

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 39

Overview/Purpose

“The Laws of the second table of the Decalogue now follow, the obedience of which has respect to God as well as the commandments of the first table. The works, however, which are here enjoined are performed immediately towards men.”¹

“This commandment consists of two parts: a command and a promise. The command is, Honor thy father and thy mother. The design or end of this commandment is the preservation of civil order, which God has appointed in the mutual duties between inferiors and their superiors. Superiors are all those whom God has placed over others, for the purpose of governing and defending them. Inferiors are those whom God has placed under others, that they may be governed and defended by them.”²

“This commandment, therefore, does not merely require that we honor and respect our parents, but all who are in authority over us; and requires, also, on the other hand, obedience not merely from children, but from all inferiors, of whatever rank or grade.”³

¹“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 574.

²“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 575.

³“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 576.

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 574-583.

Word Definitions

• Authority	• Correction	• Due obedience
• Father	• Fidelity	• Fifth Commandment
• God	• Good instruction	• Govern
• Hand	• Honor	• Infirmities
• Love	• Mother	• Patiently bear
• Pleases	• Require	• Show
• Submit	• Weaknesses	

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 104. What doth God require in the fifth commandment?

Answer. That I show all honor, love and fidelity, to my father and mother, and all in authority over me, and [a] submit myself to their good instruction and correction, with due obedience; and also patiently bear with their [b] weaknesses and infirmities, since it pleases [c] God to govern us by their hand.

[a]: Eph. 6:1ff; Col. 3:18,20; Eph. 5:22; Rom. 1:31

[b]: Prov. 23:22

[c]: Eph. 6:5,6; Col. 3:19,21; Rom. 13:1-8; Mat. 22:21