

# The Heidelberg Catechism

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## LORD'S DAY 1

### 1 Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own,<sup>1</sup>  
but belong—  
body and soul,  
in life and in death—<sup>2</sup>  
to my faithful Savior, Jesus

Christ.<sup>3</sup>

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious  
blood,<sup>4</sup> and has set me free from the tyranny of the  
devil.<sup>5</sup> He also watches over me in such a way<sup>6</sup>  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven;<sup>7</sup> in fact, all  
things must work together for my salvation.<sup>8</sup> Because I belong  
to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures  
me of eternal life<sup>9</sup>  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for him.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:19-20

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 14:7-9

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14

<sup>4</sup> 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2

<sup>5</sup> John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11

<sup>6</sup> John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

<sup>8</sup> Rom. 8:28

<sup>9</sup> Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14<sup>10</sup> Rom.

8:1-17

### 2 Q. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort? A. Three things:

first, how great my sin and misery are;<sup>1</sup>  
second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;<sup>2</sup>  
third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:9-10; 1 John 1:10

<sup>2</sup> John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 5:16; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 5:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:9-10

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**Part I: Misery**

**LORD’S DAY 2**

**3 Q. How do you come to know your misery?**

**A.** The law of God tells me.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:20; 7:7-25

**4 Q. What does God’s law require of us?**

**A.** Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:37-40:

“You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your  
heart, and with all  
your soul, and  
with all your mind.”<sup>1</sup>  
This is the greatest and first commandment.

“And a second is like it:  
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’<sup>2</sup>  
“On these two commandments  
hang  
all the law and the prophets.”

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:5  
<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:18

**5 Q. Can you live up to all this perfectly?**

**A.** No.<sup>1</sup>

I have a natural tendency  
to hate God and my neighbor.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:9-20, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10  
<sup>2</sup> Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph. 2:1-3; Titus 3:3

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**LORD’S DAY 3**

**6 Q. Did God create people so wicked  
and perverse? A.** No.

God created them good<sup>1</sup> and in his own image,<sup>2</sup>  
that is, in true righteousness and holiness,<sup>3</sup>

so that they might  
truly know God their creator,<sup>4</sup>  
love him with all their heart,  
and live with God in eternal happiness,  
to praise and glorify him.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:31

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:26-27

<sup>3</sup> Eph. 4:24

<sup>4</sup> Col. 3:10

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 8

**7 Q. Then where does this corrupt human nature come from?**

**A.** The fall and disobedience of our first parents,  
Adam and Eve, in Paradise.<sup>1</sup>

This fall has so poisoned our nature<sup>2</sup>  
that we are all conceived and  
born in a sinful condition.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 3

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 5:12, 18-19

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 51:5

**8 Q. But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil? A. Yes,<sup>1</sup> unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6 <sup>2</sup> John 3:3-5

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## LORD'S DAY 4

**9 Q. But doesn't God do us an injustice by requiring in his law what we are unable to do?**

**A. No, God created human beings with the ability to keep the law.<sup>1</sup> They, however, provoked by the devil,<sup>2</sup> in willful disobedience,<sup>3</sup>**

**robbed themselves and all their descendants of these gifts.<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:31; Eph. 4:24

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 3:13; John 8:44

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 3:6

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 5:12, 18, 19

**10 Q. Does God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished? A. Certainly not. God is terribly angry with the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit.**

As a just judge,

God will punish them both now and in eternity,<sup>1</sup>

having declared:

obey "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and all the things written in the book of the law."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 34:7; Ps. 5:4-6; Nah. 1:2; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 9:27 <sup>2</sup> Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26

**11 Q. But isn't God also merciful? A. God is certainly merciful,<sup>1</sup> but also just.<sup>2</sup> God's justice demands**

**that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty— eternal punishment of body and soul.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 103:8-9

<sup>2</sup> Ex. 34:7; Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 5:4-6; Heb. 10:30-31

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 25:35-46

## *Part II: Deliverance*

### **LORD'S DAY 5**

**12 Q. According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both now and in eternity: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?**

**A.** God requires that his justice be satisfied.<sup>1</sup> Therefore the claims of this justice must be paid in full, either by ourselves or by another.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 23:7; Rom. 2:1-11

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 53:11; Rom. 8:3-4

**13 Q. Can we make this payment ourselves? A.** Certainly not. Actually, we increase our debt every day.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 6:12; Rom. 2:4-5

**14 Q. Can another creature—any at all— pay this debt for us?**

**A.** No.

To begin with,  
God will not punish any other creature  
for what a human is guilty of.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore,

no mere creature can bear the weight  
of God's eternal wrath against sin  
and deliver others from it.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ezek. 18:4, 20; Heb. 2:14-18

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 49:7-9; 130:3

**15 What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?**

**A.** One who is a true<sup>1</sup> and righteous<sup>2</sup> human,  
yet more powerful than all creatures,  
that is, one who is also true God.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:17

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Jer. 23:6; John 1:1

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### **LORD'S DAY 6**

**16 Q. Why must the mediator be a true and righteous human?**

**Q.**

**A.** God's justice demands  
that human nature, which has sinned,  
must pay for sin;<sup>1</sup>  
but a sinful human could never pay for others.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 5:12, 15; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:14-16 <sup>2</sup> Heb. 7:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:18

**17 Q. Why must the mediator also be true God?**

**A.** So that the mediator,  
by the power of his divinity,  
might bear the weight of God's wrath in his humanity  
and earn for us and restore to us  
righteousness and life.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21

**18 Q. Then who is this mediator—  
true God and at the same time a true  
and righteous human? A.** Our Lord Jesus

Christ,<sup>1</sup> who was given to us  
to completely deliver us  
and make us right with God.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 1:21-23; Luke 2:11; 1 Tim. 2:5 <sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 1:30

**19 Q. How do you come to know this? A.**

The holy gospel tells me.

