

# Heidelberg Catechism

## Lord's Day 23

### Overview/Purpose

Questions 59, 60, and 61 deal with the all-important doctrine of justification by faith. A couple of items to remember:

- On our own merit, we are unrighteous before God based on the fall of Adam and Eve, who as our federal head plunged all of mankind into sin and disobedience.
- Through Christ's merits (fulfilled the requirements of the law) we are declared righteous and found justified before God.

### Method

Following the Trivium, the grammar stage calls for rote memorization. Constant drilling and recitation is absolutely necessary and will require direct parental participation.

### Suggested Materials For Parents

See "The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism", pgs 324-332.

### Word Definitions

• Acceptable	• Accomplished
• Account	• Accuse
• Believe	• Believing Heart
• Benefit	• Christ
• Commandments	• Committed
• Conscience	• Embrace
• Eternal Life	• Evil
• Faith	• God
• Grace	• Grants
• Grossly	• Heir

• Holiness	• Imputes
• Inclined	• Jesus Christ
• Kept	• Merit
• Obedience	• Perfect
• Profit	• Receive
• Righteous	• Righteous
• Righteous	• Righteousness
• Righteousness	• Satisfaction
• Satisfaction	• Sin
• Transgressed	• True Faith
• Worthiness	

### **Suggested Activities**

- Review word definitions
- Memory game to review word definitions and catechism questions
- Spelling test using the words in this catechism lesson
- Memorize key bible verses
- Service projects to reinforce the lessons found in the catechism questions
- Many opportunities for creativity!

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## LORD'S DAY 23

Question 59. But what doth it profit thee now that thou believest all this?

**Answer.** That I am righteous in Christ, before God, and an heir of eternal life. [a]

Question 60. How are thou righteous before God?

**Answer.** Only [b] by a true faith in Jesus Christ; so that though my conscience accuse me, that I have grossly transgressed all the commandments of God, and [c] kept none of them, and am still [d] inclined to all evil; notwithstanding, God, without any [e] merit of mine, but only of mere [f] grace, grants [g] and [h] imputes to me, the perfect [i] satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ; even so, as if I never had had, nor committed any sin: yea, as if I had fully [j] accomplished all that obedience which Christ has accomplished for me; [k] inasmuch as I embrace such benefit with a believing heart.

Question 61. Why sayest thou, that thou art righteous by faith only?

**Answer.** Not that I am acceptable to God, on account of the [l] worthiness of my faith; but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, is my righteousness before [m] God; and that I cannot receive [n] and apply the same to myself any other way than by faith only.

- [a]: Rom. 5:1; Rom. 1:17; John 3:36  
[b]: Rom. 3:22ff; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8,9  
[c]: Rom. 3:9ff  
[d]: Rom. 7:23  
[e]: Rom. 3:24  
[f]: Tit. 3:5; Eph 2:8,9  
[g]: Rom. 4:4,5; 2Cor. 5:19  
[h]: 1John 2:1  
[i]: Rom. 3:24,25  
[j]: 2Cor. 5:21  
[k]: Rom. 3:28; John 3:18  
[l]: Psa. 16:2; Eph. 2:8,9  
[m]: 1Cor. 1:30; 1Cor. 2:2  
[n]: 1John 5:10