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**YEAR 2**

*Christian Living*

# HC and ME

**The Heidelberg Catechism for**

**BOB ROZEMA**

**BOB ROZEMA**

**YEAR 2**



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**The Heidelberg Catechism for**  
**Christian Living**



Grand Rapids, Michigan

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ISBN 978-1-59255-254-2

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**59 Q. What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?**

**A.** In Christ I am right with God and heir to life everlasting.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 3:36; Rom. 1:17 (Hab. 2:4); Rom. 5:1-2

**60 Q. How are you right with God?**

**A.** Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments and of never having kept any of them,<sup>2</sup> and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,<sup>3</sup> nevertheless, without my deserving it at all,<sup>4</sup> out of sheer grace,<sup>5</sup>

God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ,<sup>6</sup> as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me.<sup>7</sup>

All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:8-11

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 3:9-10

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 7:23

<sup>4</sup> Tit. 3:4-5

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 4:3-5 (Gen. 15:6); 2 Cor. 5:17-19; 1 John 2:1-2

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 4:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21

<sup>8</sup> John 3:18; Acts 16:30-31

**61 Q. Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?**

**A.** It is not because of any value my faith has that God is pleased with me.

Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me right with God.<sup>1</sup>

And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine in no other way than by faith alone.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 1:30-31

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:10; 1 John 5:10-12

## SESSION 1 (Q&A 59-61)


# AMAZING GRACE

### <Warm-up>

Maybe you've known about God since you were knee-high, or maybe you've just begun to get acquainted. In either case, take a couple of minutes to jot down three things that you find awesome or amazing about God. (If you don't feel that way, you can jot down some things that puzzle you about God.) Once you have three things written down, find someone else who has written one thing that's similar to something you've written. Stand by that person when/if you find him or her. If you can't find a match, that's OK.

### <Main Event>

1. What do you find "amazing" about God or God's action as described in Q&A 60?
2. How do the "even though" statements make God's actions all the more amazing?
3. Read enough of Psalm 38 to get a sense of how David, a man "after God's own heart," felt about his sin and guilt. To what extent




do David's words or those in the first part of Q&A 60 describe you? (1= I really can't identify with any of this; 10= I know exactly what David and Q&A 60 are talking about.)

4. What does God graciously “subtract” from us? What does God “add” to us?

5. Read Psalm 51:7-15 about David's being restored to God's favor. Jot down one phrase from the psalm—or a phrase of your own—that expresses how you feel knowing that God views you “as if [you] had never sinned nor been a sinner.”

6. (Optional) With others in your group create a sort of human snapshot (freeze frame) that shows the difference between the “even though” part of answer 60 and the “nevertheless” part of answer 60.





7. In your own words, how can we receive God’s gift of salvation?  
(Reading Ephesians 2:8-9 will help you with your statement.)

8. What two things does Q&A 61 say about our faith?

### <Follow-up>

In the space below, use your own words to complete this statement:  
“If I really believe all this, then I . . .”

#### **Free Stuff**

Funny thing about us humans—we’ll do anything to get free stuff, except when it comes to salvation. Then we’re begging, “Please, please, Lord, let me help pay the bill”. . . .

Don’t be mistaken. We don’t earn the love of God. God doesn’t love us because we go on service trips and help poor people. Or because we don’t spit or smoke or say bad words. Or because we’re nice. . . .

God loves us because God loves us. We are believers because even our faith is a gift from God.

—James C. Schaap, *Every Bit of Who I Am*, p. 126

**62 Q. Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with him?**

- A.** Because the righteousness which can pass God's scrutiny must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law.<sup>1</sup> Even the very best we do in this life is imperfect and stained with sin.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:10 (Deut. 27:26)

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 64:6

**63 Q. How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?<sup>1</sup>**

- A.** This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:12; Heb. 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Luke 17:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8

**64 Q. But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?**

- A.** No.  
It is impossible for those grafted into Christ by true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 6:43-45; John 15:5

## SESSION 2 (Q&A 62-64)

# THE GOOD WE DO

### <Warm-up>

Which of the following “good deeds” have you done within the past year or so? (Your answers don’t have to be exactly the same as our examples.) If we’ve missed something you’ve done, add your own items in the spaces at the end.

- Donated my favorite childhood toy to a charity
- Gave up part of my Saturday to help mom/dad at home
- Babysat for a neighbor’s bratty kids for free
- Was nice to my date (whom I didn’t like all that much)
- Ran an errand for an elderly person
- Mowed a neighbor’s lawn for free
- Gave a kid brother or sister a gift I made or paid for
- Bought a burger for a homeless person
- Cleaned my room without being told
- When asked by Mom, “How was school today?” actually gave a detailed answer
- Volunteered to put in extra time on the school paper or yearbook or . . .
- Was cool when someone at work or home yelled at me
- Chatted with a kid at lunch who often sits by himself/herself
- Wrote a card or visited someone in the hospital/rest home
- Participated in a service project with my youth group
- Prayed for someone in need or sick
- Fixed macaroni and cheese supper for the family
- other: \_\_\_\_\_
- other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Something to think about:**

Do any of the good things we do help make us “right with God”?  
What’s the point of doing good stuff like the above?

## <Main Event>

### **Group 1: Q&A 62**

1. Read Q&A 62. Underline the part that says we *can* actually do good things.
2. Give an example of how something that seems like a truly good and unselfish deed could be “imperfect and stained with sin.”
3. If you were an artist and you wanted to illustrate this Q&A, what would you draw? (See Isaiah 64:6 for some ideas.)
4. What would you say to someone who says it’s a real put-down to be told our best deeds don’t measure up to God’s standards?



## **Group 2: Q&A 63**


1. Take a minute to read Q&A 62-63. What does the Bible say about God rewarding the good things we do? (Look up the passages listed in footnote 1.)
2. What's the "problem" that Q&A 63 raises? Say it in your own words.
3. Does it make sense to you that a "reward" can be a gift of grace and not earned? Does this ever happen in real life?
4. God promises to reward the good we do. Why do you suppose God does that?
5. If you were an artist and wanted to illustrate this Q&A, what would you draw?

### Group 3: Q&A 64

1. Take a minute to read Q&A 62-64. Why might the Catechism's teaching about good works (in Q&A 62-63) make some people not want to do them?
2. According to answer 64 and John 15:5, what is *impossible* for you not to do if you are a Christian? Why is this so?
3. If you were an artist and wanted to illustrate this Q&A, what would you draw? (See John 15:5 for ideas.)
4. Why should we bother to do good, if it's not going to make us right with God?

### <Follow-up>

Remember, it's impossible for you *not* to do good if you're a Christian! That's because you love God and you love to please God. And God, in turn, is pleased by whatever good you do in his name.



Think of one person you can serve this coming week in a way that will please your Father in heaven. Ask God for opportunities to say a kind word, do something unexpected and helpful, or just be there for that person. Write the person's name or initials in the space below. If you already have an idea of how you could serve that person, jot that down too.

Check back to this space next week. Did God answer your prayer?

## **We Will Shine**

*We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. . . .*

—Ephesians 2:10

We are what God does.

If God made us and controls our lives, and if we can't earn our salvation on our own anyway, then why shouldn't we just party our way through life? That's what the Catechism asks in Q&A 64.

The answer is simple: if we're grafted into Christ by true faith, then we will do good things because it's impossible for us to do otherwise. Put it this way: if we're God's workmanship, we will shine. After all, we are what God does. And God created us in Jesus Christ to do good works.

—James C. Schaap, *Every Bit of Who I Am*, p. 129