

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
August 2025

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

I. Question and Answer 4

Q/A 3 explains that we know our misery from the Law of God. What is your summary of what the answer is in Q/A 4 about what the Law of God requires of us?

We are to love God and neighbor perfectly.

What does it mean to love God and neighbor perfectly?

It means that we are always to obey God in our thoughts and actions, and we are always to do what is best for our neighbor in our actions and to think of him rightly.

II. Question and Answer 5

We can't keep the Law perfectly because we are prone by nature to hate God and neighbor. Is that true?

Yes. If we don't constantly love God and neighbor then we hate them. We may not have the emotion of hatred, but we hate them in the sense of not perfectly loving them.

III. Question and Answer 6

Q/A 6 is addressing the issue of fairness. It may seem to us that it is not fair that God requires something of us that we can't do: obey the Law perfectly. Another way to put question 6 is to ask, is it God's fault that man can't obey the Law perfectly? Summarize the answer to the question put in this way.

No, it is not God's fault that man cannot obey the Law perfectly. God created man good, righteous and holy. God created man to know God, love him and live with him forever worshipping him.

IV. Question and Answer 7

Another way to state question 7 is to ask, "Whose fault is it that man cannot obey God's Law perfectly?"

The answer is that it is man's fault. When Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, we all fell into sin so that all people are conceived and born in sin. More specifically, since Adam is the head of the human race, when he sinned, his sin was imputed to all people so that all people have a sin nature. All people sin because all people are sinners.