

Orthodoxy: Law - Work, Rest, & Honor

New City Catechism Q.10: What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

Answer: Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in public and private worship of God, rest from routine employment, serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.

Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. - Leviticus 19:3

God is righteous. His pleasure is his righteousness in the earth reflected through the lives of his image bearers. Therefore, he is kind to show us his paths of righteousness in relationship to work, rest, and the love we show our parents.

Every culture in every place is shaped by God's designs of work, rest, and relationships to parents. Every place where we step out into in this world we will find the benefits of people working, resting, and relating. We walk into someone's work when we enjoy a good meal. We walk into someone's work and rest when we enjoy a quiet afternoon at the park. We walk into someone's honoring loving relationship when we sit at the table and there is respect.

Our God is a working, resting, and relating God. Therefore, we are a working, resting, and relating people. However, our sin affects our work, rest, and relationships. We naturally work to prove ourselves, so we overwork or our work becomes laborious. We naturally rest to satisfy ourselves, so we miss the One who is our rest, and our rest becomes a restlessness. We naturally relate to our parents to get something from them that only God can give, so our relationships are distorted. In the end we're overworked, dissatisfied, and frustrated.

God in the gospel changes our work, rest, and relationships. In Christ Jesus we are his workmanship for good work. In Christ Jesus we rest from all our works as a way to prove ourselves. In Christ Jesus we relate to serve in love because we've been served in love. In Christ Jesus the work we do is good as God through us loves and serves others. In Christ Jesus we can rest, be renewed, and refreshed in his presence through his Word, prayer, Sacrament, and fellowship as we rejoice in all his works done for and promised to us. In Christ Jesus we can relate honoring those through whom he has given us birth and life, and loving them by a trusting obedience, or by a trusting service.

Our Global Mission

Our church's Global Mission Team (GMT) desires to send a special financial gift of \$1,000 to each of our missionaries at the end of 2019. Christ Covenant Church has a little over \$8,000 remaining in the GMT Budget. The GMT's desire is to divide that sum into equal amounts and send them as gifts to each of the missionaries that have received support and/or have been connected to either Christ Church and Covenant Presbyterian. That equal amount is about \$650 per missionary. The GMT's goal is to increase that amount to \$1,000 per missionary. Therefore, the GMT is trusting the Lord to provide an additional \$4,200 to accomplish this goal. We are going to be taking a special Thanksgiving offering during the morning service on Sunday November 24th (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) for Global Missions. The aim of this offering is to enable us to accomplish the GMT's goal of giving a year end gift of \$1,000 to all the Missionaries that CCC is supporting. In this offering we are asking the congregation to give their regular tithe, and then we are asking you to a gift beyond your tithe that would be used for this purpose. Your additional check can be made payable to Christ Covenant Church and will go into the General Fund but used specifically for the Global Missions Thanksgiving Offering. If you have any questions you may contact Bruce Braswell, the Chairperson of the GMT. babraswell@earthlink.net



Today in Church History - November 10th

Lott Cary was born a slave in Virginia and died a missionary in Liberia November 10, 1828. His birth took place around 1780, about thirty miles south of Richmond, Virginia. Although his father was a respected Baptist, Cary became a profane alcoholic. However, in 1807 his ears were opened to hear the gospel. He was converted and joined a Baptist church. Through hearing the Gospel of John preached he desired to learn more from the Scriptures, so he learned to read.

Cary was an efficient and faithful worker, able to handle clerical duties at the tobacco firm where his master hired him out. Merchants frequently tipped him and he sold leftover tobacco to build his savings. Consequently, he was able to purchase freedom for himself and his children. It was during this time that he also learned to study and communicate the Scriptures to others. After gaining his freedom, Cary preached to slaves around Richmond. There were also many white people who attended his sermons saying they were among the most moving they ever heard.

In 1813 an African-American preacher named William Crane settled in Richmond. Crane and Cary organized a society for African missions. This was the first world mission founded by African Americans. Eventually the society chose Lott Cary and Colin Teague, both free blacks, as its first missionaries. In commissioning him for the task, his board urged him "to dwell much on the doctrine of the cross, a doctrine which has been found in every age of the church of Christ the power of God."



The tobacco firm offered Cary a large raise to stay, but Cary turned it down. Selling his farm to support himself, he sailed for Africa and reached Monrovia, Liberia, in 1822. His labors included preaching several times a week, instructing native children and settlers, and operating a charity school with his own money. He also fended off armed attacks by local Africans. In this era of Colonialism it was easy for Cary to get involved in politics. Free blacks in Liberia were unhappy with colonial agent Jehudi Ashmun's redistribution of their land and Cary headed their resistance. The United States investigated and stood by Ashmun, who forbade Cary to preach any more until he apologized.

By 1824, Cary and Ashmun had reconciled and the colony granted its settlers full participation in the government. From then on, Ashmun spoke of Cary with high praise as a humble man. He doctored the settlers with remedies he had learned while he himself was suffering from tropical diseases. He also experimented successfully with raising rice and coffee, which became staples of the Liberian economy. When Ashmun returned to America, he left Liberia in Cary's hands and recommended him as permanent agent for the colony. However, Cary was mortally wounded before anything came of it. On 8 November 1828, he was helping prepare cartridges for the protection of the settlers when someone overturned a candle. All the ammunition exploded. Six people died on the 9th. Cary and another victim of the accident lingered until this day, 10 November 1828.

How to Be Rich

I didn't say, 'How to Get Rich', but how to be rich. Most of us do not think ourselves monetarily rich. We're always comparing ourselves with someone else. We say, "I'm not rich. I'm not like LeBron James who can invest a few million dollars to own 2% of England's Liverpool soccer club, and in one year increase that investment by earning six times what he invested." Actually know one is rich like LeBron James because there is only one LeBron James. But you are rich as whoever you are with whatever God has given you. You may live above the median income level of most of America, or you may live below that, but I know all of you who are reading this live above the abject poverty line by making more than \$2 a day. Therefore, we are rich. So, how are we to be rich? Paul says to Timothy, "*As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*" - 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Here are some instructions on how to be rich: Don't be proud, be humble. Everything you have is from God. Your intelligence, talents, education, and work ethic are not responsible for your riches. God is. Don't set your hopes on money and what it can get you. Set your hopes on all that God is for you and will be for you in Christ. Enjoy the beautiful gifts God has given you with others. Look for every opportunity to do good to someone else with the gifts God is sharing with you. Don't think your riches are your life. Jesus is your life. He's all you will have and all you will need when you leave all your riches behind. Be rich toward God believing through faith in Jesus Christ that he's all you have, all you hope for, and all you will ever need.