

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 42

Overview/Purpose

“The end or design of this commandments is, the preservation of the property or possessions which God has given to every one for the support of life: for if it is not lawful or becoming for us to steal, it is necessary that every man should possess that which lawfully belongs to him. God, therefore, in this commandment, forbids all frauds, together with all the cunning devices and arts by which the goods and possessions of our neighbor are injured, diminished or confounded so as to lose his right in them, or to make it doubtful. In forbidding these things, God at the same time enjoins all those virtues which contributed to the preservation of our neighbor's goods and possessions. Thou shalt not steal, that is, thou shalt not desire, or attempt to take to thyself thy neighbor's goods by fraud. Therefore, thou shalt defend, preserve and increase them, and give unto thy neighbor what belongs to him. God calls the things that are forbidden theft, in order that he might comprehend and condemn under this, as being the grossest kind of fraud, all other sins of a kindred nature, with their antecedents and consequents “

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pgs 595-596.

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 595-600.

Word Definitions

• Abuse	• Advantage	• Appearance
• Appropriate	• Belong	• Can
• Commandment	• Comprehends	• Covetousness

• Deal	• Dealt	• Design
• Desire	• Devices	• Eighth Commandment
• Ells	• Every instance	• Faithfully labor
• False Coins	• Forbid	• Forbidden
• Force	• Fraudulent Merchandise	• Gifts
• God	• Goods	• Magistrate
• May	• Measures	• Needy
• Neighbor	• Others	• Ourselves
• Promote	• Punishable	• Relieve
• Right	• Robberies	• Theft
• Thefts	• Under	• Unjust
• Usury	• Waste	• Weights
• Wicked Tricks		

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 42

Question 110. What doth God forbid in the eighth commandment?

Answer. God forbids not only those [a] thefts, and [b] robberies, which are punishable by the magistrate; but he comprehends under the name of theft all wicked tricks and devices, whereby we design to [c] appropriate to ourselves the goods which belong to our neighbor: whether it be by force, or under the appearance of right, as by unjust [d] weights, ells, [e] measures, fraudulent merchandise, false coins, [f] usury, or by any other way forbidden by God; as also all [g] covetousness, all abuse and waste of his gifts.

Question 111. But what doth God require in this commandment?

Answer. That I promote the advantage of my neighbor in every instance I can or may; and deal with him as I [h] desire to be dealt with by others: further also that I faithfully labor, so that I [i] may be able to relieve the needy.

[a]: 1Cor. 6:10

[b]: 1Cor. 5:10

[c]: Luke 3:14; 1Thes. 4:6

[d]: Prov. 11:1

[e]: Ezek. 45:9,10,11; Deut. 25:13

[f]: Psa. 15:5; Luke 6:35

[g]: 1Cor. 6:10

[h]: Mat. 7:12

[i]: Prov. 5:16; Eph. 4:28