

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
November 2024

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

I. [Question and Answer 102](#)

- A. *What does the catechism answer mean by “swearing?”*
It is not speaking of using bad language. Rather, “to swear” is to make a promise or an oath.
- B. *Who are the saints?*
In certain church traditions, people who have been particularly righteous and then die are given a high status in heaven such that they can allegedly help Christians in this life. There is no biblical ground for this belief. Rather, all Christians are saints or holy because of the work of Christ applied to them.

II. [Question and Answer 103](#)

- A. *What is the shortened form of the fourth commandment and where is it found in the Bible?*
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, [Exodus 20:8](#).
- B. *What schools is the catechism speaking of?*
Seminaries in which ministers of the Word are trained to lead worship on the Lord’s Day.
- C. *What does the fourth commandment essentially command?*
It commands that we be in church every Sunday to worship the Triune God. And this rest each Sunday signifies the eternal rest we have in Christ.
- D. *Is it permitted to miss church occasionally, to take a break?*
No. God’s command is that we worship him every Sunday. We may miss if we are sick or if there is a demand for a work of mercy, to help someone in distress.

III. [Question and Answer 104](#)

- A. *What is the shortened form of the fifth commandment and where is it found in the Bible?*
Honor your father and your mother, [Exodus 20:12](#).
- B. *In addition to father and mother, to whom must we show honor, love and faithfulness?*
“To all in authority over me.” Also, an important qualification: we must bear patiently with the infirmities (weakness) of our authorities since it is God’s will to govern us by their hand.