

Lord's Day 4

Heidelberg Catechism

The First Part – Of the Misery of Man

Question 9

Doth not God then do injustice to man, by requiring from him in His law that which he cannot perform?

Answer

Not at all;¹ for God made man capable of performing it;² but man, by the instigation of the devil,³ and his own willful disobedience, deprived himself and all his posterity of those divine gifts.⁴

Question 10

Will God suffer such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

Answer

By no means; but is terribly displeas⁵ with our original as well as actual sins; and will punish them⁶ in His just judgment temporally and eternally, as He hath declared, *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*⁷

Question 11

Is not God then also merciful?

Answer

God is indeed merciful,⁸ but also just;⁹ therefore His justice requires that sin which is committed against the most high majesty of God be also punished¹⁰ with extreme, that is, with everlasting punishment¹¹ of body and soul.

1 **Eccl. 7:29**

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

2 **John 8:44**

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

3 **2 Cor. 11:3**

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 **Gen. 3:4**

And the serpent said unto the woman,

Ye shall not surely die:

Gen. 3:7

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

5 **Rom. 5:12**

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

6 **Ps. 5:5**

The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.

7 **Rom. 1:18**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Deut. 28:15

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Heb. 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

8 **Deut. 27:26**

Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Gal. 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

9 **Ex. 34:6**

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

10 **Ex. 20:5**

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Job 34:10, 11

Therefore hearken unto me ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. For the work of a man shall he render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways.

10 **Ps. 5:5, 6**

The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man

11 **Gen. 2:17**

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Rom. 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord