

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 18

Overview/Purpose

We continue with the theme of the glorification of Christ, specifically focusing on the ascension of Christ into Heaven. Questions 46 through 49 provide the answers to the following questions:

Where did Christ ascend?

In what manner did Christ ascend into heaven?

For what purpose did Christ ascend into heaven?

How does the ascension of Christ differ from ours?

What are the fruits of the ascension of Christ?

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 241-253.

Word Definitions

• Absent	• Ascended	• Assumed
• Beyond	• Christ	• Continues
• Dead	• Disciples	• Earth
• End	• Follow	• Godhead
• Grace	• Heaven	• Human Nature
• Incomprehensible	• Interest	• Judge
• Limits	• Majesty	• More
• Necessarily	• Nevertheless	• One another
• Omnipresent	• Personally	• Present
• Promised	• Quick	• Remains

• Respect	• Same	• Separated
• Sight	• Since	• Spirit
• Taken	• Time	• Two natures
• Understand	• United	• Very God
• Very Man	• Wherever	• Words
• World		

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 46. How dost thou understand these words, "he ascended into heaven"?

Answer. That Christ, in sight of his disciples, was [a] taken up from earth into heaven; and that he continues [b] there for our interest, until he comes again to judge the quick and the dead.

Question 47. Is not Christ then with us even to the end of the world, as he hath promised?

Answer. Christ is very man and very God; with respect to his [c] human nature, he is no more on earth; but with respect to his Godhead, majesty, grace and spirit, he is at no time absent from us.

Question 48. But if his human nature is not present wherever his Godhead is, are not then these two natures in Christ separated from one another?

Answer. Not at all, for since the Godhead is incomprehensible and [d] omnipresent, it must necessarily follow that [e] the same is beyond the limits of the human nature he assumed, and yet is nevertheless in this human nature, and remains personally united to it.

Question 49. Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension into heaven?

Answer. First, that he is our [g] advocate in the presence of his Father in heaven; secondly, that we have our flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that he, as the head, will also [h] take up to himself, us, his members; thirdly, that he [i] sends us his Spirit as an earnest, by whose power we "seek the things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, [j] and not things on earth."

[a]: Acts 1:9; Mark 16:19

[b]: Heb. 4:14; Rom 8:34; Eph. 4:10

[c]: Acts 3:21; John 3:13; John 16:28; Mat. 28:20

[d]: Acts 7:49; Mat. 24:30

[e]: Mat. 28:20; John 16:28; John 17:11; John 3:13

[g]: Heb. 9:25; 1John 2:2; Rom. 8:34

[h]: John 14:2; Eph. 2:6

[i]: John 14:16; 2Cor. 1:22; 2Cor. 5:5

[j]: Col. 3:1; Phil. 3:20