

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
February 2025

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

I. Question and Answer 112

- A. *What is the ninth commandment and where is it found in the Old Testament?*
“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” [Ex. 20:16, Deut. 5:20.](#)
- B. *Summarize what is prohibited in the ninth commandment according to the catechism answer.*
Not to lie to anyone or deceive them, twist no one’s words (i.e. recount what they said in your mind or to others an inaccurate representation of their words), no backbiting or slander (no gossiping) and do not condemn others unheard or rashly (not considering the other person’s side carefully).
- C. *Summarize what is prescribed in the ninth commandment according to the catechism answer.*
Loving others, speaking honestly, confessing the truth and promoting my neighbor’s good name (That the catechism calls our neighbor’s name “good” presumes that we are to trust our neighbors acknowledging God’s work of common grace among all people).

II. Question and Answers 113 and 114

- A. *What is the tenth commandment and where is it found stated explicitly in the Old Testament?*
“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.” [Ex. 20:17, Deut. 5:21.](#)
- B. *What is the tenth commandment about?*
The catechism answer is helping us to understand that wrong desires are sinful (no inclination or thought against any commandment of God). For example, desires for food and sleep are good but the desire for excessive consumption of food and for excessive sleep (so that you can’t work) are wrong desires.
- C. *What is the point of question and answer 114?*
The point is that Christians can never reach the state of perfection in which they obey all of God’s commandments all the time. But out of gratitude for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Christians follow the Ten Commandments as a guide to obeying our Lord.