

Theology Simply Explained — WSC69 “Refusing to Kill Unless Required”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 69—especially explaining how the sixth commandment forbids any killing not required by God, together with being careful not to do anything harmful to man.

Q69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment? ***The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

The shorter. Catechism question this week is, what is forbidden in the sixth commandment. And the answer is the sixth commandment forbideth. Taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly. Or whatsoever tendeth thereunto. So one of the things you see immediately is that it is always unjust.

It is always unrighteous to take away your own life. You do not have. Authority over your life. And you do not have.

Your own purpose within yourself. You are made in the image of God. Your purpose is to glorify and enjoy him. And he is the Lord and Giver of you could only have authority to lay your life down, if you had authority to take it up again and since you cannot raise yourself from the dead, you cannot give yourself to be killed.

Or kill yourself. Now, when it says the life of our neighbor unjustly it reminds us that the only time that we may take the life of our neighbor is when the law of God actually requires it. So in just defense, when the taking of the life of your neighbor is required.

For the defense of Another neighbor. Especially those whom the Lord has entrusted to you. In the Defense of your own life. If you are married or have children, Especially. There is.

The possible righteous situation. You know that? Person will go to hell. If they die. And you decline then to take their life. I think one of the most famous occurrences of that was with Was it Nate or Steve Saint? I can't remember. Which one is the dad? And Jim Elliott and the Alka Indians neat.

And they were. They were armed. The missionaries were armed. And they could have killed the Alka Indians. But they had discussed it beforehand and Agreed. That.

That they would not. Be willing to send those to Hell to whom the Lord was sending them to preach the gospel. just to preserve their own life. Which was a great loss for their wives, but their wives became instrumental in The bringing of that tribe to Faith. Um,

And that was a An example of them leading their household in. What was a tremendous sacrifice? Not sacrificing. Their household. That takes great wisdom and that's the sort of extraordinary situation that doesn't make Good case, study. One of the things that we must not do is enter into the mindset of Some people especially around here.

with the idea of Castle Doctrine. And And the idea that there are situations that give you the option to take someone's life if you want. That is just murder in the heart, being indulged to become murder in the mind and God forbid, even murder with the hand.

No, the only biblical. Condition in which you may take a life is where righteousness requires the taking of that life. And so that would also, Include. If you were the agent of a civil magistrate who has lawfully contempt to death one who has warfitted his life by crime.

and just War, although Just War is almost always War of self-defense. You have to have actual biblical mandate from God to engage in. Against a state or a nation, or a people, not your own. The Lord does not set. One nation. in Authority, over others, or give them a right to police the world.

That is something that our nation has done in a wicked way. But just Wars would then be wars of self-defense for ourselves for our own nation and Wars of self-defense. For nations with whom we are in League. the defense of a neighbor. together with them. and in just War, of course.

killing is required by God. in order to To properly carry out that, which righteousness required for the state as a whole But there is no situation in which God gives us permission to kill. There are only situations where his law requires us to kill. You know, to use an illustration of that principle from a book.

You can only let fly if you can do. So in the name of God, You can only kill. In any situation, you can only do anything but it becomes really important in this question of just and unjust killing because there's confusion, Is very near to us and very disturbing.

Even people joking about the opportunity to kill because it's self-defense and that kind of murderous thing that Remember the missionary in Orange City, who Was joking about murdering Muslims and I hoped. Seeing the last of that in the church. So never ever ever. Indulge your mind or heart in an idea about the sixth commandment.

That, that views. any situation as one in which you're permitted to kill. You, you may only kill. God's law requires it. And in every one of those situations, it's still a profoundly grave profoundly serious. So what has forbidden in the sixth commandment? the Six Amendment forbidden the taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly.

Or whatsoever, tendeth, they're unto and then that last portion takes into account all the situations of negligence. that we are. to be aware of. The likely consequences under how God Enabled us to understand how creation operates, how physical health operates Etc. That we are to continuously be taking into consideration.

likelihood that Something we are doing might cause physical harm. To others. And therefore, Avoiding those things that would cause physical harm. To others. Again. Only doing that which might cause physical harm to others when it is required by the law of God. which I can hardly. come up with an example of that now.

so a very high regard for life and the positive, what the sixth commandment requires, Paired with a great carefulness against the taking of A very high regard for

life in the negative. Being. Positively against anything. that would harm or take the life of another tenant towards it.

What is a forbidden in the sixth commandment the sixth commandment forbeth? The taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor, unjustly or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.