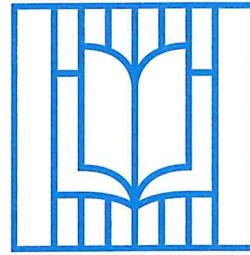


## Question 34

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Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

## Answer

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Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God;  
and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

### Big Idea

Christians have been made citizens of heaven, which should affect the way we live in this world.

### Aim

That the children might understand clearly where the identity of a Christian is found and what the joyful responsibility of the Christian is.

### Bible Passage

1 Peter 2:9–12

### Memory Verse

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his

own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.” (1 Pet. 2:9–12)

### Virtue

Gratitude





### Leader's Notes

Children need to continually be reminded that salvation is found through grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone. Though they must be dissuaded from a works-based mentality, they also need to be taught how to respond to God's saving grace with thankful and obedient lives. This lesson will help children marvel once again at the beauty and privilege of being adopted into God's family and welcomed into heavenly citizenship. They will consider what it is to be chosen, holy, precious, and a member of the royal priesthood. The lesson should cause their hearts to respond in great gratitude to God from which should flow obedient and loving lives. This question will allow the children to consider the role that God has given his people in his world.

### Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Keep emphasizing that salvation is found through faith in Christ alone. Remind the children that Jesus + Anything = Nothing!
- It's important to help the children understand that as citizens of heaven, Christians take on a new identity and a new responsibility to live in a way that represents their God and King.
- It may be necessary to help the children think practically about what obedient and God-glorifying lives look like.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

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### Leader's Prayer

Gracious God, thank you that you call us to become citizens of heaven. Thank you that I can confidently know that my home is in heaven with you and that I have been chosen to be your precious possession, holy and set apart for your glory. Help me to live a fruitful life of gratitude to you. May my life bear

great witness to you. Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May they clearly understand that salvation is by grace through faith and that the right response to you is a thankful heart. In Jesus's name. Amen.



### Leader's Tool Kit

- Q34 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Sticky Tack
- A passport or pictures of passports from different countries
- Stickers or labels with names of famous people written on them
- A large roll of paper, such as butcher paper or wallpaper
- Markers and art supplies to decorate a banner

### 10 Catechism Recap

*Print out and cut up the questions and answers from Q34 Catechism Recap (DL). Mix up the questions and answers and stick them up around the room with Sticky Tack.*

Tell the children that all of the questions and answers for one through thirty-three

are stuck up around the walls of the classroom, but that they're not paired correctly! Encourage the children to work together to pair all the questions with the right answers. Run through some of the questions and answers with the children to aid their recall.

### 5 Introduction to Question 34

*You will need some passports representing different countries or pictures of passports from different countries.*

Show the children the passports, and ask them to identify what kind of information passports contain. For example:

- Nationality
- Country of birth
- Date of birth
- Photo

Explain to the children that a passport can reveal a lot about a person. It particularly reveals a person's citizenship. Remind the

children of lesson 27 when you talked about adoption. If children from another country are adopted by someone, they become a citizen of their adoptive parents' country. They will receive a new passport, learn the language of their parents, and grow up eating the food that is popular in their new country.

Explain to the children that once a person becomes a Christian, he or she becomes a citizen of heaven. We take on the citizenship that belongs to our heavenly Father, and it will change the way we live.

Introduce the children to Question 34: "Since we are redeemed by grace alone,



through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?" Explain to the children that citizens of heaven will glorify

God and, by their witness, show a watching world what God is like.

10

### Activity



*You will need a sticker or label for each child with the name of a famous person written on it. Pick cartoon characters or celebrities who will be easily recognizable!*

Place a sticker on each child's forehead and tell the children that they have to figure out who they are. They can ask any questions they like to the other children in the group, but they can receive only yes or no answers!

For example, the children could ask:

- Am I a man?
- Am I a woman?

- Am I an animal?
- Do I have black hair?
- Am I old?
- Am I young?
- Do I have glasses?

Once the children have figured out the identity of the character on their stickers, explain to them that the Bible clearly declares who Christians are and what their identity is.

15

### Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

**Read 1 Peter 2:9–12.** Provide Bibles for the children to read along.

Remind the children that a few minutes ago, when they had a label on their head, they needed help figuring out who they were. In this short passage, Peter is trying to help some of his Christian friends understand who they are. Invite the children

to look at the passage and see if they can find the four different ways that Peter describes Christians.

