

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:1-20 LD 34.96-98 (1)
Singing: 257:1-3 – 428:1-2 – 40:1, 5 – 222:4-7

Intro: What is man's chief purpose?

A. God's purpose in His act of creating, covenanting, and redeeming

B. God's Law expresses His will about how *to maintain* our relationship

1. Who is the 'audience' in the 3rd part of the Catechism? (q. 86)

a. if not reconciled with God, the Law is to convict

b. if reconciled with God through Jesus, the Law is to guard us
(while it also will continually convict): Malachi 1:6

2. God's Law defines the *boundaries & behaviors* for a good relationship

a. ponder the marriage relationship as the picture of the spiritual

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT: TREAT ME HONORABLY!

I. God's intent II. God's command III. God's warning

I. What is God's intent in the 2nd commandment?

A. His intent is to protect the relationship between Him and us

1. God's law is His sovereign but never His dictatorial will: Deut. 11:12

2. Yet in order to enforce His will, God reveals the C-C-C rule

a. choices have consequences in form of chastisements: Heb. 12:10

b. 'punishing' satisfies justice but does little to restore relationships

B. In any relationship *one wrong small step* can lead to the final destruction

1. See Genesis 3:6

2. in 2nd God explicitly warns against process of dishonoring Him

Closing Contemplations:

A. Invite to read along: Deut. 4:40; 5:16; 6:18; 12:25; 22:7!

B. Ponder of Jesus' glory in contrast to ugly face of our race:

1. God the Father Himself calls us to consider Him: Is. 42:1-3; Matt. 9:36

2. How do we 'show forth' His glory in an honorable imitation?

Thoughts on God's Law

God's law was given to reveal sin, not to remove it.

The law is to send us to the Gospel, that we may be justified in Christ.
The Gospel sends us to the law again to enquire what is our duty, being justified. (Samuel Bolton)

The Law will be experienced by a sinner as a hammer to break us.
The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's oil to cure us. (Stephen Charnock)

When through grace the law of God is written in our hearts,
Our duty will be our delight. (M. Henry)