

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
September 2025

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

I. Question and Answer 8

Q/A 8 asks: But are we so depraved that we are completely incapable of any good and prone to all evil? The answer is: Yes, unless we are born again by the Spirit of God. So, is the question and answer stating that we can do no good and can only do evil?

Yes, with respect to doing any good that would be acceptable to God for salvation. Likewise, to attempt to do good for salvation is evil for it denies the sacrifice for sins that Christ accomplished on the cross for us. Otherwise, people can do civil and social good that is good for neighbor, and we don't always do evil things.

II. Question and Answer 9

What is question and answer 9 really asking and stating about God's requirement to obey the Law of God and man's inability to obey the Law?

God gave the ability to obey God's Law to Adam and Eve, our first parents. After all, they were righteous, holy and had a knowledge of God that gave them this ability. But since Adam is the federal head of the human race, when he sinned God imputed his sin to all people so that all people naturally sin and disobey God.

III. Question and Answer 10

Another way to state the point of question and answer 10, is to ask if God will turn a blind eye to sin? After all, we have no choice but to sin.

The answer to question 10 is based on the Scriptures, which state clearly that God must punish sinners (all people) body and soul in hell. Because God is just and can't change his nature, he must punish sinners. The answer sets us up to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which focuses on his crucifixion and resurrection that takes away our sins.