Ps. 105:2,5) and writing; (Ps. 102:18) by an holy profession, (1 Pet. 3:15, Micah 4:5) and answerable conversation, (Phil. 1:27) to the glory of God, (1 Cor. 10:31) and the good of ourselves, (Jer. 32:39) and others. (1 Pet. 2:12)

Question 113

**What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment?**

The sins forbidden in the third commandment are, the not using of God’ s name as is required; (Mal. 2:2) and the abuse of it in an ignorant, (Acts 17:23) vain, (Prov. 30:9) irreverent, profane, (Mal. 1:6–7,12, Mal. 3:14) superstitious (1 Sam. 4:3–5, Jer. 7:4,9–10,14,31, Col. 2:20–22) or wicked mentioning or otherwise using his titles, attributes, (2 Kings 18:30,35, Exod. 5:2, Ps. 139:20) ordinances, (Ps. 50:16–17) or works, (Isa. 5:12) by blasphemy, (2 Kings 19:22, Lev. 24:11) perjury; (Zech. 5:4, Zech. 8:17) all sinful cursings, (1 Sam. 17:43, 2 Sam. 16:5) oaths, (Jer. 5:7, Jer. 23:10) vows, (Deut. 23:18, Acts 23:12,14) and lots; (Esth. 3:7, Esth. 9:24, Ps. 22:18) violation of our oaths and vows, if lawful (Ps. 24:4, Ezek. 17:16,18–19) and fulfilling them, if of things unlawful; (Mark 6:26, 1 Sam. 25:22,32–34) murmuring and quarrelling at, (Rom. 9:14,19–20) curious prying into, (Deut. 29:29) and misapplying of God’ s decrees (Rom. 3:5,7, Rom. 6:1) and providences; (Eccl. 8:11, Eccl. 9:3, Ps. 39) misinterpreting, (Matt. 5:21–48) misapplying, (Ezek. 13:22) or any way perverting the word, or any part of it; (2 Pet. 3:16, Matt. 22:24–31,25,28–30) to profane jests, (Isa. 22:13, Jer. 23:34,36,38) curious or unprofitable questions, vain janglings, or the maintaining of false doctrines; (1 Tim. 1:4,6–7, 1 Tim. 6:4–5,20, 2 Tim. 2:14, Tit. 3:9) abusing it, the creatures, or any thing contained under the name of God, to charms, (Deut. 18:10–14,11–12, Acts 19:13) or sinful lusts and practices; (2 Tim. 4:3–4, Rom. 13:13–14, 1 Kings 21:9–10, Jude 4) the maligning, (Acts 13:45, 1 John 3:12) scorning, (Ps. 1:1, 2 Pet. 3:3) reviling, (1 Pet. 4:4) or any wise opposing of God’ s truth, grace, and ways; (Acts 13:45–46,50, Acts 4:18, Acts 19:9, 1 Thess. 2:16, Heb. 10:29) making profession of religion in hypocrisy, or for sinister ends; (2 Tim. 3:5, Matt. 23:14, Matt. 6:1–2,5,16) being ashamed of it, (Mark 8:38) or a shame to it, by unconformable, (Ps. 73:14–15) unwise, (1 Cor. 6:5–6, Eph. 5:15–17) unfruitful, (Isa. 5:4, 2 Pet. 1:8–9) and offensive walking, (Rom. 2:23–24) or backsliding from it. (Gal. 3:1,3, Heb. 6:6)

Question 116

**What is required in the fourth commandment?**

The fourth commandment requireth of all men the sanctifying or keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his word, expressly one whole day in seven; which was the seventh from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, and the first day of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the Christian sabbath, (Deut. 5:12–14, Gen. 2:2–3, 1 Cor. 16:1–2, Matt. 5:17–18, Isa. 56:2,4,6–7) and in the New Testament called The Lord’ s day. (Rev. 1:10)

Question 124

**Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?**

By father and mother, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, (Prov. 23:22,25, Eph. 6:1–2) but all superiors in age (1 Tim. 5:1–2) and gifts; (Gen. 4:20–22, Gen. 45:8) and especially such as, by God’ s ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, (2 Kings 5:13) church, (2 Kings 2:12, 2 Kings 13:14, Gal. 4:19) or commonwealth. (Isa. 49:23)

Question 125

**Why are superiors styled Father and Mother?**

Superiors are styled Father and Mother, both to teach them in all duties toward their inferiors, like natural parents, to express love and tenderness to them, according to their several relations; (Eph. 6:4, 2 Cor. 12:14, 1 Thess. 2:7–8,11, Numb. 11:11–12) and to work inferiors to a greater willingness and cheerfulness in performing their duties to their superiors, as to their parents. (1 Cor. 4:14–16, 2 Kings 5:13)