

Oh, How I Love Your Law!**Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 34a**

1. LOVE FOR GOD'S LAW: In the context of the _____, we _____ God's love because:
 - a. God's law protects us from _____.
 - b. God's law orients us wisely to _____.
 - c. God's law clearly and winsomely directs us to _____ as the _____ of the matter.

2. THE HEART OF THE LAW: The Catechism directs us to the Bible's way of _____ the heart of the law.
 - a. Jesus _____ the law as a matter of love (Matthew 22:35-40).
 - b. The Apostle Paul summarizes the law in the _____ (Romans 13:8-10).
 - c. In both cases the New Testament is affirming a truth that was _____ in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:18).

3. THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE: Life according to God's Word must _____ a _____ on love as the heart of the matter
 - a. Remembering the heart of the law helps us apply the law _____ and reminds us that the law directs us with _____ into the positive life of God's good creation.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:2)

 - b. This doesn't _____ from the specific details of the law or make them unimportant but _____ them.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. (Matthew 23:23)

 - c. Love is not merely a _____, and love must be defined in a way that is consistent with _____ (for example: Leviticus 19:9-18).

 - d. Living a life of love is a matter of _____ in a way oriented toward _____, because "God is love."

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

 - e. Faith will become _____, and hope will be _____, but love will _____ be at the center of life in eternity.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)