God began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise;<sup>1</sup>  
later God proclaimed it  
by the holy patriarchs<sup>2</sup> and prophets<sup>3</sup>  
and foreshadowed it  
by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the  
law;<sup>4</sup> and finally God fulfilled it  
through his own beloved Son.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 3:15

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 22:18; 49:10

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 53; Jer. 23:5-6; Mic. 7:18-20; Acts 10:43; Heb. 1:1-2

<sup>4</sup> Lev. 1-7; John 5:46; Heb. 10:1-10<sup>5</sup> Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:4-5; Col. 2:17

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## LORD'S DAY 7

**20 Q. Are all people then saved through Christ  
just as they were lost through Adam?**

**A.** No.

Only those are saved  
who through true faith are  
grafted into Christ and accept  
all his benefits.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:14; John 3:16, 18, 36; Rom. 11:16-21

**21 Q. What is true faith? A.** True  
faith is

not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true  
all that God has revealed to us in Scripture;<sup>1</sup> it is  
also a wholehearted trust,<sup>2</sup>  
which the Holy Spirit creates in me<sup>3</sup> by the gospel,<sup>4</sup>  
that God has freely granted,  
not only to others but to me also,<sup>5</sup>  
forgiveness of sins,  
eternal righteousness,  
and salvation.<sup>6</sup>  
These are gifts of sheer grace,  
granted solely by Christ's merit.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21

<sup>5</sup> Gal. 2:20

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

**22 What then must a Christian believe?**

**A.** All that is promised us in the gospel,<sup>1</sup>  
a summary of which is taught us  
in the articles of our universal  
and undisputed Christian faith.

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 20:30-31

**23 Q. What are these articles?**

**A.** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit and born of the  
virgin Mary. He suffered under  
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,  
and was buried; he descended to hell.

**Q.**  
The third day he rose again from the  
dead. He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and  
the life everlasting. Amen.

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## LORD'S DAY 8

**24 Q. How are these articles divided?** **A.** Into  
three parts:

God the Father and our creation;  
God the Son and our deliverance; and  
God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

**25 Q. Since there is only one divine being,<sup>1</sup>  
why do you speak of three:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

**A.** Because that is how  
God has revealed himself in his  
Word:<sup>2</sup> these three distinct persons  
are one, true, eternal God.

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4, 6

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 3:16-17; 28:18-19; Luke 4:18 (Isa. 61:1); John 14:26; 15:26; 2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 4:6; Tit. 3:5-6

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## *God the Father*

## LORD'S DAY 9

**26 Q. What do you believe when you say, "I  
believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of  
heaven and earth"?**

**A.** That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who out of nothing created heaven and earth  
and everything in them,<sup>1</sup>  
who still upholds and rules them by his  
eternal counsel and providence,<sup>2</sup>  
is my God and Father  
because of Christ the Son.<sup>3</sup>



I trust God so much that I do not doubt  
 he will provide  
 whatever I need for body and soul,<sup>4</sup>  
 and will turn to my good whatever  
 adversity he sends upon me in this sad  
 world.<sup>5</sup>

God is able to do this because he is almighty God<sup>6</sup> and  
 desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11; Ps. 33:6; Isa. 44:24; Acts 4:24; 14:15

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 104; Matt. 6:30; 10:29; Eph. 1:11

<sup>3</sup> John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 1:5

<sup>4</sup> Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25-26; Luke 12:22-31

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 8:28

<sup>6</sup> Gen. 18:14; Rom. 8:31-39<sup>7</sup> Matt. 7:9-11

## LORD'S DAY 10

### 27 Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. The almighty and ever present power of God<sup>1</sup>  
 by which God upholds, as with his hand,  
 heaven  
 and earth  
 and all creatures,<sup>2</sup>  
 and so rules them that  
 leaf and blade,  
 rain and drought,  
 fruitful and lean years,  
 food and drink, health and  
 sickness,

prosperity and poverty—<sup>3</sup>  
all

things, in fact,  
come to us

not by chance<sup>4</sup>  
but by his fatherly hand.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-28

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 1:3

<sup>3</sup> Jer. 5:24; Acts 14:15-17; John 9:3; Prov. 22:2

<sup>4</sup> Prov. 16:33

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 10:29

**28 Q. How does the knowledge of God’s creation and providence help us?**

**A.** We can be patient when things go against us,<sup>1</sup>  
thankful when things go well,<sup>2</sup> and for the future we  
can have good confidence in our faithful God and  
Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his  
love.<sup>3</sup> For all creatures are so completely in God’s hand  
that without his will  
they can neither move nor be moved.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Job 1:21-22; James 1:3

<sup>2</sup> Deut. 8:10; 1 Thess. 5:18

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 55:22; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:38-39

<sup>4</sup> Job 1:12; 2:6; Prov. 21:1; Acts 17:24-28

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*God the Son*

**LORD’S DAY 11**

**29 Q. Why is the Son of God called “Jesus,” meaning “savior”?**

**A.** Because he saves us from our sins,<sup>1</sup>  
and because salvation should not be sought  
and cannot be found in anyone else.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 43:11; John 15:5; Acts 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 2:5

**30 Q. Do those who look for their salvation in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only savior Jesus?**

**A.** No.  
Although they boast  
of being his, by their

actions they deny                                  the  
only savior, Jesus.<sup>1</sup>

        Either Jesus is not a perfect savior,  
        or those who in true faith accept this savior  
have in him all they need for their salvation.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 1:12-13; Gal. 5:4

<sup>2</sup> Col. 1:19-20; 2:10; 1 John 1:7

## LORD'S DAY 12

### **31          Q. Why is he called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?**

**A.** Because he has been ordained by God the Father  
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit<sup>1</sup>  
to be  
        our chief prophet and teacher<sup>2</sup>  
        who fully reveals to us  
the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance;<sup>3</sup> our only  
high priest<sup>4</sup>  
  who has delivered us by the one  
sacrifice of his body,<sup>5</sup>  and who continually  
pleads our cause with the Father;<sup>6</sup>  
  and our eternal king<sup>7</sup>  
  who governs us by his  
Word and Spirit,  and who  
guards us and keeps us  
in the freedom he has won for us.<sup>8</sup>

### **32          Q. But why are you called a Christian?**

**A.** Because by faith I am a member of Christ<sup>1</sup>  
and so I share in his anointing.<sup>2</sup>  
        I am anointed  
        to confess his name,<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 3:21-22; 4:14-19 (Isa. 61:1); Heb. 1:9 (Ps. 45:7)

<sup>2</sup> Acts 3:22 (Deut. 18:15)

<sup>3</sup> John 1:18; 15:15

<sup>4</sup> Heb. 7:17 (Ps. 110:4)

<sup>5</sup> Heb. 9:12; 10:11-14

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 21:5 (Zech. 9:9)

<sup>8</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 10:28; Rev. 12:10-11

thanks,<sup>4</sup> to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of  
devil to strive with a free conscience against sin and the  
in this life,<sup>5</sup>  
and afterward to reign with Christ

over all creation  
for eternity.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 12:12-27

