

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement
May 2026

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

I. Question and Answer 34

What is at issue with our calling Jesus Christ our Lord?

The issue is that because we are sinners and don't like authority, we tend to balk at Jesus Christ ruling us. But our attitude will change to accept Jesus' authority over us when we understand that Jesus sacrificially loved us at the cross by shedding his precious blood to redeem us from sin and from all the power of the devil to be his own.

II. Question and Answer 35

Question 35 asks about the conception of Christ by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary. What does the answer tell us about the two natures of Christ related to this conception and birth?

The answer helps us to understand that Jesus Christ does in fact have two natures: He was and is fully God and fully man. The eternal Son of God has always been God and even after his conception and birth, remained God. After the conception and birth, the Son of God took on flesh and blood without confusing the two natures.

III. Question and Answer 36

Question 36 asks what benefit we receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ. Play out the implications of the answer.

Only Jesus Christ, perfect God and man in one Person, could cover our sin in the sight of God. After all, we were conceived in sin, which is to say, we were born with a sin nature and will sin necessarily. Given our nature and inability to atone for our sin, we see our need for the sacrificial death of Jesus.

IV. Question and Answer 37

When in Christ's life did he bear the wrath of God?

All the time he lived on earth but especially at the end of his life on the cross.

What did Christ's bearing the wrath of God accomplish?

The redemption of our body and soul from everlasting damnation and granting us eternal life.