

First Catechism

Q1 Who made you?

God.

Q2 What else did God make?

God made all things.

Q3 Why did God make you and all things?

For his own glory.

Q4 How can you glorify God?

By loving him and doing what he commands.

Q5 Why are you to glorify God?

Because he made me and takes care of me.

Q6 Is there more than one true God?

No. There is only one true God.

Q7 In how many Persons does this one God exist?

In three Persons.

Q8 Name these three Persons.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Q9 What is God?

God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.

Q10 Where is God?

God is everywhere.

Q11 Can you see God?

No. I cannot see God, but he always sees me.

Q12 Does God know all things?

Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

Q13 Can God do all things?

Yes. God can do all his holy will.

Q14 Where do you learn how to love and obey God?

In the Bible alone.

Q15 Who wrote the Bible?

Chosen men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Q16 Who were our first parents?

Adam and Eve.

Q17 How did God create man?

God created man, male and female, after his own image.

Q18 Of what were our first parents made?

God made Adam's body out of the ground and Eve's body out of a rib from Adam.

Q19 What else did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?

He gave them souls that will last forever.

Q20 Do you have a soul as well as a body?

Yes. And my soul is going to last forever.

Q21 How do you know your soul will last forever?

Because the Bible tells me so.

Q22 In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?

He made them holy and happy.

Q23 What covenant did God make with Adam?

The covenant of life.

Q24 What is a covenant?

A relationship that God establishes with us and guarantees by his word.

Q25 In the covenant of life, what did God require Adam to do?

To obey God perfectly.

Q26 What did God promise in the covenant of life?

To reward Adam with life if he obeyed God perfectly.

Q27 What did God threaten in the covenant of life?

To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed God.

Q28 Did Adam keep the covenant of life?

No. He sinned against God.

Q29 What is sin?

Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

Q30 What is meant by lack of conformity?

Not being or doing what God requires.

Q31 What is meant by transgression?

Doing what God forbids.

Q32 What does every sin deserve?

The wrath and curse of God.

Q33 What was the sin of our first parents?

Eating the forbidden fruit.

Q34 Who tempted Adam and Eve to this sin?

Satan tempted Eve first, and then he used her to tempt Adam.

Q35 How did Adam and Eve change when they sinned?

Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.

Q36 Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of life?

No. He represented the whole human race.

Q37 What effect did the sin of Adam have on all people?

We are all born guilty and sinful.

Q38 How sinful are you by nature?

I am corrupt in every part of my being.

Q39 What is the sinful nature that we inherit from Adam called?

Original sin.

Q40 Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature?

No. Our hearts must be changed before we can believe in Jesus and go to heaven.

Q41 What is this change of heart called?

The new birth, or regeneration.

Q42 Who can change a sinner's heart?

The Holy Spirit alone.

Q43 Can anyone be saved through the covenant of life?

No. No one can be saved through the covenant of life.

Q44 Why can't anyone be saved through the covenant of life?

Because all have broken it and are condemned by it.

Q45 How did you break the covenant of life?

Adam represented all people, and so I fell with Adam in his first sin.

Q46 How, then, can you be saved?

By the Lord Jesus Christ through the covenant of grace.

Q47 Whom did Christ represent in the covenant of grace?

His elect people.

Q48 How did Christ fulfill the covenant of grace?

Christ obeyed the whole law for his people, and then suffered the punishment due for their sins.

Q49 Did Jesus ever sin?

No. He lived a sinless life.

Q50 How could Christ suffer?

Christ, the Son of God, became a man so that he could obey and suffer in our place.

Q51 For whom did Christ obey and suffer?

For all whom God the Father gave to Christ.

Q52 What kind of life did Christ live on earth?

A life of obedience, service and suffering.

Q53 What kind of death did Jesus die?

The painful and shameful death of the cross.

Q54 What is meant by the atonement?

Christ satisfied God's justice by his suffering and death as a substitute for sinners.

Q55 What does God the Father guarantee in the covenant of grace?

