

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 23

Overview/Purpose

Questions 59, 60, and 61 deal with the all-important doctrine of justification by faith. A couple of items to remember:

- On our own merit, we are unrighteous before God based on the fall of Adam and Eve, who as our federal head plunged all of mankind into sin and disobedience.
- Through Christ's merits (fulfilled the requirements of the law) we are declared righteous and found justified before God.

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 324-332.

Word Definitions

• Acceptable	• Accomplished
• Account	• Accuse
• Believe	• Believing Heart
• Benefit	• Christ
• Commandments	• Committed
• Conscience	• Embrace
• Eternal Life	• Evil
• Faith	• God
• Grace	• Grants
• Grossly	• Heir

• Holiness	• Imputes
• Inclined	• Jesus Christ
• Kept	• Merit
• Obedience	• Perfect
• Profit	• Receive
• Righteous	• Righteous
• Righteous	• Righteousness
• Righteousness	• Satisfaction
• Satisfaction	• Sin
• Transgressed	• True Faith
• Worthiness	

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 23

Question 59. But what doth it profit thee now that thou believest all this?

Answer. That I am righteous in Christ, before God, and an heir of eternal life. [a]

Question 60. How are thou righteous before God?

Answer. Only [b] by a true faith in Jesus Christ; so that though my conscience accuse me, that I have grossly transgressed all the commandments of God, and [c] kept none of them, and am still [d] inclined to all evil; notwithstanding, God, without any [e] merit of mine, but only of mere [f] grace, grants [g] and [h] imputes to me, the perfect [i] satisfaction, righteousness and holiness of Christ; even so, as if I never had had, nor committed any sin: yea, as if I had fully [j] accomplished all that obedience which Christ has accomplished for me; [k] inasmuch as I embrace such benefit with a believing heart.

Question 61. Why sayest thou, that thou art righteous by faith only?

Answer. Not that I am acceptable to God, on account of the [l] worthiness of my faith; but because only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, is my righteousness before [m] God; and that I cannot receive [n] and apply the same to myself any other way than by faith only.

- [a]: Rom. 5:1; Rom. 1:17; John 3:36
- [b]: Rom. 3:22ff; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8,9
- [c]: Rom. 3:9ff
- [d]: Rom. 7:23
- [e]: Rom. 3:24
- [f]: Tit. 3:5; Eph 2:8,9
- [g]: Rom. 4:4,5; 2Cor. 5:19
- [h]: 1John 2:1
- [i]: Rom. 3:24,25
- [j]: 2Cor. 5:21
- [k]: Rom. 3:28; John 3:18
- [l]: Psa. 16:2; Eph. 2:8,9
- [m]: 1Cor. 1:30; 1Cor. 2:2
- [n]: 1John 5:10