

Walking with Jesus Through Sinai: Seeking Moral Clarity in an Age of Chaos  
 CPC Adult Sunday Studies Fall 2024  
 3 - Interpreting the 10C & Ps. 119

### Interpreting the 10 Commandments

#### Westminster Larger Catechism # 99

Q. 99. What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the Ten Commandments?

1. **Demands perfect obedience** - "That the law is perfect, and bindeth everyone to full conformity in the whole man unto the righteousness thereof, and unto entire obedience forever; so as to require the utmost perfection of every duty, and to forbid the least degree of every sin." (Ps 19:7; Jas 2:10; Matt 5:21-22)
  
2. **Applies deeply and broadly** - "That it is spiritual, and so reacheth the understanding, will, affections, and all other powers of the soul; as well as words, works, and gestures." (Rom 7:14; Deut 6:5; Matt 22:37-39; Matt 5:21-22,27-28,33-34,37-39,43-44)
  1. "That as, where a duty is commanded, the contrary sin is forbidden (Isa 58:13; Deut 6:13; Matt 4:9-10; Matt 15:4-6); and, where a sin is forbidden, the contrary duty is commanded (Matt 5:21-25; Eph 4:28): so, where a promise is annexed, the contrary threatening is included (Exod 20:12; Prov 30:17); and, where a threatening is annexed, the contrary promise is included." (Jer 18:7-8; Exod 20:7; Ps 15:1,4-5; Ps 24:4-5)"
  
3. **Requires wisdom in application** - "That what God forbids, is at no time to be done ( Job 13:7-8; Rom 3:8; Job 36:21; Heb 11:25); what he commands, is always our duty (Deut 4:8-9; Luke 17:10); and yet every particular duty is not to be done at all times." (Matt 12:7)
  
4. **Applies categorically** - "That under one sin or duty, all of the same kind are forbidden or commanded; together with all the causes, means, occasions, and appearances thereof, and provocations thereunto." (Matt 5:21-22,27-28; Matt 15:4-6; 1 Thess 5:22; Jude 23; Gal 5:26; Col 3:21)
  
5. **Relevant for all people** - "That what is forbidden or commanded to ourselves, we are bound, according to our places, to endeavor that it may be

avoided or performed by others, according to the duty of their places.” (Exod 20:10; Lev 19:17; Gen 18:19; Josh 24:15; Deut 6:6-7; Heb 10:24-25)

1. **We ought to strive in helping others obey too** - “That in what is commanded to others, we are bound, according to our places and callings, to be helpful to them (2 Cor 1:24); and to take heed of partaking with others in what is forbidden them. (1 Tim 5:22; Eph 5:11)

**WLC Q. 150. Are all transgressions of the law of God equally heinous in themselves, and in the sight of God?** A. All transgressions of the law of God are not equally heinous; but some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Q. 151. What are those aggravations that make some sins more heinous than others? A. Sins receive their aggravations,

1. **From the persons offending:** if they be of riper age, greater experience or grace, eminent for profession, gifts, place, office, guides to others, and whose example is likely to be followed by others.
2. **From the parties offended:** if immediately against God, his attributes, and worship; against Christ, and his grace; the Holy Spirit, his witness, and workings; against superiors, . . . against any of the saints, particularly weak brethren, the souls of them, or any other, and the common good of all or many.
3. **From the nature and quality of the offense:** if it be against the express letter of the law, break many commandments, contain in it many sins: if not only conceived in the heart, but breaks forth in words and actions, scandalize others, and admit of no reparation: . . . if done deliberately, willfully, presumptuously, impudently, boastingly, maliciously, frequently, obstinately, with delight, continuance, or relapsing after repentance.
4. **From circumstances of time and place:** if on the Lord's Day, or other times of divine worship; or immediately before or after these, or other helps to prevent or remedy such miscarriages: if in public, or in the presence of others, who are thereby likely to be provoked or defiled.

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**\*\*\*Reflecting on a Model of a Heart Thirsting for God and His Law**

Read and reflect on Psalm 119