To justify and sanctify all those for whom Christ died.

Q56 How does God justify you?

God forgives all my sins and accepts me as righteous through Christ.

Q57 How does God sanctify you?

God makes me more and more holy in heart and conduct.

Q58 What must you do to be saved?

I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Q59 How do you repent of your sin?

I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.

Q60 Why must you hate and forsake your sin?

Because sin displeases God.

Q61 What does it mean to believe in Christ?

To trust in Christ alone for my salvation.

Q62 Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

No. I cannot repent and believe unless the Holy Spirit changes my heart.

Q63 How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?

God has told us to pray for the Holy Spirit's help.

Q64 How long ago did Christ die?

About two thousand years ago.

Q65 How were sinners saved before Christ came?

By believing in the promised Messiah.

Q66 Before Christ came, how did believers show their faith?

By offering the sacrifices God required.

Q67 What did these sacrifices represent?

Christ, the Lamb of God, who would come to die for sinners.

Q68 How many offices does Christ fulfill as the promised Messiah?

Christ fulfills three offices.

Q69 What are they?

The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.

Q70 How is Christ your prophet?

Christ teaches me the will of God.

Q71 How is Christ your priest?

Christ died for my sins and continues to pray for me.

Q72 How is Christ your king?

Christ rules over me, the world and Satan, and he defends me.

Q73 Why do you need Christ as your prophet?

Because I am ignorant by nature.

Q74 Why do you need Christ as your priest?

Because I am guilty of breaking God's law.

Q75 Why do you need Christ as your king?

Because I am weak and helpless.

Q76 How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?

Ten commandments.

Q77 Why should we obey the Ten Commandments?

Because God is our Creator, Savior and King.

Q78 What do the first four commandments teach?

What it means to love and serve God.

Q79 What do the last six commandments teach?

What it means to love and serve my neighbor.

Q80 What do the Ten Commandments teach?

To love God with all my heart, and my neighbor as myself.

Q81 Who is your neighbor?

Everybody is my neighbor.

Q82 Is God pleased with those who love and obey him?

Yes. God says, "I love them that love me." (KJV)

Q83 Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey him?

Yes. "God is angry with the wicked every day." (KJV)

Q84 What is the first commandment?

The first commandment is "You shall have no other gods before Me." (NKJV)

Q85 What does the first commandment teach you?

To worship the true God, and him only.

Q86 What is the second commandment?

The second commandment is "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." (NKJV)

Q87 What does the second commandment teach you?

To worship God only as he commands, and not to worship God by using statues or pictures.

Q88 What is the third commandment?

The third commandment is "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (NKJV)

Q89 What does the third commandment teach you?

To treat God's name, word and works with reverence.

Q90 What is the fourth commandment?

The fourth commandment is "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." (NKJV)

Q91 What does the fourth commandment teach you?

To work six days and keep the Sabbath day holy.

Q92 What day of the week is the Christian Sabbath?

The first day of the week, called the Lord's Day.

Q93 Why is it called the Lord's Day?

Because on that day the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Q94 How should you keep the Lord's Day?

I should rest from my daily work and faithfully worship God.

Q95 What is the fifth commandment?

The fifth commandment is "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." (NKJV)

Q96 What does the fifth commandment teach you?

To love and obey my parents and all others that God appoints over me.

Q97 What is the sixth commandment?

The sixth commandment is "You shall not murder." (NKJV)

Q98 What does the sixth commandment teach you?

Not to take anyone's life unjustly and not to sin when I am angry.

Q99 What is the seventh commandment?

The seventh commandment is "You shall not commit adultery." (NKJV)

Q100 What does the seventh commandment teach you?

To be pure in heart, language and conduct, and to be faithful in marriage.

Q101 What is the eighth commandment?

The eighth commandment is "You shall not steal." (NKJV)

Q102 What does the eighth commandment teach you?

Not to take anything that belongs to someone else.

