

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
August 2024

I. Question and Answer 92

- A. *Begin by reciting the Ten Commandments in the shortened form* (e.g. The first commandment is, “You shall have no other gods before me,” the second commandment is, “You shall not make any images of God,” etc.).
- B. *The question asks, “what is the Law of God?” Does this question presume that there are no other laws in the Bible?*
No, any commandment of God is law.
- C. *Into what context do the Ten Commandments fall?*
They are a part of the Mosaic Covenant given to Israel. They still apply today in the context of the New Covenant, which means that Christ took on the punishment for our disobedience to these laws. Nevertheless, we are obligated to obey them out of gratitude for Christ and his work of salvation for us.

II. Question and Answer 93

Question and Answer 93 about the division of the Ten Commandments is very short, straightforward and helpful. This answer should be memorized.

III. Question and Answer 94

- A. *What is sorcery?*
It is the use of magic or the attempt to ask for help from evil spirits. It is to ask for the power of God from another source other than God. Clearly this is evil.
- B. *What are enchantments?*
There are different senses of this word. Often, in our present culture, we say someone is “enchanting,” meaning beautiful and pleasing. But the Heidelberg is speaking of another sense meaning the attempt to influence something or someone with a magical spell. This too is sinful for trying to use great power for evil.
- C. *What does it mean to invoke the saints?*
This is to pray to dead Christians with the false belief that they can help us. But we are commanded in the Word of God to pray to God only through Christ. There is nothing in the Scriptures to lead one to the conclusion that the dead can hear our prayers.
- D. *Read question and answer 94 carefully. Discuss with your family why this is the first commandment and why it is so important. Discuss why you would want to obey this commandment (gratitude for Christ) and what practical value it has.*