

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 21

Overview/Purpose

Questions 54, 55, 56 provide a critical understanding of the Gospel – God has purposefully called us out of the kingdom of Satan, we now stand before God fully justified and righteous solely on the merit of Christ, and we are gathered as his people into his church.

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 285-309.

Word Definitions

• Advantage	• Agreeing	• Beginning
• Believe/Believes	• Catholic	• Cheerfully
• Chosen	• Christ	• Church
• Common	• Communion	• Concerning
• Condemned	• Corrupt nature	• Defends
• Duty	• Employ	• End
• Everlasting life	• Forgiveness	• Gathers
• Gifts	• God	• Graciously
• Himself	• Holy	• Human Race
• Impute	• Life long	• Living member
• Members	• Never	• Partakers
• Preserves	• Readily	• Remain
• Remember	• Riches	• Righteousness
• Saints	• Sake	• Salvation
• Satisfaction	• Sins	• Son of God
• Spirit	• Struggle	• Tribunal

• True faith	• Understand	• Word
• 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 54. What believest thou concerning the "holy catholic church" of Christ?

Answer. That the Son of God [a] from the [b] beginning to the end of the world, gathers, [c] defends, and [d] preserves to himself by his [e] Spirit and word, out of the [f] whole human race, a [g] church chosen to everlasting life, agreeing in true faith; and that I am and for ever shall remain, a [h] living member thereof.

Question 55. What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

Answer. First, that all and every one, who believes, being members of Christ, are in common, [i] partakers of him, and of all his riches and gifts; secondly, that every one must know it to be his duty, readily and [j] cheerfully to employ his gifts, for the advantage and salvation of other members.

Question 56. What believest thou concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?

Answer. That God, for the sake of [k] Christ's satisfaction will no more [l] remember my sins, neither my corrupt nature, against which I have to struggle all my life long; but will graciously impute to me the righteousness of Christ; that I may never be [m] condemned before the tribunal of God.

[a]: John 10:11

[b]: Gen. 26:4

[c]: Rom. 9:24; Eph. 1:10

[d]: John 10:16

[e]: Isa. 59:12

[f]: Deut 10:14,15

[g]: Acts 13:48

[h]: 1Cor. 1:8,9; Rom. 8:35ff

[i]: John 1:3,4; Rom. 8:32; 1Cor. 12:13

[j]: 1Cor. 13:5; Phil. 2:4,5,6

[k]: 1John 2:2; 2Cor. 5:19,21

[l]: Jer. 31:34; Psa. 103:3,4,10,11; Rom. 8:1,2,3

[m]: John 3:18