

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
April 2026

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

I. Question and Answer 31

This question and answer states that Jesus Christ holds three offices. What are they?

Jesus is our Prophet, Priest and King.

In what way does Jesus fulfill these three offices?

As Prophet (and Teacher), Jesus has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption. As Priest (our only High Priest) Jesus, by the one sacrifice of his body, has redeemed us, and ever lives to make intercession for us with the Father. As King (our eternal King) Jesus governs us by his Word and Spirit, and defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.

II. Question and Answer 32

What does the catechism mean that we are Christians because by faith we are members of Christ and thus a partaker of his anointing?

One scholar says, “To be a member of Christ is to be engrafted into him, and to be united to him by the same Holy Spirit dwelling in him and in us, and by this Spirit to be made a possessor of such righteousness and life as is in Christ; and to be made acceptable to God on account of the righteousness of Christ imputed unto us by faith.”

For what purpose of made members off Christ and are partakers of his anointing?

First, that we may confess his Name, second, that we may present ourselves as living sacrifices of thankfulness to him, third, that we may with a free conscience right against sin and the devil in this life and fourth, that we may hereafter in eternity reign with him over all creatures.

III. Question and Answer 33

How do we explain the difference between Christ being the eternal, natural Son of God and us as children of God?

The catechism, in summarizing the Scriptures, is helping us to understand that Christ is eternal God (fully divine) and we are creatures redeemed by Christ and adopted as his children.