

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 35

Overview/Purpose

“The end, or design of this commandment is, that the true God, who in the first precept commanded that he alone should be worshipped, be worshipped under a proper form, or with such worship as it is right and proper that intelligent creatures should pay unto him – such as is pleasing to him, and not with such worship as that which is according to the imagination and device of man: Or, we may say that the design of this commandments is, that the worship of God as prescribed be preserved pure and uncorrupted and not be violated by any form of superstitious worship. The true worship of God is, therefore, here enjoyed, and a rule at the same time given, that we sacredly and conscientiously keep ourselves within the bounds which God has prescribed, and that we do not add anything to that worship which has been divinely instituted, or corrupt it in any part, even the most unimportant; which the Scriptures also expressly enjoin in many other places. ”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 517.

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 517-536.

Word Definitions

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| • Books | • Churches | • Commanded |
| • Creatures | • Dumb images | • Either |
| • Forbids | • God | • Images |
| • In order to | • Laity | • Lively |
| • Made | • Make | • Means |

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| • Neither | • No wise | • People |
| • Preaching | • Pretend | • Represent |
| • Represented | • Require | • Resemblance |
| • Second commandment | • Serve | • Taught |
| • Tolerated | • Wiser | • Word |
| • Worship | | |

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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Question 96. What doth God require in the second commandment?

Answer. That we in no wise [a] represent God by images, nor worship [b] him in any other way than he has commanded in his word.

Question 97. Are images then not at all to be made?

Answer. God neither can, nor [c] may be represented by any means: but as to creatures; though they may be represented, yet God forbids to make, or have any resemblance of them, either in order to worship them [d] or to serve God by them.

Question 98. But may not images be tolerated in the churches, as books to the laity?

Answer. No: for we must not pretend to be wiser than God, who will have his people [e] taught, not by dumb images, [f] but by the lively preaching of his word.

[a]: Deut. 4:15; Isa. 40:18; Rom. 1:23ff; Acts 17:29

[b]: 1Sam. 15:23; Deut. 12:30

[c]: Deut. 4:15,16; Isa. 46:5; Rom. 1:23

[d]: Ex. 23:24; Ex. 34:13,14; Numb. 33:52; Deut. 7:5

[e]: 2Tim. 3:16; 2Pet. 1:19

[f]: Jer. 10:1ff; Hab. 2:18,19