

Heidelberg Catechism

Lord's Day 41

Overview/Purpose

“God in this commandment enjoins and sanctions the preservation of chastity and marriage, and hence authorises marriage itself; for whenever God forbids any thing, he at the same time commands and authorises the observance of that which is opposite thereto. God, now, in this commandment forbids adultery, which is a violation of conjugal fidelity. When God singles out adultery as the most shocking and debasing vice of all the sins which are repugnant to chastity, he at the same time prohibits and condemns all wandering and wanton lusts, whether they be found in married or unmarried persons, and prohibits all other sins and vices contrary to chastity, together with their causes, occasions, effects, antecedents, consequents, &c. And, on the other hand, he enjoins all those virtues which contribute to chastity. “

“The Commentary of Dr. Zacharias Ursinus on the Heidelberg Catechism”, pgs 589-590.

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 589-595.

Word Definitions

• Accursed	• Adultery	• Body
• Chastely	• Commandment	• Commands
• Desires	• Detest	• Entice
• Forbid	• Forbids	• Gestures
• God	• Gross	• Hearts
• Holy	• Holy Ghost	• Holy wedlock
• Live	• Men	• Preserve

• Pure	• Seventh Commandment	• Single Life
• Sins	• Soul	• Such like
• Teach	• Temperately	• Temples
• Thoughts	• Unchaste actions	• Uncleaness
• Words		

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 41

Question 108. What doth the seventh commandment teach us?

Answer. That all uncleanness is accursed [a] of God: and that therefore we must with all our hearts [b] detest the same, and live [c] chastely and temperately, whether in [d] holy wedlock, or in single life.

Question 109. Doth God forbid in this commandment, only adultery, and such like gross sins?

Answer. Since both our body and soul are temples of the Holy Ghost, he commands us to preserve them pure and holy: therefore he forbids all unchaste actions, [e] gestures, words, thoughts, [f] desires, and whatever [g] can entice men thereto.

[a]: Lev. 18:27

[b]: Deut. 29:20-23

[c]: 1Thes. 4:3,4

[d]: Heb. 13:4; 1Cor. 7:4-9

[e]: Eph. 5:3; 1Cor. 6:18

[f]: Mat. 5:28

[g]: Eph. 5:18; 1Cor. 15:33