

# The Keys of the Kingdom

Heidelberg Catechism - Lord's Day 31  
1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2 (KJV)

September 20, 2009

Pastor Garry Eriks  
Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church  
[www.hudsonvilleprc.org](http://www.hudsonvilleprc.org)

## Introduction

1. Context in the Heidelberg Catechism: last Lord's Day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> section, which treats Jesus Christ and our redemption.
2. It should be noted that these are also two of the three marks of the true church.
3. Treat the keys together because they stand and fall together.

## The Necessary Exercise

1. The necessary use of the keys is seen in the figure and the reality the figure pictures.
  - a. The reality we consider is the kingdom of heaven. What is it?
    - b. The keys **function**: open the kingdom to believers and shut it to unbelievers (4 ways).
2. The necessity is brought out in 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7: a little leaven leavens the whole the whole lump.
  - a. This was an important word because a sin being allowed in the church in Corinth.
    - b. The command that comes to the church with great urgency is, "Purge out the old leaven..."

## The Proper Use

1. By the preaching of the Gospel God opens and closes the kingdom.
  - a. We find in Lord's Day 31 Q&A 84 three characteristics of the preaching which opens and closes the kingdom:
    - b. As the preaching is proclaimed according to the command of Christ, God accomplishes His purpose.
2. Christ opens and closes the kingdom through Christian discipline.
  - a. Christian discipline does not begin with the elders but with the congregation (Matthew 18)
    - b. If the brother or sister will not repent, then it must be brought to the attention of the elders.

## The Right Motivation

1. As officebearers and congregation we do this in our love for Christ and in His service.
2. May God maintain in our congregation the faithful exercise of the keys for the purity of the church and for the glory of the name of Jesus Christ.