

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 2, "Guilt before Grace"

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 18

Lesson Aim	To understand how we are sinful before a holy God and how that knowledge can lead non-Christians and Christians to repentance.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 2 and Matthew 18 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>How does a person understand that he is a sinner? By reading or hearing the Law of God.</p> <p>What is the Law of God? Jesus summarizes the Law of God in Matthew 22 where he says that all people are required to love God and neighbor perfectly. As we understand what the Law of God requires and that we don't obey it, we realize that we are sinners.</p> <p>How do we define sin? It is breaking and/or not living up to the demands of the Law of God.</p> <p>What does Jesus teach about temptation in Matthew chapter 18? Several things. First, he teaches that it is greatly sinful to be a part of tempting others to sin. This is so because sin offends God and hurts the person. Second, Jesus teaches that with respect to ourselves, we must be radical in cutting out influences in our life that can lead to sinning.</p> <p>In verses 15-20, Jesus teaches how we should respond to someone in the church sinning against us. Are Jesus' points about us or about the person sinning? His points are about the person who is in sin. This person needs to repent for his own good and the glory of God.</p> <p>What is the process of confronting a person with his sin according to vv.15-20? First, we are to confront the person directly about his sin without speaking to others. Second, if he does not listen, then we are to bring one or two others to confront him. Third, if he still refuses to listen, then we tell it to the church, which would be the consistory.</p> <p>What is the point about the parable of the unforgiving servant? Since we have been forgiven by God through Christ for much, we need to forgive our brothers and sisters in the church for their sins. This must be done from the heart, that is, with great sincerity.</p>
Bible Reading	Daniel 7-12 [The prophecies of Daniel] (covering the great Bible stories)