

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM (1879)

THE FIRST PART

THE MISERY OF MAN

LORD'S DAY — II

Question 3: **Whence knowest thou thy misery?**

Answer: Out of the law of God (Rom 3:20).¹

Question 4: **What doth the law of God require of us?**

Answer: Christ teaches us that briefly (in Matt 22:37-40): "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment (Rom 13:10)²; and the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself (Matt 7:12)³. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Question 5: **Canst thou keep all these things perfectly?**

Answer: In no wise (1 John 1:8)⁴; for I am prone by nature to hate God (Rom 8:7)⁵ and my neighbor (Tit 3:3)⁶.

¹ Rom 3:20; Rom 7:7; Ex 20:1-17.

² Rom 13:10; Deut 6:4-5; 1 Tim 1:5.

³ 1 John 4:20-21; 1 Cor 13:1-8.

⁴ Rom 3:10-12; Jer 13:23.

⁵ Ps 14:1; Eph 2:3; Rom 1:30.

⁶ Rom 1:31; Gal 5:19-20.