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28); 1 John 2:27

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; Heb. 13:15

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9

<sup>5</sup> Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 1:18-19<sup>6</sup> Matt. 25:34; 2 Tim. 2:12

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## LORD'S DAY 13

**33 Q. Why is he called God's "only begotten Son" when we also are God's children?**

**A.** Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God.<sup>1</sup>  
We, however, are adopted children of God—  
adopted by grace through Christ.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 1:1-3, 14, 18; Heb. 1

<sup>2</sup> John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5-6

**34 Q. Why do you call him "our Lord"?**

**A.** Because—  
not with gold or  
silver, but with his precious  
blood—<sup>1</sup> he has set us free  
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,<sup>2</sup>  
and has bought  
us, body  
and soul, to be  
his very own.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Pet. 1:18-19

<sup>2</sup> Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 2:14-15

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Tim. 2:5-6

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## LORD'S DAY 14

**35 Q. What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?** **A.** That the eternal Son of God,



<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:1-4; Gal. 3:13

<sup>4</sup> John 3:16; Rom. 3:24-26

**38 Q. Why did he suffer  
“under Pontius Pilate” as judge?**

**A.** So that he,  
though innocent,  
might be condemned by an earthly judge,<sup>1</sup> and so  
free us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall  
on us.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 23:13-24; John 19:4, 12-16

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 53:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13

**39 Q. Is it significant that he was “crucified” instead of dying  
some other way? A. Yes.**

By this I am convinced  
that he shouldered the curse  
which lay on me,  
since death by crucifixion was cursed by God.<sup>1</sup>

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**LORD’S DAY 16**

**40 Q. Why did Christ have to suffer death?**

**A.** Because God’s justice and truth require it:  
<sup>1</sup> nothing else could pay for our sins  
except the death of the Son of God.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 2:17

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:3-4; Phil. 2:8; Heb. 2:9

**41 Q. Why was he  
“buried”?**

**A.** His burial  
testifies that he really  
died.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53:9; John 19:38-42; Acts 13:29; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

**42 Q. Since Christ has died for us,  
why do we still have to die?**

**A.** Our death does not pay the debt of our sins.<sup>1</sup>  
Rather, it puts an end to our sinning  
and is our entrance into eternal life.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53; Matt. 26:36-46; 27:45-46; Luke 22:44; Heb. 5:7-10

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 49:7

<sup>2</sup> John 5:24; Phil. 1:21-23; 1 Thess. 5:9-10

**43 Q. What further benefit do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?**     **A. By Christ's power**

our old selves are crucified, put to death, and buried with him,<sup>1</sup> so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us,<sup>2</sup> but that instead we may offer ourselves as a sacrifice of gratitude to him.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:5-11; Col. 2:11-12

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 6:12-14

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:1-2

**44 Q. Why does the creed add, "He descended to hell"?**

**A.** To assure me during attacks of deepest dread and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of soul, on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from hellish anguish and torment.<sup>1</sup>

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## LORD'S DAY 17

**45 Q. How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?**

**A.** First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.<sup>1</sup>

Second, by his power we too are already raised to a new life.<sup>2</sup>

Third, Christ's resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:16-20; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21

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## LORD'S DAY 18

**46 Q. What do you mean by saying, "He ascended to heaven"?**

A. That Christ, while his disciples watched, was taken up from the earth into heaven<sup>1</sup> and remains there on our behalf<sup>2</sup> until he comes again to judge the living and the dead.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:34; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 7:23-25; 9:24<sup>3</sup> Acts 1:11

**47 Q. But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as he promised us?**<sup>1</sup>

A. Christ is true human and true God.

In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;<sup>2</sup>  
but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit  
he is never absent from us.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:20

<sup>2</sup> Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:16-19

**48 Q. If his humanity is not present wherever his divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?** A. Certainly not. Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere,<sup>1</sup> it is evident that

Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of  
the humanity that has been taken on,  
but at the same time his divinity is in and  
remains personally united to his humanity.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 7:48-49 (Isa. 66:1) <sup>2</sup> John 1:14; 3:13; Col. 2:9

**49 Q. How does Christ's ascension to heaven benefit us?**

A. First, he is our advocate  
in heaven  
in the presence of his Father.<sup>1</sup>

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven  
as a sure pledge that Christ our head  
will also take us, his members, up to himself.<sup>2</sup>

Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth  
as a corresponding pledge.<sup>3</sup> By the  
Spirit's power we seek not earthly

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1

<sup>2</sup> John 14:2; 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6

<sup>3</sup> John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5



things  
is,  
hand.<sup>1</sup>

but the things above, where Christ  
sitting at God's right

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## LORD'S DAY 19

**50 Q. Why the next words:  
“and is seated at the right hand of God”?**

**A.** Because Christ ascended to heaven to show there that  
he is head of his church,<sup>2</sup> the one through whom the  
Father rules all things.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 28:18; John 5:22-23

**51 Q. How does this glory of Christ our head  
benefit us?**

**A.** First, through his Holy Spirit  
he pours out gifts from heaven  
upon us his members.<sup>1</sup>

Second, by his power  
he defends us and keeps us safe  
from all enemies.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:33; Eph. 4:7-12

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 110:1-2; John 10:27-30; Rev. 19:11-16

**52 Q. How does Christ's return  
“to judge the living and the dead”  
comfort you?**

**A.** In all distress and persecution,  
with uplifted head,

I confidently await the very judge who  
has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my  
place and removed the whole curse from me.<sup>1</sup>

Christ will cast all his enemies and mine  
into everlasting condemnation,  
but will take me and all his chosen ones  
to himself  
into the joy and glory of heaven.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Col. 3:1-4

<sup>2</sup> Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:22-25; Phil. 3:20-21; Tit. 2:13-14

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:6-10

*God the Holy Spirit*

**LORD’S DAY 20**

**53 Q. What do you believe concerning “the Holy Spirit”?**

**A.** First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.<sup>1</sup>

Second, that the Spirit is given also to me,<sup>2</sup>  
so that, through true faith,  
he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits,<sup>3</sup>  
comforts me,<sup>4</sup>  
and will remain with me forever.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 4:6

<sup>3</sup> Gal. 3:14

<sup>4</sup> John 15:26; Acts 9:31<sup>5</sup> John 14:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:14

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**LORD’S DAY 21**

**54 Q. What do you believe concerning “the holy catholic church”?**

**A.** I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word,<sup>1</sup> out of the entire human race,<sup>2</sup> from the beginning of the world to its end,<sup>3</sup> gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life<sup>4</sup> and united in true faith.<sup>5</sup>

And of this community I am<sup>6</sup> and always will be<sup>7</sup> a living member.

