

Memorial OPC Adult Sunday School - Westminster Shorter Catechism – 2011-2012

Q57: Which is the fourth commandment?

A57: The fourth commandment is, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shall you labor, and do all your work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God: in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maid servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy.”

Q58: What is required in the fourth commandment?

A58: The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Q59: Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

A59: From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

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| The Sabbath is a command that is NOT REPEALED in the New Testament. |
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1. The Attempts from the New Testament seeking to find the command repealed

A. “Silence” and the Christian Church’s Canon/Rule

1. Option #1: Only that which is *explicitly repeated* in the NT is binding on the Christian; all else has been done away with in Christ.
2. Option #2: Only that which is *explicitly repealed* in the NT has passed away with the coming of Christ. All else remains binding.

B. Romans 14:5-6

C. Galatians 4:10 and Colossians 2:16-17

D. The “difficulty” of observing the command in a “foreign land” now that the gospel has gone forth to the ends of the earth.

2. The Trajectory of the NT – points towards the enduring nature of the command.

A. Note the amount of space given to this question in the gospels.

- B. Note the significance of the day of Christ's resurrection.
 - 1. The "new creation" completed.
 - 2. The new Apostolic pattern introduced: John 20:26, Acts 2:1, Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
 - C. Note the changes in the command – Creation → Exodus → New Creation (the Mosaic "additions" now shed)
- 3. The Command Continues to Bear God's Ownership – from the beginning to the end**
- A. The Old Testament Precedent
 - B. The Startling Words of Jesus: Mark 2:27-28
 - C. The Lord's Ownership in a Foreign Land – the Island of Patmos: Revelation 1:10
 - D. The Clear (?) Declaration: Hebrews 4:9