

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 36

Overview/Purpose

“The Third Commandment consists of two parts: a prohibition and threatening. It first prohibits a rash and inconsiderate use of the name of God; yea, every abuse of the name of God, in whatever false, vain or trifling thing, which tends to cast a reproach upon God, or which does not at least have respect to his glory.”

“God adds a threatening to this commandment, to declare thereby, that this part of obedience is also one of those things, the violation of which is peculiarly displeasing to him, and which he will severely punish.”

“God does not forbid us to take or to use his name; but he forbids us to do it rashly, which is to use it lightly, falsely, and reproachfully. To use the name of the Lord lightly, is to make use of it as in ordinary talk and conversation, contrary to what Christ says, ‘Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.’ (Matt. 5:37). Falsely, as in unlawful oaths and perjury; reproachfully, as in cursing, blasphemy and sorcery, in which the works of the devil are cloaked under the name of God. The sense then, is, Thou shalt not use the name of the Lord thy God rashly; that is, thou shalt not only not forswear, but thou shalt not make any mention of the name of God that would not be honorable to him.”

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pg 536-537.

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 536-549.

Word Definitions

• Abuse	• Briefly	• Commanded
• Confessed	• Connivance	• Cursing
• Death	• Endeavor	• Fear
• Forbid	• Glorified	• God
• God's name	• Greater	• Heinous
• Holy name of God	• Horrible	• Kindled
• Lies	• Name	• Name
• Otherwise	• Partakers	• Perjury
• Prevent	• Profane	• Profaning
• Provoking	• Punished	• Rash swearing
• Required	• Reverence	• Rightly
• Silence	• Sin	• Sins
• Swearing	• Third Commandment	• Undoubtedly
• Use	• Words	• Works
• Worshipped	• Wrath	•

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!

Heidelberg Catechism

LORD'S DAY 36

Question 99. What is required in the third commandment?

Answer. That we, not only by cursing or [a] perjury, but also by [b] rash swearing, must not profane or abuse the name of [c] God; nor by silence or connivance be partakers of these horrible sins in others; and, briefly, that we use the holy name of God no otherwise than with fear and reverence; so that he may be rightly [d] confessed and [e] worshipped by us, and be glorified in all our words and works.

Question 100. Is then the profaning of God's name, by swearing and cursing, so heinous a sin, that his wrath is kindled against those who do not endeavor, as much as in them lies, to prevent and forbid such cursing and swearing?

Answer. It undoubtedly is, [f] for there is no sin greater or more provoking to God, than the profaning of his name; and therefore he has commanded this [g] sin to be punished with death.

[a]: Lev. 24:11; Lev. 19:12; Mat. 5:37; Lev. 5:4

[b]: Isa. 45:23,24

[c]: Mat. 10:32

[d]: 1Tim. 2:8

[e]: 1Cor. 3:16,17

[f]: Lev. 5:1

[g]: Lev. 24:15