

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 3

Overview/Purpose

Exposition regarding question 6 - "Having established the proposition that human nature is depraved, or sinful, we must now enquire, did God create man thus? And if not, with what nature did he create him? And whence does this depravity of human nature proceed? The subject of the creation of man, therefore, and of the image of God in man, belongs properly to this place.

It is also proper that we should here contrast the misery of man with his original excellence: first, that the cause and origin of our misery being known, we may not impute it unto God; and secondly, that the greatness of our misery may be the more clearly seen. In proportion as this is done, will the original excellency of man become apparent; just as the benefit of deliverance becomes the more precious in the same proportion in which we are brought to apprehend the magnitude of the evil from which we have been rescued."

Exposition regarding question 7 - "Here we are to take into consideration, in the first place, the fall and first sin of man, from which the depravity of human nature proceeds; and secondly, we are to consider the subject of sin in general, and especially original sin."

Exposition regarding question 8 - "The question of the freedom of the will, or the power of the human will to obey God, and to do that which is good, is intimately connected with the subject of the misery of man, and claims our attention next in order. It is also necessary to know what ability man possessed before the fall, and what he has since, that, having a correct knowledge of the effects of the first sin, we may be the more excited to humility, and to an earnest desire for divine grace and guidance; and also to true gratitude to God. For this doctrine of the liberty of the will, brings us to a consideration, not of the ability and excellence of man, but of his weakness and misery."

"The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism", pgs 27, 33, 56.

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 27-66.

Word Definitions

• Adam	• Born	• Conceived
• Corrupt	• Create	• Creator
• Depravity	• Disobedience	• Eternal happiness
• Eve	• Fall	• First parents
• Glorify	• God	• Good
• Heartily	• Holiness	• Human nature/Nature
• Image	• Incapable	• Inclined
• Man	• Paradise	• Perverse
• Praise	• Regenerated	• Sin
• Spirit of God	• True righteousness	• Wicked
• Wickedness		

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 6. Did God then create man so wicked and perverse?

Answer. By no means; but God created man good, [a] and after his own image, in [b] true righteousness and holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love him and live with him in eternal happiness to glorify and praise him. [c]

Question 7. Whence then proceeds this depravity of human nature?

Answer. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, [d] in Paradise; hence our nature is become so corrupt, that we are all conceived and born in sin. [e]

Question 8. Are we then so corrupt that we are wholly incapable of doing any good, and inclined to all wickedness?

Answer. Indeed we are; [f] except that we are regenerated by the Spirit of God. [g]

[a]: Gen. 1:31

[b]: Gen. 1:26,27; Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:24

[c]: Eph. 1:6; 1Cor. 6:20

[d]: Gen 3:6; Rom. 5:12,18,19

[e]: Psa. 51:5; Gen. 5:3

[f]: Gen. 6:5; Job 14:4; Job 15:14,16

[g]: John 3:5; Eph. 2:5