<sup>1</sup> John 10:14-16; Acts 20:28; Rom. 10:14-17; Col. 1:18

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 26:3b-4; Rev. 5:9

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 59:21; 1 Cor. 11:26

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 16:18; John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14

<sup>5</sup> Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:1-6

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 3:14, 19-21

<sup>7</sup> John 10:27-28; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

**55 Q. What do you understand by “the communion of saints”?**

**A.** First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ

and in all his treasures and gifts.<sup>1</sup>

Second, that each member  
should consider it a duty  
to use these gifts readily  
and joyfully for the service and  
enrichment of the other  
members.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:4-7, 12-13; 1 John 1:3 <sup>2</sup> Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor.  
12:20-27; 13:1-7; Phil. 2:4-8

**56 Q. What do you believe concerning “the forgiveness of sins”?** A. I believe that God,  
because of Christ’s satisfaction, will no longer  
remember any of my sins<sup>1</sup>  
or my sinful nature  
which I need to struggle against all my life.<sup>2</sup>

Rather, by grace  
God grants me the righteousness of Christ  
to free me forever from judgment.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 103:3-4, 10, 12; Mic. 7:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; 1 John 1:7; 2:2

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 7:21-25<sup>3</sup> John 3:17-18; Rom. 8:1-2

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## LORD’S DAY 22

**57 Q. How does “the resurrection of the body” comfort you?**

A. Not only will my soul be taken  
immediately after this life to Christ its  
head,<sup>1</sup> but also my very flesh will be  
raised by the power of Christ, reunited with  
my soul, and made like Christ’s glorious  
body.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 15:20, 42-46, 54; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2

**58      How does the article      concerning**  
**“life everlasting”                      comfort**  
**you?**

**A.** Even as I already now  
experience in my heart                      the beginning of  
eternal joy,<sup>1</sup>                      so after this life I will have  
perfect blessedness such as  
no eye has seen,                      no ear has heard,  
no human heart has ever imagined:  
a blessedness in which to praise God forever.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 14:17

<sup>2</sup> John 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:9

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## LORD’S DAY 23

**59      Q. What good does it do you, however,**  
**to believe all this?**

**A.** In Christ I am righteous before God  
and heir to life everlasting.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 3:36; Rom. 1:17 (Hab. 2:4); Rom. 5:1-2

**60      Q. How are you righteous before God?**

**A.** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

Even though my conscience accuses me  
of having grievously sinned against all God’s  
commandments,                      of never having kept any of them,<sup>2</sup>  
and of still being inclined toward all evil,<sup>3</sup>  
nevertheless,  
without any merit of  
my own,<sup>4</sup>                      out of sheer  
grace,<sup>5</sup>                      God grants and credits to me  
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ,<sup>6</sup>  
as if I had never sinned nor been a  
sinner,                      and as if I had been as perfectly  
obedient                      as Christ was  
obedient for me.<sup>7</sup>  
All I need to do  
is accept this gift with a believing heart.<sup>8</sup>

## Q.

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:8-11

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 3:9-10

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 7:23

<sup>4</sup> Tit. 3:4-5

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 4:3-5 (Gen. 15:6); 2 Cor. 5:17-19; 1 John 2:1-2

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 4:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21<sup>8</sup> John 3:18; Acts 16:30-31

**61 Q. Why do you say that through faith alone you are righteous?**

**A.** Not because I please God by the worthiness of my

faith.

It is because only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me righteous before God,<sup>1</sup> and because I can accept this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than through faith.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 1:30-31

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:10; 1 John 5:10-12

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## LORD'S DAY 24

**62 Q. Why can't our good works be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of our righteousness?**

**A.** Because the righteousness which can pass God's judgment must be entirely perfect

and must in every way measure up to the divine law.<sup>1</sup>

But even our best works in this

life are imperfect

and stained with sin.<sup>2</sup>

**63 How can our good works be said to merit nothing when God promises to reward them in this life and the next?**

**A.** This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:12; Heb. 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Luke 17:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:10 (Deut. 27:26) <sup>2</sup>

Isa. 64:6

**64 Q. But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?**

**A. No.**

It is impossible  
for those grafted into Christ through true faith  
not to produce fruits of gratitude.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 6:43-45; John 15:5

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## *The Holy Sacraments*

### **LORD'S DAY 25**

**65 Q. It is through faith alone that we share in Christ and all his benefits: where then does that faith come from?**

**A. The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts<sup>1</sup>  
by the preaching of the holy gospel,<sup>2</sup>  
and confirms it  
by the use of the holy sacraments.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> John 3:5; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; Eph. 2:8

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:16

**66 Q. What are sacraments?**

**A. Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and seal that promise.<sup>1</sup>  
And this is God's gospel promise:  
to grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life  
by grace  
because of Christ's one sacrifice  
accomplished on the cross.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 17:11; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 4:11

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 26:27-28; Acts 2:38; Heb. 10:10

**67 Q. Are both the word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation? A. Yes!**

In the gospel the Holy Spirit teaches us  
and by the holy sacraments confirms that  
our entire salvation

**Q.**

rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 3:27

**68 Q. How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?**

**A.** Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

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### *Holy Baptism*

#### **LORD'S DAY 26**

**69 Q. How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?**

**A.** In this way:  
Christ instituted this outward washing<sup>1</sup>  
and with it promised that,  
as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body,  
so certainly his blood and his Spirit  
wash away my soul's impurity, that is, all my sins.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:38

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 3:11; Rom. 6:3-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**70 What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?**

**A.** To be washed with Christ's blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ's blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross.<sup>1</sup>

To be washed with Christ's Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zech. 13:1; Eph. 1:7-8; Heb. 12:24; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:5

<sup>2</sup> Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:5-8; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:11; Col. 2:11-12

**71 Q. Where does Christ promise**

**that we are washed with his blood and Spirit  
as surely as we are washed  
with the water of baptism?**

**A.** In the institution of baptism, where he says:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>1</sup>

“The one who believes and is baptized will be saved;  
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.”<sup>2</sup>