Q103 What is the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment is "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (NKJV)

Q104 What does the ninth commandment teach you?

Never to lie, but to tell the truth at all times.

Q105 What is the tenth commandment?

The tenth commandment is "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." (NKJV)

Q106 What does the tenth commandment teach you?

To be content with whatever God chooses to give me.

Q107 Can you keep the Ten Commandments perfectly?

No. Since the fall of Adam, the only One who has been able to do this is Jesus.

Q108 Of what use are the Ten Commandments to you?

They teach me what is pleasing to God, and how much I need a Savior.

Q109 What is prayer?

Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

Q110 In whose name should we pray?

Only in the name of Christ.

Q111 What did Christ give us to teach us about prayer?

The Lord's Prayer.

Q112 What is the Lord's Prayer?

The Lord's Prayer is "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (KJV)

Q113 How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer?

Six.

Q114 What is the first petition?

The first petition is "Hallowed be thy name."

Q115 What does it mean to pray, "Hallowed be thy name"?

We are asking God to help us and others to respect and honor him.

Q116 What is the second petition?

The second petition is "Thy kingdom come."

Q117 What does it mean to pray, "Thy kingdom come"?

We are asking God to bring more and more people to hear, believe and obey his gospel.

Q118 What is the third petition?

The third petition is "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

Q119 What does it mean to pray, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"?

We are asking God to make us able and willing to serve him on earth just as he is served in heaven.

Q120 What is the fourth petition?

The fourth petition is "Give us this day our daily bread."

Q121 What does it mean to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread"?

We are asking God to provide us with all that we really need.

Q122 What is the fifth petition?

The fifth petition is "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Q123 What does it mean to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"?

We are asking God to forgive our sins for Christ's sake, and to make us willing to forgive others.

Q124 What is the sixth petition?

The sixth petition is "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Q125 What does it mean to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"?

We are asking God to keep us from being tempted and to make us strong enough to resist when we are tempted.

Q126 How many sacraments are there?

Two.

Q127 What are they?

Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q128 Who appointed these sacraments?

The Lord Jesus Christ.

Q129 Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?

To distinguish his people from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.

Q130 What sign is used in baptism?

Washing with water.

Q131 What does this washing with water represent?

That we are united to Christ and cleansed from sin by his blood.

Q132 Into whose name are we baptized?

Into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q133 Who are to be baptized?

Believers and their children.

Q134 Why are we baptized even as little infants?

Because God includes the children of believers in his covenant and marks them in baptism.

Q135 What did Jesus say about little children?

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Q136 What does baptism call you to be?

A true follower of Christ.

Q137 What sign is used in the Lord's Supper?

Eating bread and drinking wine to remember the suffering and death of Jesus.

Q138 What does the bread represent?

Christ's body sacrificed for our sins.

Q139 What does the wine represent?

Christ's blood shed for our sins.

Q140 Who may rightly partake of the Lord's Supper?

Those who repent of their sins, trust in Christ, live a godly life, and profess their faith before the Church.

Q141 Did Christ remain in the grave after his crucifixion?

No. He rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death.

Q142 Where is Christ now?

In heaven, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us.

Q143 Will the Lord Jesus come again?

Yes! He will return to judge the world on the last day.

Q144 What happens to believers when they die?

Our bodies will return to the dust and our souls will go to be with the Lord forever.

Q145 What happens to unbelievers when they die?

Their bodies will return to dust also, but their souls will go to hell.

Q146 What is hell?

Hell is an awful place, where unbelievers are separated from God to suffer for their sins.

Q147 Will the bodies of all the dead be raised again?

Yes. At the last day some will be raised to everlasting life and others to everlasting death.

Q148 What will God do to unbelievers at the last day?

He will judge them, and condemn them to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire with Satan and his angels.

Q149 What will God do for believers at the last day?

He will give them a home with him in the new heaven and the new earth.

Q150 What will the new heaven and the new earth be like?

A glorious and happy place, where the saved will be with Jesus forever.