

Chapter 4

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What is the heart of the First Commandment? How do we keep it?*

At its heart, the First Commandment is a call to have faith in God, put our hope in him, and love him without holding back. We keep the First Commandment when we completely commit our heart, soul, and mind to God and embrace the Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and love.

2. *What are two ways that we sin against the call to place our hope in God?*

We can sin against God's call by giving in to despair, in which we stop believing that God cares for us and will fulfill his promises. We can also commit the sin of presumption, the belief that we can be saved by our own efforts, or that God will save us even if we do not reform our lives and follow his will.

3. *What is the original meaning of the First Commandment?*

As it was given to the ancient Israelites, the First Commandment focused on the sin of idolatry. For the Israelites, idolatry was the literal worship of gods and goddesses other than Yahweh. The Old Testament records how difficult the Israelites sometimes found it to worship Yahweh alone.

4. *List some modern examples of the sin of idolatry.*

Modern examples of idolatry include wealth and riches (mammon), success and fame, too great a focus on entertainment, the pursuit of things, and even addictions and obsessive behaviors.

5. *Describe three ways people practice sinful excesses of religion.*

Sinful excesses of religion include superstition, a belief in magic or the occult, and divination. Superstition is the practice of assigning magical power to practices or objects. A belief in magic or the occult leads one to believe in a supernatural power that comes from a source other than God. Divination is the practice of seeking power or knowledge through supernatural means apart from the one true God.

6. *What is atheism?*

Atheism is the denial of God's existence and the ultimate violation of the First Commandment. It includes the belief that humans are not dependent on God.

