

**High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement**  
October 2024

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

I. Question and Answer 99

- A. *What does the catechism answer mean by “cursing?”*  
It is to use God’s name carelessly. This would include using God’s name to curse someone; it is to ask God to harm someone for our own purposes.
- B. *The catechism teaches that being silence when others break the third commandment is a sin. What should we do when others break this commandment?*  
We should confront them about their sin.
- C. *What does the word “connivance” mean?*  
It is the willingness to allow, in secret, some wrong doing.
- D. *What is “false swearing?”*  
This means to commit perjury. To commit perjury is intentionally to lie under oath as in a courtroom. The courtroom oath takes place in the context that we are making an oath before God. In this situation or others like it, to perjure is to use God’s name to cover up a lie.

II. Question and Answer 100

- A. *This question and answer argues that breaking the third commandment is profaning God’s name. What does that mean?*  
It is to treat God’s name as if it were a common name and not sacred.
- B. *The question and answer explains that the sin of profaning God’s name is one of the worse sins we can commit. Why is that?*  
It is because God’s name reveals who he is, holy and triune. To profane God’s name is to deny what is true about God.

III. Question and Answer 101

- A. *In what cases can we swear reverently by the name of God, which actually fulfills the third commandment?*  
We can swear rightly if we are in court and asked to make a vow to the truthfulness of our statements. This can happen in non-legal situations as well.
- B. *As a family discuss specific situations in which you might break the third commandments and how to avoid those situations.*