

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 34

Overview/Purpose

“The doctrine concerning the Law, which is the rule of good works, next claims our attention, in relation to which we shall enquire:

1. What is the law in general?
2. What are the several parts of the divine law?
3. To what extent has Christ abrogated the law, and to what extent is it still in force?
4. In what does the moral law differ from the gospel?
5. How is the Decalogue divided?
6. What is the true meaning of the Decalogue, and of every commandment separately considered?
7. To what extent can those who are regenerated keep the law?
8. What is the use of the law?

We shall now proceed to the consideration of the first four questions here proposed. The fifth belongs to the 93rd question of the Catechism; the sixth, to the 94th, and those which follow, down to the 114th; the seventh, to the 114th and the eighth to the 115th question.”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 489.

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 488-516.

Word Definitions

Adultery	Alien	Alone	Anything
Avoid	Behave	Belongs	Besides
Bow down	Children	Commandment	Commandments
Commit	Contrary	Contrive	Covet
Creatures	Desire	Divided	Donkey
Duties	Earth	Earth beneath	Egypt
Enjoin	False testimony	Fathers	Fear
Flee	Form	Forsake	Glorify
God	Gods	Good things	Guiltless
Hate	Heaven above	Heavens	His will
Hold	Holy	Honor	Humility
Idol	Idolatry	Instead of	Invocation of Saints
Jealous	Keep	Know	Labor
Law of God	Learn rightly	Least thing	Lord your God
Love	Maidservant	Manifested	Manservant
Men	Misuse	Misuses	Mother
Murder	Neighbor	Neighbor's house	Neighbor's wife
Object	One True God	Our neighbor	Owe
Ox	Patience	Punishing	Renounce
Sabbath	Sabbath day	Salvation	Sea
Seventh day	Showing love	Sin of the Fathers	Sincerely
Slavery	Soothsaying	Sorcery	Soul
Steal	Submit	Superstition	Tables
Teaches	Third and fourth generation	Thousand generations	True God
Trust	Water below	Whole Heart	Word
Work	Worship		

Suggested Activities

1. Review word definitions
2. Memory game to review word definitions and catechism questions

3. Spelling test using the words in this catechism lesson
4. Memorize key bible verses
5. Service projects to reinforce the lessons found in the catechism questions

6. Many opportunities for creativity!

Heidelberg Catechism

LORD'S DAY 34

Question 92. What is the law of God?

Answer. God spake all these words, Exodus 20, Deut. 5, saying: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand *generations* of those who love me and keep my commandments.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Question 93. How are these commandments divided?

Answer. Into two [a] tables; the [b] first of which teaches us how we must behave towards God; the second, what duties we owe to our neighbor.

Question 94. What doth God enjoin in the first commandment?

Answer. That I, as sincerely as I desire the salvation of my own soul, avoid and flee from all idolatry, [c] sorcery, [d] soothsaying, superstition, [e] invocation of

saints, or any other creatures; and learn [f] rightly to know the only true God; [g] trust in him alone, with humility [h] and patience [i] submit to him; [j] expect all good things from him only; [k] love, [l] fear, and [m] glorify him with my whole heart; so that I renounce [n] and forsake all creatures, rather than [o] commit even the least thing contrary to his will.

Question 95. What is idolatry?

Answer. Idolatry is, instead of, or besides that one true God, who has manifested himself in his word, to contrive, or have any other object, in which men place their trust. [p]

[a]: Ex. 34:28,29

[b]: Deut. 4:13; Deut. 10:3,4

[c]: 1Cor. 6:9,10; 1Cor 10:7,14

[d]: Lev. 18:21; Deut. 18:10,11,12

[e]: Mat. 4:10; Rev. 19:10

[f]: John 17:3

[g]: Jer. 17:5,7

[h]: Heb. 10:36; Col. 1:11; Rom. 5:3,4; Phil. 2:14

[i]: 1Pet. 5:5,6

[j]: Psa. 104:27; Isa. 45:7; James 1:17

[k]: Deut. 6:5; Mat. 22:37

[l]: Deut. 6:5; Mat. 10:28

[m]: Mat. 4:10

[n]: Mat. 5:29,30; Acts 5:29; Mat. 10:37

[o]: Mat. 5:19

[p]: 2Chron. 16:12; Phil. 3:18,19; Gal. 4:8; Eph. 2:12