

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

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.

I. The Sabbath is an ENDURING MORAL COMMAND for us.

II. The Sabbath is a command that is NOT REPEALED in the New Testament.

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.

Q60: How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

A60: The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Q61: What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A61: The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Q62: What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

A62: The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath day.

III. Your Observance of the Sabbath Day.

1. Where you must start

Romans 7:14

Romans 8:4

Revelation 1:10

2. The guiding principle

A C _____ from one kind of work in order to E _____ in another kind of work.

The Sabbath day is not a day of I _____. It is a day of different A _____. It is a H _____ day, that is, S _____ A _____, from one thing for another.

3. What or who is the pattern?

Genesis 2:2-3

Exodus 20:11

Exodus 31:17

Deuteronomy 5:15

Luke 4:16 (Lev. 23:3)

Luke 14:1-6

John 7:21-24

John 20:26

Acts 2:1

Acts 20:7

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

4. Trying to make it practical

Not first and foremost a list of things you can N_____ do. Rather, a day set aside to focus on God and what He has done.

If the Lord's day is a day of worship and communion with God without distraction...

A. P_____ for it – “remember;” consider the manna (Ex. 16:29); the fire (Ex. 35:3).

B. Is this a direct exercise of worship and communion with God?

Public, Family, Private (descending priority)

Public ordinances

Bible reading; prayer; meditation; Sabbath reading; godly discourse

C. Is this helping someone else to worship and commune with God?

Healing

Restoration

D. Is this hindering someone else from worshipping and communing with God?

Employing others to work for me

Walking in self-righteousness with a judgmental spirit

E. Is this contributing to the worship of God?

Food

Moderate rest/nap

Fellowship with God's people

Moderate physical activity

F. Is this a work of necessity?

Helping someone in need

Basics of life

Emergencies

Anything that is not “feeding” the day as a day of worship and communion with God is a D_____ and is ultimately robbing you of God's blessing on His day. These distractions come from W_____, and sometimes they work their way out.

The moral law →

exposes the law of sin and death which reigns over me →

the law of sin and death shows me my need for the work of Jesus Christ →

the work of Jesus Christ procures: (1) no condemnation for me, and (2) the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus ruling in me (this is the new governing principle of grace which replaces the ruling and reigning of the law of sin and death) →

the reigning law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets me free to now obey the moral law and fulfill righteousness as defined by the moral law →

but this new reigning principle is not some impersonal “thing.” Rather, the blessed Holy Spirit Himself takes up residency in me and enables me to walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh.

Don't settle for something less...

Isaiah 58:13 “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, *From* doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking *your own* words,¹⁴ Then you shall delight yourself in the LORD; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the LORD has spoken.”