

Heidelberg Catechism

LORD'S DAY 31

Question 83. What are [a] the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

Answer. The preaching [b] of the holy gospel, and christian discipline, [c] or excommunication out of the christian church; by these two, the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers, and shut against unbelievers.

Question 84. How is the kingdom of heaven opened and shut by the preaching of the holy gospel?

Answer. Thus: when according to the command of [d] Christ, it is declared and publicly testified to all and every believer, that, whenever they [e] receive the promise of the gospel by a true faith, all their sins are really forgiven them of God, for the sake of Christ's merits; and on the contrary, when it is declared and testified to all unbelievers, and such as do not sincerely repent, that they stand exposed to the wrath of God, and eternal [f] condemnation, so long as they are [g] unconverted: according to which testimony of the gospel, God will judge them, both in this, and in the life to come.

Question 85. How is the kingdom of heaven shut and opened by christian discipline?

Answer. Thus: when according [h] to the command of Christ, those, who under the name of christians, maintain doctrines, or practices [i] inconsistent therewith, and will not, after having been often brotherly admonished, renounce their errors and wicked course of life, are complained of to the church, [j] or to those, who are thereunto [k] appointed by the church; and if they despise their admonition, [l] are by them forbidden the use of the sacraments; whereby they are excluded from the christian church, and by God himself from the kingdom of Christ; and when they promise and show real amendment, are again [m] received as members of Christ and his church.

[a]: Mat. 16:19

[b]: John 20:23

[c]: Mat. 18:15,16,17,18

[d]: Mat. 28:19

[e]: John 3:18,36; Mark 16:16

[f]: 2Thes. 1:7,8,9

[g]: John 20:21,22,23; Mat. 16:19; Rom. 2:2,13-17

[h]: Mat. 18:15

[i]: 1Cor. 5:12

[j]: Mat. 18:15-18

[k]: Rom. 12:7,8,9; 1Cor. 12:28; 1Tim. 5:17; 2Thes. 3:14

[l]: Mat. 18:17; 1Cor. 5:3,4,5

[m]: 2Cor. 2:6,7,8,10,11; Luke 15:18

Name : _____

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Vocabulary

Please define the following words/terms in the context of the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 31:

Christian discipline : _____

Excommunication : _____

Kingdom of Heaven : _____

Promise of the Gospel : _____

True Faith : _____

Repent : _____

Eternal Condemnation : _____

Name : _____

Unconverted : _____

Doctrines : _____

Practices : _____

Brotherly admonished : _____

Complained : _____

Use of the sacraments : _____

Excluded : _____

Kingdom of Christ : _____

Real amendment : _____

Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven : _____

Name : _____

Preaching : _____

Name : _____

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Scripture Reading/Comprehension

Please read the following Bible passages and answer the questions:

1. Mat. 18:15,16,17,18 and 2Cor. 2:6,7,8,10,11

If someone is still found in sin after the Matthew 18 verses have been followed, what must be done to this person? Who has been given authority to apply this? What is to be our response if this person truly repents of their sin?

2. John 3:18,36 and 2 Thes. 1:7,8,9

What happens when you hear the Gospel preached? What happens when an unbeliever hears the Gospel preached? Please explain.

Name : _____

3. Mat. 16:19

Who has the authority to open and shut the kingdom of heaven by Christian discipline (hint: review the answer to question 85)?

4. 1Cor. 5:12

Should this same discipline be applied to situations outside of the church?