This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism  
“the water of rebirth”<sup>3</sup>  
the washing away of

and  
sins.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:19

<sup>2</sup> Mark 16:16

<sup>3</sup> Tit. 3:5

<sup>4</sup> Acts 22:16

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## **LORD’S DAY 27**

**72 Q. Does this outward washing with water  
itself wash away sins?**

**A.** No, only Jesus Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us  
from all sins.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 3:11; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 John 1:7

**73 Q. Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism  
the water of rebirth and  
the washing away of sins?**

**A.** God has good reason for these words. To begin  
with, God wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit  
of Christ take away our sins just as water  
removes dirt from the body.<sup>1</sup>

But more important,

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<sup>1</sup> Gen. 17:7; Matt. 19:14



**Q.**

God wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign,  
that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually  
as our bodies are washed with water physically.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:11; Rev. 1:5; 7:14

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27

**74 Q. Should infants also be baptized?**

**A.** Yes.

Infants as well as adults are  
included in God's covenant and people,<sup>1</sup> and they, no  
less than adults, are promised deliverance  
from sin through Christ's blood and the Holy  
Spirit who produces faith.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant,  
they too should be incorporated into the Christian church  
and distinguished from the children  
of unbelievers.<sup>2</sup>

This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision,<sup>3</sup>  
which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Isa. 44:1-3; Acts 2:38-39; 16:31

<sup>2</sup> Acts 10:47; 1 Cor. 7:14

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 17:9-14

<sup>4</sup> Col. 2:11-13

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*The Holy Supper of Jesus Christ*

**LORD'S DAY 28**

**75 Q. How does the holy supper remind and assure you**

**that you share in**

**Christ's one sacrifice on the cross**

**and in all his benefits? A.** In this way:

Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him.

With this command come these promises:<sup>1</sup>

First,

as surely as I see with my eyes

the bread of the Lord broken for me

and the cup shared with me,

so surely

me his body was offered and broken for  
and his blood poured out for me  
on the cross.

Second,

as surely as

I receive from the hand of the one who serves,

and taste with my mouth

the bread and cup of the Lord,

given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood,

so surely

he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life  
with his crucified body and poured-out blood.

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

**76 Q. What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink his poured-out blood? A.** It means

to accept with a believing heart

the entire suffering and death of Christ

and thereby

to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.<sup>1</sup>

But it means more.

in us, Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body.<sup>2</sup>  
 And so, although he is in heaven<sup>3</sup> and we are on earth, we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone.<sup>4</sup>  
 And we forever live on and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 6:35, 40, 50-54

<sup>2</sup> John 6:55-56; 1 Cor. 12:13

<sup>3</sup> Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 11:26; Col. 3:1

<sup>4</sup> 1 Cor. 6:15-17; Eph. 5:29-30; 1 John 4:13<sup>5</sup> John 6:56-58; 15:1-6; Eph. 4:15-16; 1 John 3:24

**77 Q. Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with his body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?**

**A.** In the institution of the Lord's Supper:

betrayed "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was  
 given thanks, took a loaf of bread, and when he had  
 he broke it and said,  
 'This is my body that is [broken]\* for you.  
 Do this in remembrance of me.'  
 In the same way he took the cup also, after supper,  
 saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
 Do this, as often as you drink it,  
 in remembrance of me.'  
 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
 you proclaim the Lord's  
 death until he comes."<sup>1</sup>

This promise is repeated by Paul in these words:

Christ? "The cup of blessing that we bless,  
 is it not a sharing in the blood of  
 The bread that we break,  
 is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?"

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 11:23-26

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16-17

\*The word "broken" does not appear in the NRSV text, but it was present in the original German of the Heidelberg Catechism.

body, Because there is one bread, we who are many are one for we all partake of the one bread.”<sup>2</sup>

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## LORD’S DAY 29

**78 Q. Do the bread and wine become the real body and blood of Christ?**

**A.** No.

Just as the water of baptism is not changed into Christ’s blood and does not itself wash away sins but is simply a divine sign and assurance<sup>1</sup> of these things, so too the holy bread of the Lord’s Supper does not become the actual body of Christ,<sup>2</sup> even though it is called the body of Christ<sup>3</sup> in keeping with the nature and language of sacraments.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 26:26-29

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26-28

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 17:10-11; Ex. 12:11, 13; 1 Cor. 10:1-4

**79 Q. Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood, and Paul use the words, a sharing in Christ’s body and**

**blood?** **A.** Christ has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that just as bread and wine nourish the temporal life, so too his crucified body and poured-out blood are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.<sup>1</sup>

But more important, he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit’s work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance,<sup>2</sup> and that all of his suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and made satisfaction for our sins.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 6:51, 55

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 6:5-11

**LORD’S DAY 30**

**80\* Q. How does the Lord’s Supper differ**

**from the Roman Catholic Mass?** A. The Lord’s Supper declares to us that all our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ,

which he himself accomplished on the cross once for all.<sup>1</sup> It also declares to us

that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ,<sup>2</sup> who with his true body

is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father<sup>3</sup> where he wants us to worship him.<sup>4</sup>

[But the Mass teaches that the living and the dead do not have their sins forgiven through the suffering of Christ unless Christ is still offered for them daily by the priests. It also teaches

that Christ is bodily present under the form of bread and wine where Christ is therefore to be worshiped. Thus the Mass is basically

nothing but a denial of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ and a condemnable idolatry.]\*\*

**81 Q. Who should come to the Lord’s table?**

A. Those who are displeased with themselves because of their sins, but who nevertheless trust that their sins are pardoned and that their remaining weakness

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<sup>1</sup> John 19:30; Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 25-26; 10:10-18  
<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 6:17; 10:16-17  
<sup>3</sup> Acts 7:55-56; Heb. 1:3; 8:1  
<sup>4</sup> Matt. 6:20-21; John 4:21-24; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-3

\*Q&A 80 was altogether absent from the first edition of the catechism but was present in a shorter form in the second edition. The translation here given is of the expanded text of the third edition. \*\*In response to a mandate from Synod 1998, the Christian Reformed Church’s Interchurch Relations Committee conducted a study of Q&A 80 and the Roman Catholic Mass. Based on this study, Synod 2004 declared that “Q&A 80 can no longer be held in its current form as part of our confession.” Synod 2006 directed that Q&A 80 remain in the CRC’s text of the Heidelberg Catechism but that the last three paragraphs be placed in brackets to indicate that they do not accurately reflect the official teaching and practice of today’s Roman Catholic Church and are no longer confessionally binding on members of the CRC.

The Reformed Church in America retains the original full text, choosing to recognize that the catechism was written within a historical context which may not accurately describe the Roman Catholic Church’s current stance.

is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life.

Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however, eat and drink judgment on themselves.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32

**82 Q. Should those be admitted to the Lord's Supper who show by what they profess and how they live that they are unbelieving and ungodly?** A. No, that would dishonor God's covenant and bring down God's wrath upon the entire congregation.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, according to the instruction of Christ and his apostles,

the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such people, by the official use of the keys of the kingdom, until they reform their lives.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 11:17-32; Ps. 50:14-16; Isa. 1:11-17

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## LORD'S DAY 31

**83 Q. What are the keys of the kingdom?** A. The preaching of the holy gospel and Christian discipline toward repentance.

Both of them

open the kingdom of heaven to believers and close it to unbelievers.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 16:19; John 20:22-23

**84 Q. How does preaching the holy gospel open and close the kingdom of heaven?** A. According to the command of Christ:

The kingdom of heaven is opened by proclaiming and publicly declaring to all believers, each and every one, that, as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith, God, because of Christ's merit, truly forgives all their sins.

The kingdom of heaven is closed, however, by proclaiming and publicly declaring to unbelievers and hypocrites that, as long as they do not repent, the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them.

God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come, is based on this gospel testimony.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 16:19; John 3:31-36; 20:21-23

**85 Q. How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by Christian discipline?** A. According to the command of Christ:

Those who, though called Christians, profess unchristian teachings or live unchristian lives, and who after repeated personal and loving admonitions, refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways, and who after being reported to the church, that is, to those ordained by the church for that purpose, fail to respond also to the church's admonitions—such persons the church excludes from the Christian community by withholding the sacraments from them, and God also excludes them from the kingdom of Christ.<sup>1</sup>

Such persons, when promising and demonstrating genuine reform, are received again as members of Christ and of his church.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 11-13; 2 Thess. 3:14-15

<sup>2</sup> Luke 15:20-24; 2 Cor. 2:6-11

*Part III: Gratitude*

**LORD'S DAY 32**

**86 Q. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?**

**A.** Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits,<sup>1</sup> so that he may be praised through us,<sup>2</sup> so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,<sup>3</sup> and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 7:17-18; Gal. 5:22-24; 2 Pet. 1:10-11

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-2

**87 Q. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and unrepentant ways?**

**A.** By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person, no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like will inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:1-20; 1 John 3:14

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**LORD'S DAY 33**

**88 Q. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?**

**A.** Two things:

the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.<sup>1</sup> **89 Q. What is the dying-away of the old self?** **A.** To be genuinely sorry

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10



for sin and more and more to hate  
and run away from it.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 51:3-4, 17; Joel 2:12-13; Rom. 8:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:10

**90 Q. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?**

**A.** Wholehearted joy in God through Christ<sup>1</sup>  
and a love and delight to live according  
to the will of God by doing every  
kind of good work.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa.57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17 <sup>2</sup> Rom.  
6:10-11; Gal. 2:20

**91 Q. What are good works? A.**

Only those which are  
done out of true faith,<sup>1</sup>  
conform to God’s law,<sup>2</sup> and  
are done for God’s glory;<sup>3</sup> and  
not those based on our own  
opinion or human tradition.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 15:5; Heb. 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eph. 2:10

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 10:31

<sup>4</sup> Deut. 12:32; Isa. 29:13; Ezek. 20:18-19; Matt. 15:7-9

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***The Ten Commandments***

**LORD’S DAY 34**

**92 Q. What is God’s law?**

**A.** God spoke all these words:

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

“I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out  
of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods  
before me.”

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

“You shall not make for yourself an idol,  
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in  
the water under the earth.



“You shall not bear false witness  
against your neighbor.”

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house;  
you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,  
or male or female slave, or  
ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your  
neighbor.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21

**93 Q. How are these commandments divided?** **A.** Into  
two tables.

The first has four commandments, teaching us  
how we ought to live in relation to God. The second has six  
commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 22:37-39

**94 Q. What does the Lord require  
in the first commandment?**

**A.** That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation,  
avoid and shun

all idolatry,<sup>1</sup> sorcery, superstitious rites,<sup>2</sup>  
and prayer to saints or to other creatures.<sup>3</sup>

That I rightly know the only true God,<sup>4</sup>  
trust him alone,<sup>5</sup>

and look to God for every good thing<sup>6</sup>  
humbly<sup>7</sup> and patiently,<sup>8</sup>

and love,<sup>9</sup> fear,<sup>10</sup> and honor<sup>11</sup> God  
with all my heart. In short,

that I give up anything  
rather than go against God’s will in any way.<sup>12</sup>

**95 Q. What is idolatry?** **A.** Idolatry is

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 10:5-14; 1 John 5:21

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:9-12

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9

<sup>4</sup> John 17:3

<sup>5</sup> Jer. 17:5, 7

<sup>6</sup> Ps. 104:27-28; James 1:17

<sup>7</sup> 1 Pet. 5:5-6

<sup>8</sup> Col. 1:11; Heb. 10:36

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 22:37 (Deut. 6:5)

<sup>10</sup> Prov. 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:17

<sup>11</sup> Matt. 4:10 (Deut. 6:13)

<sup>12</sup> Matt. 5:29-30; 10:37-39

having or inventing something in which one trusts  
in place of or alongside of the only true God,  
who has revealed himself in the Word.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Chron. 16:26; Gal. 4:8-9; Eph. 5:5; Phil. 3:19

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## LORD'S DAY 35

### 96 Q. What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

A. That we in no way make any image of God<sup>1</sup>  
nor worship him in any other way than has been  
commanded in God's Word.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 4:15-19; Isa. 40:18-25; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:22-23 <sup>2</sup> Lev. 10:1-7; 1 Sam.  
15:22-23; John 4:23-24

### 97 Q. May we then not make any image at all?

A. God can not and may not be  
visibly portrayed in any way.

Although creatures may be portrayed, yet  
God forbids making or having such images if one's  
intention is to worship them or to serve God  
through them.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 34:13-14, 17; 2 Kings 18:4-5

98 Q. But may not images be permitted in churches in  
place of books for the unlearned? A. No, we should not try to be  
wiser than God. God wants the Christian community  
instructed by the living preaching of his Word—<sup>1</sup>  
not by idols that cannot even talk.<sup>2</sup>

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## LORD'S DAY 36

### 99 Q. What is the aim of the third commandment?

A. That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God  
by cursing,<sup>1</sup> perjury,<sup>2</sup> or unnecessary oaths,<sup>3</sup> nor share in  
such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rom. 10:14-15, 17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19

