

MOPC Sunday School - 2010-2011 - The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q45: Which is the First Commandment?

A45: The First Commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Q46: What is required in the First Commandment?

A46: The First Commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God: and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.

Q47: What is forbidden in the First Commandment?

A47: The First Commandment forbids the denying, or not worshipping and glorifying the true God, as God, and the giving of that worship and glory to any other which is due to Him alone.

Q48: What are we specially taught by these words, before me in the First Commandment?

A48: These words before me in the First Commandment, teach us, that God who sees all things, takes notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other God.

Islam in the 21st Century

I. The Start of Islam

II. The System of Islam

III. The Size of Islam Today

IV. The Shape of Islam Today

V. Bringing the Gospel of Salvation to the Muslim Today

A. Recognizing the Appeal of Islam

1. An "accommodating" monotheism (remember that Islam purports to be above all else a "reform" movement).
2. A set of simple and humanly comprehensible dogmas (in comparison to Christianity).
3. A comprehensive religion that encompasses all of life.
4. An appeal to human effort and salvation by works.
5. A vivid sense of belonging to a world-wide, close-knit brotherhood/community.
6. An appeal of dominance over all others.

B. Realizing the Major Issues

1. The Bible's reliability and absolute authority.
2. The Nature of God
3. The Trinity
4. The Nature of Sin and Salvation - mankind is not fallen
5. The Person of Jesus Christ - the teaching of shirk (teaching that God has a companion)
6. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Islam denies the historicity of Christ's death, refuses its moral possibility, and rejects its theological necessity.

C. Critiquing the Major Weaknesses of Islam

1. Their appeal to liberal, critical, skeptical, unbelieving "scholars" when it comes to dismissing the Bible. The same skepticism can be applied to the Qur'an.
2. The testing of Muhammad's claim to be God's final prophet. Test case = the Qur'an's understanding of the Christian doctrine of the Trinity...
3. The cold formality of Islam which stems from their doctrine of God. There is no such thing as "God is love."
4. The denial of total depravity cannot account for what we see in the world and what we see in our own hearts if we are honest. If the diagnosis is wrong then the remedy will be wrong!
5. The lack of divine justice in Islam - sin is not paid for. Mercy swallows up justice.
6. The lack of assurance of salvation in Islam.

D. Presenting the Strength of Christ

1. The eye-witness nature of Christianity and the reliability of the Bible must be stressed.
2. The sufficiency of the Bible as God's final revelation until Christ comes again must be set forth.
3. The love of God and the justice of God must both be emphasized. In this we see that only Jesus Christ is sufficient for our true needs. Justified by grace alone apart from works.
4. The living out of a life of gratitude responding to unmerited grace must be seen.
5. The blessing of living as a part of the body of Christ must be embraced, taught, and seen.
6. The differentiating of biblical Christianity from aberrations must be charitably set forth.
7. The differentiating of biblical Christianity from the USA/the West must be maintained.