

Exclusive Devotion to Yahweh

“You shall have no other gods before me.”

1. It Is Our Duty to *Delight Exclusively in Yahweh* as Our God.

A. What Does This Require?

B. What Does This Forbid?

2. There Is No One As Captivatingly Desirable as Yahweh.

3. It Requires Faith to Believe in a Beauty We Cannot See.

CONCLUSION: How do we know what it means to love God faithfully? He tells us in His Word by what He *requires* and by what He *forbids*. He also woos us to Himself revealing His beauty, majesty, and matchless wonder. But not only are there countless competing suiters for the affection we owe only to Yahweh, the Deceiver constantly bombards us with false accusations about God. We must trust *what God has said as true* and give Him all the praise He is due.

Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 104. What are the *duties required* in the first commandment?

A. The duties required in the first commandment are, (1) the *knowing* and *acknowledging* of God to be the *only true God*, and *our God*; (2) and to *worship* and *glorify* him accordingly, by thinking, meditating, remembering, highly esteeming, honoring, adoring, choosing, loving, desiring, fearing of him; (3) *believing* him; (4) *trusting*, hoping, delighting, rejoicing in him; (5) *being zealous* for him; (6) *calling* upon him; (7) *giving all praise* and thanks, and yielding all obedience and submission to him with the whole man; (8) being careful in all things to *please him*, and sorrowful when in anything he is offended; (9) and *walking humbly* with him.

Q. 105. What are the *sins forbidden* in the first commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the first commandment are (1) *atheism*, in denying, or not having a God; (2) *idolatry*, in having or worshiping more gods than one, or any with, or instead of the true God; (3) the not having and avouching him for God, and our God; (4) the *omission* or *neglect* of anything due to him, required in this commandment; (5) *ignorance*, forgetfulness, misapprehensions, false opinions, unworthy and wicked thoughts of him; (6) bold and curious *searching into his secrets*; (7) all *profaneness*, hatred of God; (8) *self-love*, self-seeking, and all other inordinate and immoderate setting of our mind, will, or affections upon other things, and taking them off from him in whole or in part; (9) *vain credulity*, unbelief, heresy, misbelief, distrust, despair, incorrigibleness, and insensibleness under judgments; (10) *hardness of heart*; pride; presumption; carnal security; tempting of God; (11) using *unlawful means*, and *trusting* in lawful means; (12) *carnal delights* and joys; (13) corrupt, blind, and *indiscreet zeal*; (14) *lukewarmness*, and deadness in the things of God; (15) *estranging ourselves*, and apostatizing from God; (16) *praying*, or giving any religious worship, *to saints, angels, or any other creatures*; (17) all compacts and *consulting with the devil*, and hearkening to his suggestions; (18) *making men the lords* of our faith and conscience; (19) *slighting* and despising God and his commands; (20) *resisting* and grieving of his Spirit, discontent and impatience at his dispensations, charging him foolishly for the evils he inflicts on us; (21) and *ascribing* the praise of any good we either are, have, or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves, or any other creature.