<sup>2</sup> Jer. 10:8; Hab. 2:18-20

In summary,  
 we should use the holy name  
 of God only with reverence  
 and awe,<sup>5</sup> so that we may  
 properly confess  
 God,<sup>6</sup>  
 pray to God,<sup>7</sup>  
 and glorify God in all our words and works.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lev. 24:10-17

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:12

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 5:37; James 5:12

<sup>4</sup> Lev. 5:1; Prov. 29:24

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 99:1-5; Jer. 4:2

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

<sup>7</sup> Ps. 50:14-15; 1 Tim. 2:8<sup>8</sup> Col. 3:17

**100 Q. Is blasphemy of God’s name by swearing and cursing  
 really such serious sin**

**that God is angry also with those  
 who do not do all they can to  
 help prevent and forbid it?**

**A.** Yes, indeed.<sup>1</sup> No sin is greater or provokes  
 God’s wrath more than blaspheming his name.

That is why God commanded it to be punished with death.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lev. 5:1

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 24:10-17

**LORD’S DAY 37**

**101 Q. But may we swear an oath in God’s name  
 if we do it reverently?**

**A.** Yes, when the government demands it,  
 or when necessity requires it,

in order to maintain and promote truth and  
 trustworthiness for God’s glory and our neighbor’s good.

Such oaths are grounded in God’s Word<sup>1</sup>  
 and were rightly used by the people of God  
 in the Old and New Testaments.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Jer. 4:1-2; Heb. 6:16

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25; 1 Cor. 9:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:13-17; Tit. 1:5

<sup>2</sup> Deut. 12:5-12; Ps. 40:9-10; 68:26; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 21:24; Josh. 9:15; 1 Kings 1:29-30; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23

**102 Q. May we also swear by saints or other creatures?**

**A. No.**

God                                    A legitimate oath means calling upon  
as the only one who knows my heart  
to witness to my truthfulness  
and to punish me if I swear falsely.<sup>1</sup>  
No creature is worthy of such honor.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:23

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 5:34-37; 23:16-22; James 5:12

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**LORD’S DAY 38**

**103 Q. What is God’s will for you  
in the fourth commandment? A. First,**

rest,                                    that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained,<sup>1</sup>  
people<sup>2</sup>                                    and that, especially on the festive day of  
teaches,<sup>1</sup>                                    I diligently attend the assembly of God’s  
sacraments,<sup>2</sup>                                    to learn what God’s Word  
publicly,<sup>3</sup>                                    to participate in the  
offerings for the poor.<sup>4</sup>                                    to pray to God  
and to bring Christian

Second,

my life                                    that every day of  
from my evil ways,                                    I rest  
through his Spirit,                                    let the Lord work in me  
life                                    and so begin in this  
the eternal Sabbath.<sup>5</sup>

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**LORD’S DAY 39**

**104 Q. What is God’s will for you  
in the fifth commandment?**

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Cor. 14:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:13

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 11:23-25

<sup>3</sup> Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:1

<sup>4</sup> Ps. 50:14; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9

<sup>5</sup> Isa. 66:23; Heb. 4:9-11

**A.** That I honor, love, and be loyal to my father and mother and all those in authority over me; that I submit myself with proper obedience to all their good teaching and discipline;<sup>1</sup> and also that I be patient with their failings—<sup>2</sup> for through them God chooses to rule us.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 21:17; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; Rom. 13:1-2; Eph. 5:21-22; 6:1-9; Col. 3:18- 4:1

<sup>2</sup> Prov. 20:20; 23:22; 1 Pet. 2:18

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-8; Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-21

## LORD'S DAY 40

### 105 Q. What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

**A.** I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor— not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture, and certainly not by actual deeds— and I am not to be party to this in others;<sup>1</sup> rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.<sup>2</sup>

I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.<sup>3</sup>

Prevention of murder is also why government is armed with the sword.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 9:6; Lev. 19:17-18; Matt. 5:21-22; 26:52

<sup>2</sup> Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 18:35; Rom. 12:19; Eph. 4:26

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 4:7; 26:52; Rom. 13:11-14<sup>4</sup> Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:14; Rom. 13:4

**106 Q. Does this commandment refer only to murder?** **A.** By forbidding murder God teaches us that he hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.<sup>1</sup>

In God's sight all such are disguised forms of murder.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Prov. 14:30; Rom. 1:29; 12:19; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 John 2:9-11 <sup>2</sup> 1 John 3:15

**107 Q. Is it enough then that we do not murder our neighbor in any such way?** **A.** No.

By condemning envy, hatred, and anger God wants us

to love our neighbors as ourselves,<sup>1</sup>

to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them,<sup>2</sup>

from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:12; 22:39; Rom. 12:10

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 5:3-12; Luke 6:36; Rom. 12:10, 18; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:8<sup>3</sup> Ex. 23:4-5; Matt. 5:44-45; Rom. 12:20-21 (Prov. 25:21-22)

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## LORD'S DAY 41

**108 Q. What does the seventh commandment teach us?      A.** That God condemns all unchastity,<sup>1</sup> and that therefore we should thoroughly detest it<sup>2</sup> and live decent and chaste lives,<sup>3</sup> within or outside of the holy state of marriage.

<sup>1</sup> Lev. 18:30; Eph. 5:3-5

<sup>2</sup> Jude 22-23

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 7:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4

**109 Q. Does God, in this commandment,      forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?**

**A.** We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy. That is why God forbids all unchaste actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires,<sup>1</sup> and whatever may incite someone to them.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:27-29; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Eph. 5:3-4 <sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:18

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## LORD'S DAY 42

**110 Q. What does God forbid      in the eighth commandment?**

**A.** God forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law.<sup>1</sup>

But in God's sight theft also includes all scheming and swindling in order to get our neighbor's goods for ourselves, whether by force or means that appear legitimate,<sup>2</sup> such as

inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume;  
fraudulent merchandising;  
counterfeit money;  
excessive interest;      or  
any other means forbidden by God.<sup>3</sup>



In addition God forbids all greed<sup>4</sup>  
and pointless squandering of his gifts.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 22:1; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:9-10

<sup>2</sup> Mic. 6:9-11; Luke 3:14; James 5:1-6

<sup>3</sup> Deut. 25:13-16; Ps. 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 12:22; Ezek. 45:9-12; Luke 6:35

