

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 37

Overview/Purpose

"In these two questions the doctrine respecting the oath is explained at large.

Concerning this we must enquire,

- What is an oath?
- By whom are we to swear?
- Is it lawful for Christians to make oath?
- What are the things concerning which we are to make oath?
- Are all oaths to be kept?"

"The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism", pg 549.

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 549-556.

Word Definitions

• Bear witness	• Calling upon God	• Confirm
• Creature	• Creatures	• Demand
• Due	• Fidelity	• Founded
• Glory of God	• God's word	• Heart
• Honor	• Justly	• Lawful oath
• Magistrates	• Name of God	• Necessity
• Neighbor	• New Testament	• Oath

• Old Testament	• Punish	• Religiously
• Requires	• Safety	• Saints
• Subjects	• Swear	• Swear falsely
• Truth		

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 101. May we then swear religiously by the name of God?

Answer. Yes: either when the magistrates demand it of the subjects; or when necessity requires us thereby to confirm [a] fidelity and truth to the glory of God, and the safety of our neighbor: for such an oath is [b] founded on God's word, and therefore was justly [c] used by the saints, both in the Old and New Testament.

Question 102. May we also swear by saints or any other creatures?

Answer. No; for a lawful oath is calling upon God, as the only one who knows the heart, that he will bear witness to the truth, and punish me if I swear [d] falsely; which honor is [e] due to no creature.

[a]: Ex. 22:11; Neh. 13:25

[b]: Deut. 6:13; Heb. 6:16

[c]: Gen. 21:24; Jos. 9:15,19; 1Sam. 24:22; 2Cor. 1:23; Rom. 1:9

[d]: 2Cor. 1:23

[e]: Mat. 5:34,35