

Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1 – Comfort – The Thing Everyone Wants

Beloved in the Lord:

1. The Heidelberg Catechism is an accurate summary of what the Bible teaches.

2. The Heidelberg Catechism is unique in its approach to teaching. It is very, very personal. **It begins with a presupposition of what you need** and then proceeds to tell you **how to get it.**

3. Now your greatest need, the Catechism asserts, is comfort – knowing that you are secure. So the Catechism shows how you can get that one true comfort in life and in death!

4. To get that comfort you must know the doctrines, believe these doctrines, and evidence that belief by obedience.

In this 1st sermon you will see the foundation of how you get this true comfort and keep this comfort through life and death.

Our headings are:

You need True Comfort

Jesus Gives you True Comfort

The Holy Spirit maintains True Comfort

Our goals are: **That you will be comforted, knowing what Christ has done for you, and you will then love him and live for him.**

Q1: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A: That **I am not my own, but belong**-- body and soul, in life and in death-- **to my faithful Savior** Jesus Christ. He has **fully paid for all my sins** with His **precious blood**, and has **set me free** from the tyranny of the devil. **He also watches** over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, **assures me of eternal life** and **makes me** wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on **to live for Him.**

You need True comfort

1. There is an undeniable natural craving for comfort in man, but no man naturally has comfort.

It is not innate to our nature. So man needs to look outside himself. **It is true that some don't admit they need comfort, but it is there.** Pride fills their lives. But let someone come under the influence of a few alcoholic drinks and they will readily admit the longings of their souls – as studies have proved. They long for comfort.

2. One might say: "I don't need anything because I have many things to make me happy," but that is not evidence of true comfort.

Comfort is different from temporary euphoria. These people may have the luxury box at the professional sport arena, the Lexus in the garage, a secured job, the perfect looking family, and best girlfriend money could buy, and the readiness to retire at age 55, **but those things only bring temporary comfort.** The sports might start losing, the Lexus gets stolen, the family breaks up, the girlfriend finds someone better or with more money, the company falls apart and you lose that job – or you lose your mind, or another investment fraudster makes off with all your investments. Then what? Your "so-called" comfort disappears!

3. You can summarize the false sources of true comfort under the following 3 headings:

a. Lusts of the flesh – illicit satisfaction of the flesh –inordinate craving for food, or intimacy with someone who is not your spouse.

b. Lusts of the eyes – a craving for earthly things that don't belong to you.

c. Pride of life-presumptuousness – **thinking you are greater than you are and God must acquiesce to your desires.**

These are all appealing things which promise much, but always fail to deliver in the long term. **These are the Devil's go-to candy for adults.** And adults keep buying it.

Jesus Gives you True Comfort

1. You belong to Christ...he knows and loves you...and you belong to him body and soul.

1Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20 For you were bought at a price;** therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

2. We understand this concept well in our marriage relationships.

There is a desire in women to be close with their husbands, knowing their husbands will protect them, even to their death. Men know this too, knowing they must die to protect their wives. This is a picture of what the Lord Jesus did for you – he gave his life to give eternal comforts to your soul.

Romans 14: 7 For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, **whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.** 9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

3. Because you now belong to Jesus your Savior, you have his comfort – true comfort.

Knowing Reformed doctrines is good—even great, but that doesn't remove your sins. Being a good scientist does not save you – though you can learn many of God's truths of this world. **Living a moral life** does not save you – though living a moral life might make people in society respect you. You need Christ's work.

Titus 2: 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, **that He might redeem us from every lawless deed** and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

1Peter 1: 18 knowing that you were **not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold,** from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but **with the precious blood of Christ,** as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

1John 2:2 And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins,** and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

4. This work of Christ was so great and complete that the Devil has no rule over you – ever again.

The chains in which he kept you were broken. They can never be put on – ever again!

John 8: 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 "Therefore if the **Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

Hebrews 2: 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death **He might destroy him who had the power of death,** that is, the devil, 15 and **release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

This means that **you cannot be controlled by the Devil or any evil spirit** – ever. In fact, not a hair can fall from your head without the notice and approval of God! What rich comforts the Lord gives to his children – those whom he has redeemed from the pit.

The Holy Spirit Maintains True Comfort

1. This comfort, however, is not just in rescuing you from death.

This comfort continues with you to the ends of the earth. God nurses you back to spiritual health.

2. The Holy Spirit will comfort you by sanctifying you – picking you up when you fall into a sinful pit.

He will dress you with clothes of righteousness. He saved you to bless you. What immeasurable comfort! The comfort continues without end because your salvation continues without end.

Psalms 45: 13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. 14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

3. The Holy Spirit will comfort you with eternal security!

John 6: 39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but **should raise it up at the last day.** 40 "And **this is the will of Him who sent Me,** that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

This was not just a promise made by God the Son, it was a promise made by God the Father, and accomplished by God the Spirit. What eternal security!

John 10: 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch** them out of My Father's hand.

The Devil who will try to snatch you out of God's hand but the Lord will securely keep you for eternity.
1Thessalonians 3: 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

4. The Holy Spirit will comfort you by proving all your physical, spiritual, and emotional needs in this life. And God not only cares for the big things in your life, but the small ones as well.

Matthew 10: 29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 "**But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.** 31 "Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 21: 16 "You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17 "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. 18 "**But not a hair of your head shall be lost.**

5. In fact, God will use all events of your life, even events that seem bad, and use them for your good.

Romans 8: 28 And we know that **all things work** together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Not "some" but "all." Every single thing he will use for your good!

6. When you do go through troubles in life, you have the right and are encouraged to call upon your heavenly Father for help through the Holy Spirit's help.

You can always talk to him. You are never left alone! Friends and family fail, but not your God.

Romans 8: 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, **but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."** 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

7. As the Holy Spirit does his work, you will be able to say: I know in whom I've believed.

2Corinthians 1: 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and **given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**

2Corinthians 5: 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has **given us the Spirit as a guarantee.** 6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

Conclusion:

Everyone has a craving for true comfort, though not all admit this. Only Christ, who fully paid for the sins of the world, can satisfy God's anger and work that true comfort in your heart—a comfort that continues with you till you die...and then some. Let this message of Christ's work always be before you.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. You wouldn't forget your husband's birthday even though he doesn't always do the things he should and even though he isn't as nice as he ought to be. If you wouldn't forget one who brings you temporary meager comfort, **surely you must always be diligent to remember and thank and serve the one who gave you eternal comfort** – through the cruel cross on Calvary!

2. When you are blessed with a warm and comfortable home, what good would it be if no one shares it? Similarly, won't you want to share this comfort with others? This means you will want to tell others of this comfort! Do you? Do people in your work place know the comfort you have? Does your dentist know the difference in your life?

Finally, if you are not a Christian, all you have are the things of this world-things that will fall apart, get old, stolen, or remain in this life after you die. But you can have true comfort that starts now and goes with you when you leave. You can have this comfort if you ask God to count Christ's life and death as yours. He will make you a royal child if you ask him!