

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
January 2026

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

I. Question and Answer 21

What are the three elements of true faith?

The three elements of true faith are knowledge, assent and hearty trust. Knowledge (“sure knowledge”) refers to the content of the Scriptures related to God, Christ and salvation. Assent (“holding for truth”) is believing the content of the Scriptures are true, not just facts. Hearty trust refers to the quality of faith that completely and utterly relies on Jesus Christ for salvation alone.

How do we attain true faith?

“The Holy Spirit works this in us by the Gospel.” That is, the Holy Spirit creates faith in us through the preaching of the Word of God.

II. Question and Answer 22

According to answer 22, what is the focus of our faith and where is it summarized?

The focus of our faith is the Gospel. The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures (see 1 Corinthians 15:3,4). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is summarized in the articles of our catholic, undoubted Christian faith.

III. Question and Answer 23

What does the Catechism mean by our “catholic, undoubted Christian faith?”

The word “catholic” refers to the universal Christian faith, which is in no doubt to those with true faith world-wide. This usage of the word “catholic” is not restricted to the Roman Catholic Church.

What are “these articles?”

“These articles” refer to the Apostles’ Creed, which the Catechism will explain in question and answers 24-58.