Remind them that when someone becomes a Christian, he or she becomes a citizen of heaven. Although Christians live on earth for a time, their real home is with God in heaven—that's why Peter calls Christians "sojourners." Peter says that they are members of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for God's own possession. Highlight for the children that Christians are:



## Notes

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*Chosen:* God has chosen people to become members of his family, citizens of heaven, and he wants to spend forever with them. Christians are God's possessions, which he bought with the blood of his precious Son.

*Holy:* Christians are set aside by God to be sanctified—to become more like Jesus.

*A royal priesthood:* Christians have direct access to God and have been called to serve others for God's glory.

God gives his people an identity, and he also gives his people a purpose in life. Tell the children that as citizens of heaven, God wants Christians to live in a new way, the way of their new adoptive Father and heavenly country. He wants the world to know all about him and about Jesus, and his plan has always been to use Christians to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

Explain to the children that when we do good works and obey God's Word, we are acting like citizens of heaven. We are showing people what our adoptive heavenly Father is like, and we hope that our lives will make them want to join God's family. Be clear with the children that doing good

works and obeying God's Word won't make anyone right with God. Instead, Christians will do good works and obey God's Word as a response to God's kindness.

Explain to the children that God clearly teaches through his Word who his people are and what their purpose in life is. They have an identity and a job! Ask the children if they think that being a Christian is exciting and a privilege. Help them to understand that becoming a citizen of heaven is the most wonderful thing that could happen to anyone ever and serving God in his world is an immense privilege.

Finish up by asking the children to consider whether Christians are good witnesses for God in his world. Discuss with the children how they might live for God and bring glory to God in gratitude for his saving grace.

**Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 34 and the answer to memory.**

*(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)*

## 10 Activity

*You will need a long piece of paper (such as butcher paper) and art supplies to decorate it.*

Invite the children to make a banner depicting the identity and job of a Christian.

Encourage the children to look back to the passage to draw inspiration for the banner. They should pull words from the passage that tell us who we are in Christ and then draw pictures to represent what behaviors go





Notes

with our identity. Once the banner has been completed, display it on the classroom wall. If the number of children is large, divide

the children into smaller groups to make several banners.



**Discussion and Question Time**

Some questions that might arise include:

**? How do I know if I'm a citizen of heaven?**

Remind the children that all those who put their faith in Jesus alone for salvation are citizens of heaven. Explain that Christians receive the gift of eternal life from God; some of that life is lived on earth and some of it will be lived in heaven and the new creation.

**? Will God be angry with me if I'm not good at living a thankful life?**

Encourage the children to focus on the confidence that Christians can enjoy by trusting in the sufficiency of Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. Remind the children that for the Christian, God's anger was borne by Christ on the cross. Encourage them to pray that God would increase their understanding of what he has done so that their thankfulness will grow.

**? How do I know if I'm trusting in my good works to save me or if I'm doing them out of gratitude for my salvation?**

We sometimes have trouble getting to the bottom of our own motives, but God sees our hearts perfectly. If the children are concerned they might be trusting their works to save them, they should confess this to God and ask him to help them fully rely on him alone for salvation.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- Ask the children if they have a personal understanding of what it means to be a Christian and become a citizen of heaven.
- Ask the children how knowing that they are chosen, holy, precious, and royal priests might help them to face difficult things in life.
- Ask the children if they think it's easy or hard to live thankful lives for God. Ask them what makes it hard or easy.



## 10 Virtue Vision



## Notes

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### Gratitude

Members of God's family will show their gratitude to God by how they live and how they treat others. Divide the children into two groups. Invite the first group to make up a skit that shows how someone lives who

doesn't show the gratitude that comes from being a member of God's family. Invite the second group to make up a skit that shows how a grateful member of God's family interacts with the people around him or her. Let both groups perform their skits.

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## 10 Memory Activity

*You will need to write the memory verse or catechism question and answer out on a large sheet of paper or chalkboard.*

Read the memory verse or catechism question and answer with the children several times (since this week's verse is long, you may want to pick a smaller portion to memorize). Ask for a volunteer from among the children who thinks that he can remember the memory verse or catechism question and answer. Explain

to the volunteer that you are going to ask him to close his eyes and you are going to point to a word for the rest of the group. The rest of the group should be instructed to clap instead of saying the word as they read the memory verse or catechism question and answer. The volunteer must see if he can identify the missing word as the memory verse or catechism question and answer is read. Repeat the process several times with different volunteers and different missing words.

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## 5 Closing Prayer Time

Invite the children to pray prayers of gratitude to God. Close by asking God to make our lives the kind that will make people want to join God's family.

