

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 40

Overview/Purpose

“The end or design of this commandment is the preservation of the life and health of the body, and so of the safety both of ourselves and of others. All those things, therefore, which have respect to the safety and preservation of our own life and the lives of others, are here enjoined; whilst, on the other hand, every thing is prohibited which tends to the destruction of life, which may be said to include every unlawful injury, and every desire of inflicting a wrong which any one may cherish, with every expression of this desire. It is called murder in this prohibition, or commandment, not because God prohibits this alone, but that in removing the effect he may at the same time remove all the causes which contribute to it, and that embracing under the term murder, all the sins which are connected with it, he may, by showing its aggravated character, the more effectually restrain us from these sins, according to the rule, that when any particular virtue is commanded or vice forbidden, the general virtues and vices, or whatever is connected with it, is at the same time commanded or forbidden.

We must here show, 1. That this commandment enjoins and forbids not only what is external, but also what is internal. 2. That it prohibits any injury done to ourselves or others. 3. That it requires us to defend ourselves and others.”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pgs 583-584.

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 583-589.

Word Definitions

• Abhors	• Accounts	• Anger
• Another	• Armed	• Causes
• Commandment	• Commands	• Danger
• Deeds	• Desire	• Desire of revenge
• Dishonor	• Enemies	• Envy
• Forbidding	• Forbids	• Gestures
• God	• Good	• Hate
• Hatred	• Hurt	• Kill
• Kindness	• Lay aside	• Love
• Magistrate	• Man	• Manner
• Meekness	• Mentioned	• Mercy
• Murder	• Myself	• Neighbor
• Neither	• Ourselves	• Patience
• Peace	• Prevent	• Require
• Revenge	• Show	• Sixth Commandment
• Speak	• Sword	• Teaches
• Thoughts	• Towards	• Willfully expose
• Words	• Wound	

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 40

Question 105. What doth God require in the sixth commandment?

Answer. That neither in thoughts, nor words, nor gestures, much less in deeds, I dishonor, hate, wound, or [a] kill my neighbor, by myself or by another; but that I lay [b] aside all desire of revenge: also, that I [c] hurt not myself, nor willfully expose myself to any danger. Wherefore also the magistrate [d] is armed with the sword, to prevent murder.

Question 106. But this commandment seems only to speak of murder?

Answer. In forbidding murder, God teaches us, that he abhors the causes thereof, such as [e] envy, [f] hatred, anger, and desire of revenge; and that [g] he accounts all these as murder.

Question 107. But is it enough that we do not kill any man in the manner mentioned above?

Answer. No: for when god forbids envy, hatred, and anger, he commands us to [h] love our neighbor as ourselves; to show [i] patience, peace, [j] meekness, [k] mercy, and all kindness, towards him, [l] and prevent his hurt as much as in us lies' and that we [m] do good, even to our enemies.

[a]: Mat. 5:21,22; Prov. 12:18; Mat. 26:52

[b]: Eph. 4:26; Rom. 12:19; Mat. 5:39,40

[c]: Mat. 4:5,6,7; Col. 2:23

[d]: Gen. 9:6; Mat. 26:52; Rom. 13:4

[e]: James 1:20; Gal. 5:20

[f]: Rom. 1:29; 1John 2:9

[g]: 1John 3:15

[h]: Mat. 22:39; Mat. 7:12

[i]: Rom. 12:10

[j]: Eph. 4:2; Gal. 6:1,2; Mat. 5:5; Rom. 12:18

[k]: Ex. 23:5

[l]: Mat. 5:45

[m]: Rom. 12:20