

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
September 2024

* Read each question and answer before discussing them according to the prompts below.

I. Question and Answer 95

Idolatry, most simply, is putting your trust in something or someone who is not God. *Discuss with your family what idols you struggle with (e.g. money, fame, power, other people, etc.).*

II. Question and Answer 96

A. *According to this question and answer, how does the second commandment differ from the first commandment?*

The first commandment addresses the sin of idolatry and the second commandment addresses the issue of iconolatry, which is the sin of wrong worship.

B. *How do we know how to worship God in the church?*

According to what God has commanded in his Word. This principle in Reformed theology is called “The Regulative Principle.”

C. *Read and discuss Exodus chapter 32 about the worship of the Golden Calf. This is an example of Israel breaking both the first and second commandment. In particular, it is an egregious example of breaking the second commandment, which in this case, was worshiping the right God (who was on top of Mt. Sinai) through the wrong means (the Golden Calf).*

III. Question and Answer 97

Why can't God be imaged?

Because God has no physical image. Therefore, any physical image will necessarily be an idolatrous guessing game at what he might look like if he could be imaged. We say this would be idolatrous because we would be creating God according to an image we would be satisfied with. While we were created in God's moral image, there is not analogous physical image. The Son of God took to himself a real human body and soul but to create a physical image of Jesus Christ is a) to guess what he looks like and b) will present the possibility of an image to worship, rather than the true Christ in heaven.

IV. Question and Answer 98

Sunday corporate worship is focused on the preaching of the Word of God because “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Pictures of Jesus in the worship service or in books cause us to stray from a focus on the Word of God.