

Unit 3 – Sunday October 4, 2020 – The Penalty of Sin and the Need for a Mediator

Step 1 – Watch Pastor Andrew's video for the week (link is on the church website: www.palmerstoncrc.com)

Step 2 - Read Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 9-13 aloud with your family:

Q & A 9

Q. But doesn't God do us an injustice by requiring in his law what we are unable to do?

A. No, God created human beings with the ability to keep the law.¹ They, however, provoked by the devil,² in willful disobedience,³ robbed themselves and all their descendants of these gifts.⁴

¹ Gen. 1:31; Eph. 4:24

² Gen. 3:13; John 8:44

³ Gen. 3:6

⁴ Rom. 5:12, 18, 19

Q & A 10

Q. Does God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not. God is terribly angry with the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit.

As a just judge, God will punish them both now and in eternity,¹ having declared:

“Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.”²

¹ Ex. 34:7; Ps. 5:4-6; Nah. 1:2; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 9:27

² Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26

Q & A 11

Q. But isn't God also merciful?

A. God is certainly merciful,¹ but also just.² God's justice demands

that sin, committed against his supreme majesty,
be punished with the supreme penalty—
eternal punishment of body and soul.³

¹ Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 103:8-9

² Ex. 34:7; Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 5:4-6; Heb. 10:30-31

³ Matt. 25:35-46

Q & A 12

Q. According to God's righteous judgment
we deserve punishment
both now and in eternity:
how then can we escape this punishment
and return to God's favor?

A. God requires that his justice be satisfied.¹
Therefore the claims of this justice
must be paid in full,
either by ourselves or by another.²

¹ Ex. 23:7; Rom. 2:1-11

² Isa. 53:11; Rom. 8:3-4

Q & A 13

Q. Can we make this payment ourselves?

A. Certainly not.

Actually, we increase our debt every day.¹

¹ Matt. 6:12; Rom. 2:4-5

Source: (<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>)

Step 3 – Discuss these talking points together as a family; feel free to adapt the questions depending upon the age and stage of your children.

- **DEBT** – What is financial debt? Can you give an example of it? (Parents, consider showing your children a utility bill or perhaps a credit card bill and the amount that needs to be paid.) Try to explain to your child how bills work and how they can be paid.
- **JUSTICE** – What does this word mean? Is it just to pay debts or to leave them unpaid? How would it feel to have a debt that you could never pay?
- **PAYMENT** – How do people receive payment for financial debts? How can people pay for wrongs they have committed? Who do you suppose could pay for our sins?

Step 4 – Close the discussion with a time of family prayer.