

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
November 2025

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

I. Question and Answer 14

Q/A 11 states that no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and redeem others from it. What is the Scriptural basis for this statement?

Hebrews 10:4 reveals that it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take sin away. Israel's sacrificial system only allowed the temporary reprieve from God's wrath, otherwise, God's wrath would remain on people.

II. Question and Answer 15

Why is it that only a true and righteous man and one who is true God can only be a perfect mediator and redeemer for humanity?

This is what God had revealed in the Scriptures as question and answers 16 and 17 state.

III. Question and Answer 16

Question and answer 16 states that our redeemer must be a true and righteous man because one who is himself a sinner cannot satisfy God's justice. Why?

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments reveal that a perfect sacrifice can only satisfy God's justice. This is illustrated in the Old Testament as God required the Israelites to offer animals for sacrifice who were pure without imperfections.

IV. Question and Answer 17

How do we explain answer 17 that says our mediator and redeemer must also be true God?

If our mediator and redeemer were only a true and righteous man, he would be swallowed up by God's wrath, which is infinite. Jesus was and is true and righteous without sin with a human nature like ours, which means he would be decimated if he endured God's eternal wrath. But Jesus was and is true God. Therefore, at the cross, Jesus' divine nature allowed him to endure the eternal wrath of God that belonged to us. This happened without Jesus' human nature becoming divine; Jesus' two nature remained distinct yet united.