

Heidelberg Catechism

LORD'S DAY 37

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

Name : _____

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Vocabulary

Please define the following words/terms in the context of the Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 37:

Swear : _____

Name of God : _____

Subjects : _____

Necessity : _____

Confirm : _____

Fidelity : _____

Oath : _____

Saints : _____

Name : _____

Creatures : _____

Lawful oath : _____

Calling upon God : _____

Heart : _____

Bear witness : _____

Truth : _____

Swear falsely : _____

Name : _____

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Scripture Reading/Comprehension

Please read the following Bible passages and answer the questions:

1. Heb. 6:16

How does an oath before God confirm “what is said and put an end to all argument” as stated in this verse? Please explain.

2. Deut. 6:13

In whose name are we to swear by? Please explain what this means.

Name : _____

3. Mat. 5:34,35

If someone is going to swear falsely, should they swear upon heaven and earth so as not to incur the wrath of God? Please explain.