<sup>4</sup> Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:5

<sup>5</sup> Prov. 21:20; 23:20-21; Luke 16:10-13

**111 Q. What does God require of you in  
this commandment?**

A. That I do whatever I can  
for my neighbor's good, that I treat others  
as I would like them to treat me, and that I  
work faithfully so that I may share with those  
in need.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 58:5-10; Matt. 7:12; Gal. 6:9-10; Eph. 4:28

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**LORD'S DAY 43**

**112 Q. What is the aim of the ninth commandment?**

A. That I  
never give false testimony against anyone,  
twist no one's words,  
not gossip or slander,  
nor join in condemning anyone  
rashly or without a hearing.<sup>1</sup>

Rather, in court and everywhere else,  
I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind;  
these are the very devices the devil uses,  
and they would call down on me God's intense wrath.<sup>2</sup>  
I should love the truth,  
speak it candidly,  
and openly acknowledge it.<sup>3</sup> And I  
should do what I can  
to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:11-12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25

<sup>4</sup> 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8

## LORD'S DAY 44

**113 Q. What is the aim of the tenth commandment?**      **A.** That not even the slightest desire or thought contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in our hearts.

Rather, with all our hearts we should always hate sin and take pleasure in whatever is right.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23-24; Rom. 7:7-8

**114 Q. But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly?**

**A.** No.

In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience.<sup>1</sup>

Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose, they do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God's commandments.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:9; 1 John 1:8-10

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 7:22-25; Phil. 3:12-16

**115 Q. Since no one in this life can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly,**

**why does God want them preached so pointedly?**

**A.** First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our sinfulness and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.<sup>1</sup>      Second, so that we may never stop striving,

and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, to be renewed more and more after God's image, until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 32:5; Rom. 3:19-26; 7:7, 24-25; 1 John 1:9

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 3:1-3

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<sup>1</sup> Ps. 145:18-20; John 4:22-24; Rom. 8:26-27; James 1:5; 1 John 5:14-15 <sup>2</sup> 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 2:11; 34:18; 62:8; Isa. 66:2; Rev. 4

## *The Lord's Prayer*

### LORD'S DAY 45

#### **116 Q. Why do Christians need to pray?**

**A.** Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.<sup>1</sup> And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking God for them.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 50:14-15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18 <sup>2</sup> Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13

#### **117 Q. What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?**

**A.** First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for.<sup>1</sup>

Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence.<sup>2</sup>

Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it,

God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord.

That is what God promised us in his Word.<sup>1</sup>

#### **118 Q. What did God command us to pray for?**

**A.** Everything we need, spiritually and physically,<sup>1</sup> as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord himself taught us.

<sup>1</sup> James 1:17; Matt. 6:33

#### **119 Q. What is this prayer?**

**A.** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we

<sup>1</sup> Dan. 9:17-19; Matt. 7:8; John 14:13-14; 16:23; Rom. 10:13; James 1:6



Help us to truly know you,<sup>1</sup> to  
honor, glorify, and praise you for all your  
works and for all that shines forth from them:  
your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,  
justice, mercy, and truth.<sup>2</sup>

And it means,

Help us to direct all our living—  
what we think, say, and do—  
so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us  
but always honored and praised.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 9:23-24; 31:33-34; Matt. 16:17; John 17:3

<sup>2</sup> Ex. 34:5-8; Ps. 145; Jer. 32:16-20; Luke 1:46-55, 68-75; Rom. 11:33-36<sup>3</sup> Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16

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## LORD'S DAY 48

**123 Q. What does the second petition mean?** A. “Your kingdom come” means:

Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way  
that more and more we submit to you.<sup>1</sup>

Preserve your church and make it grow.<sup>2</sup>

Destroy the devil's work; destroy every  
force which revolts against you and every conspiracy  
against your holy Word.<sup>3</sup> Do this until your kingdom fully  
comes,

when you will  
be all in  
all.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 119:5, 105; 143:10; Matt. 6:33

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 122:6-9; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42-47

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:28; Rev. 22:17, 20

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## LORD'S DAY 49

**124 Q. What does the third petition mean?**

A. “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” means:

Help us and all people to  
reject our own wills and to obey your will  
without any back talk. Your will alone is good.<sup>1</sup>

Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,<sup>2</sup>  
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1-2; Tit. 2:11-12

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9<sup>3</sup> Ps. 103:20-21

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## LORD'S DAY 50

### 125 Q. What does the fourth petition mean?

A. "Give us this day our daily bread" means:

Do take care of all our physical needs<sup>1</sup>  
so that we come to know  
that you are the only source of everything  
good,<sup>2</sup> and that neither our work and worry  
nor your gifts  
can do us any good without your blessing.<sup>3</sup>

And so help us to give up our trust in creatures  
and trust in you alone.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 104:27-30; 145:15-16; Matt. 6:25-34

<sup>2</sup> Acts 14:17; 17:25; James 1:17

<sup>3</sup> Deut. 8:3; Ps. 37:16; 127:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58

<sup>4</sup> Ps. 55:22; 62; 146; Jer. 17:5-8; Heb. 13:5-6

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## LORD'S DAY 51

### 126 Q. What does the fifth petition mean?

A. "Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors" means:

Because of Christ's blood,  
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,  
any of the sins we do  
or the evil that constantly clings to us.<sup>1</sup>

Forgive us just as we are fully determined,  
as evidence of your grace in us, to forgive our neighbors.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ps. 103:14-16; John 15:1-5

<sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. 11:14; Eph. 6:10-13; 1 Pet. 5:8

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 51:1-7; 143:2; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 2:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35

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## LORD'S DAY 52

### 127 Q. What does the sixth petition mean?

A. "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one" means:

By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment.<sup>1</sup> And our sworn enemies—

the devil,<sup>2</sup> the world,<sup>1</sup> and our own flesh—<sup>2</sup> never stop attacking us.

And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle,<sup>3</sup> but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.<sup>4</sup>

**128 Q. What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?** A. "For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever" means:

We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good;<sup>5</sup> and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 10:11-13; 2 Pet. 2:9 <sup>2</sup> Ps. 115:1; John 14:13

### 129 Q. What does that little word "Amen" express? A. "Amen" means:

This shall truly and surely be!

It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer than that I really desire what I pray for.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 15:18-21

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 10:19-20; 26:41; Mark 13:33; Rom. 5:3-5

<sup>4</sup> 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23

<sup>5</sup> Isa. 65:24; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:13