

Up to this point, we have seen that natural man is a hater of God and his neighbor, is incapable of doing any good, and thus has come under the curse of God which is death. In this Lord's Day we are presented with many attributes or virtues of God: His justice, mercy, and most high majesty. We can look at these three questions and answers as three attempts of sinful man to escape the consequences of his sin without forsaking his sin. Knowing that we are depraved and miserable, perhaps we begin to think along these lines:

1. God is not fair in requiring of me what I cannot do.
2. Maybe there is no such thing as punishment for sin.
3. God's mercy will take care of everything, so why worry?

The answers of the Catechism set our thinking straight. If we are to find a way out of our misery, it must be *God's* way out, not ours.

A. Answer these questions, looking up the biblical passages where indicated.

1. For man to suggest that God is not just is a terrible thing. Read Deuteronomy 32:4 and find six words that describe the perfect justice of God. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. Although the devil tempted and deceived our first parents, their fall was an act of willful disobedience. This means that man wanted to sin.
 - a. What excellent gifts were lost through the fall? (Canons III/IV, Art. 1) _____

 - b. What replaced these excellent gifts? (same article) _____

 - c. To what does Adam's posterity refer? _____
 - d. Canons III/IV, Art. 2 states that corruption came upon the human race, not by _____ but by the propagation of a _____.
3. Answer 10 speaks of two different kinds of sin. List them and describe them.
 _____ sin means _____.
 _____ sin means _____.
4. God hates all sin and will punish all sin.
 - a. Is sin punished in this lifetime? _____ How? _____

 - b. Is sin punished eternally in hell? _____ After reading Luke 16:24 and Revelation 20:15, tell what language the Bible uses to describe the punishment of hell.

5. God is not only _____, but also _____.
 - a. Can God, in His mercy, ignore the fact that we have sinned? _____
 - b. Would God be God if He allowed sin to go unpunished? _____
 - c. Which shows loving concern on the part of parents — if they let their children do what they want, or if they correct, warn, and administer some punishment? Give a reason for your answer. _____

Lord's Day 4 (cont.)

6. Clearly, if man is to be delivered from his misery, the way of deliverance will have to take into account both the justice and mercy of God.
 - a. Read Psalm 85:10. This verse actually speaks of mercy and justice using slightly different terms. What words are similar to justice? _____ and _____
What word belongs with mercy? _____
 - b. Where did mercy and truth meet together? _____
- B. Underline the best ending to the beginning of the phrase.
 1. That God is just means:
 - a. no one can ever be saved.
 - b. His justice will have to be satisfied.
 - c. He is cruel when He punishes.
 2. According to his creation, man was:
 - a. able to choose to obey or disobey God.
 - b. already inclined to sin.
 - c. not able to love God perfectly.
 3. The will of fallen man is:
 - a. still able to choose what is right.
 - b. finds it difficult to choose the good.
 - c. never desires what is good.
 4. Adam's sin was so serious because:
 - a. it was committed in the beautiful Garden.
 - b. it was against the covenant God.
 - c. it meant he had to leave Paradise.
 5. The temptation and fall:
 - a. happened according to the eternal will of God.
 - b. was permitted to happen by God.
 - c. happened against the will of God.
 6. Since the devil goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour:
 - a. we ought to give the devil no place in our lives.
 - b. we need not be concerned because Christ will protect us.
 - c. we can live as close to the world as possible.
 7. The "most high majesty of God" impresses upon us that:
 - a. God is to be feared and obeyed.
 - b. that God is so high we can never know Him.
 - c. that God is not interested in the affairs of man.