

High Desert URC – Heidelberg Catechism Supplement

July 2026

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

I. Question and Answer 41

When the church speaks of Christ's work to save us, we focus on his crucifixion; this focus is right. We also focus on the resurrection of Christ, which is right and good. But we tend to ignore that Christ was also buried. Question and answer 41 teaches us that the significance of Christ's burial is the fact of his death. Why is this important for us to confess as a church?

The Scriptures teach that through Adam's sin, death was brought into the world (see Romans 5:12). All people, without exception, have a death sentence that cannot be avoided. 1 Corinthians 15:26 teaches us that death is the last enemy to be destroyed. Animals also die but they are spared the horror of its approach; we are not. Our hope as Christians is found in the truth that Jesus Christ experienced real death and overcame it in his resurrection. Jesus did not fall asleep or fake his death; he truly and really died yet was raised to life, which means we will be raised bodily on the Final Day!

II. Question and Answer 42

This question and answer teaches us that our death is not a satisfaction for our sin (since Christ's death satisfied for our sin). We must die to die to sin and enter eternal life. What is the significance of this teaching?

This is good news! We grow tired of sin, which dogs us constantly. When we die, we sin no more and, in fact, won't be able to sin. When we came to faith in Christ, we died to the power of sin to condemn us and in our death, we find the final release from its effects.

III. Question and Answer 43

The further benefits we receive from the sacrifice and death of Christ on the cross is that by Christ's power our old man is with him crucified, slain and buried; so that the evil lusts of the flesh may no more reign in us, but that we may offer ourselves unto him a sacrifice of thanksgiving. What does this mean?

It means that that we are no longer "old men," which is a designation of our lives before we knew Christ in which we could not avoid sin and were under its condemnation and were burdened by the curse of God. That "man" died when we had faith in Christ and were baptized. Now we are "new men" who reign with Christ and have the freedom to offer our lives as a living sacrifice to Christ. We still sin but sin doesn't define us, Christ's imputed righteousness does.