

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 25

Overview/Purpose

“In explaining the doctrine of the Sacraments, we shall speak first of the sacraments in general, and afterwards of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, in particular. The following questions claim our attention in speaking of the sacraments in general:

- What are the sacraments?
- What are the ends thereof
- In what do the sacraments differ from sacrifices
- What have the sacraments in common with the word, and in what do they differ from ?
- In what do the sacraments of the Old and New Testament differ?
- What are the signs, and what the things signified in the sacraments, and in what do they differ?
- What is the sacramental union?
- What are sacramental forms of speech
- What is the proper use of the sacraments?
- What do the ungodly receive in the use of the sacraments?
- How many sacraments belong to the New Testament?”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 341.

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 340-356.

Word Definitions

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| • Accomplished | • Appointed | • Assures |
| • Benefits | • Christ | • Confirms |
| • Cross | • Depends | • Direct |
| • End | • Faith | • Freely |
| • Fully Declare | • Gospel | • Grants |
| • Ground | • Hearts | • Holy |
| • Holy Baptism | • Holy Ghost | • Holy Supper |
| • Instituted | • Life Eternal | • New Covenant |
| • Offered | • One Sacrifice of Christ | • Ordained |
| • Partakers | • Preaching of the Gospel | • Proceed |
| • Promise | • Remission of Sin | • Sacrament |
| • Sacraments | • Sacrifice | • Sake |
| • Salvation | • Seal/Seals | • Signs |
| • Teaches | • Testament | • Visible |
| • Word | • Works | |

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 65. Since then we are made partakers of Christ and all his benefits by faith only, whence doth this faith proceed?

Answer. From the Holy Ghost, who works [a] faith in our hearts by the preaching of the gospel, and [b] confirms it by the use of the sacraments.

Question 66. What are the sacraments?

Answer. The sacraments are holy visible signs and seals, appointed of God for this end, that by the use thereof, he may the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the gospel, vis., that he grants us freely the remission of sin, and [c] life eternal, for the sake of that one sacrifice of Christ, accomplished on the cross.

Question 67. Are both word and sacraments, then, ordained and appointed for this end, that they may direct our faith to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, as the only ground of our salvation?

Answer. Yes, indeed: for the Holy Ghost teaches us in the gospel, and assures us by the sacraments, [d] that the whole of our salvation depends upon that one sacrifice of Christ which he offered for us on the cross.

Question 68. How many sacraments has Christ instituted in the new covenant, or testament?

Answer. [e] Two: namely, holy baptism, and the holy supper.

[a]: Eph. 2:8; Eph. 6:23; Phil. 1:29

[b]: Mat. 28:19; Rom. 4:11

[c]: Gen. 17:11; Rom. 4:11; Ex. 12; Lev. 6:25; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Mat. 26:28

[d]: Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27

[e]: 1Cor. 10:2,3,4