

A banner with a background of a wooden desk, a green book, a typewriter, and a yellow notepad. The text "Catechism: Foundations of the Faith" is centered in a dark green serif font.

Catechism: Foundations of the Faith

What Does God Demand of You?

Key idea:

What does God demand of you? God demands that I be perfect in holiness, love, and integrity.

Key text:

Matthew 5:48

Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Key points:

1. God is perfect and we were created in His image, and therefore He demands that we be perfect as well.
2. Because God is perfect in holiness, love, and integrity, He demands that we be perfect in holiness, love, and integrity as well.
3. The Law of God shows us what God demands of us and reveals to us that we do NOT meet God's demands.
4. Our only hope is found not in meeting God's demands, but through the gift of perfect holiness, love, and integrity through Jesus Christ.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: this is BRCC Catechism Question 8. The catechism has many other verses, questions, and resources for further study related to this question.
2. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
3. Why does God have a right to demand anything of me?
4. How does the demand to be perfect in holiness, love, and integrity relate to the fact that I was created to glorify and enjoy God forever?

5. If I am to be like God in His character (holy, loving, full of integrity), why am I not also to be like Him in His Being - eternal and infinite? Can I be eternal or infinite? Is it wrong for me to be finite and bound by time?
6. What does it mean for a human to be holy? How does holiness look in a person's life?
7. What does it mean for a human to be loving? What does love look like in a person's life?
8. What does it mean for a human to be full of integrity? What does integrity look like in a person's life?
9. Does God still expect me to be perfect in holiness, love, and integrity since the fall? Why hasn't He changed His expectations of me since I was born with a propensity to sin?
10. When I consider God's demands in texts like Matthew 5:48 and Psalm 15, what is it meant to produce in me? Do I let it have this effect, or am I tempted to reduce the standard being demanded?
11. Can I meet God's demand of perfection? If not, how can I ever come into His Presence?
12. When I consider God's demand, how far short I fall of meeting His demand, and then the gift of perfect holiness, love, and integrity through Jesus, what does this produce in me? How often do I need to meditate on both God's demand and God's provision of that demand in Christ?
13. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

Preview of next week: How Do We Know What God Demands of Us? [Question 9] (Deuteronomy 6:25)