

God's Glory and Our Neighbor's Good Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 37

1. REVERENCE FOR GOD'S NAME: In Lord's Day 37, we confess that in certain situations, we may swear an _____ in God's _____.

a. Why this is an _____ question: Jesus said _____ to swear at all!

³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil. (Matthew 5:33-37)

b. We may make an oath in God's name “when government demands or necessity requires” – as with an oath of _____ or testifying in _____. There are clear biblical examples of this being done and affirmed (1 Kings 1:29-30, Romans 1:9).

c. There are three main criteria for a faithful oath: it must be _____, _____ in God's name, and when _____ to call upon God as witness.

2. BUT WHY? We can learn from the seemingly strange fact that an _____ Lord's Day is _____ to this question.

a. Over against the Anabaptists, the churches of the Reformation affirmed the validity of the civil _____, and therefore the validity of oaths required by the government.

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1)

b. With this confession of faith, we affirm that civil government has real and valid _____, but that its authority is subservient to the _____.

3. LEARNING FROM OUR TRADITION: Taking the time to consider this Lord's Day is fruitful for a number of reasons. This Lord's Day of the Catechism...

a. ...reminds us of our _____ as a Reformed church.

b. ...gives us an example of how to _____ use and apply God's law.

“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:18)

c. ...reveals the _____ of God in allowing us to use his name (back to Lord's Day 36).

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Romans 10:13)