

A Catechism
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I. On the Doctrine of God

1. Who made you?
 - *God made me.*
 - *Genesis 1:27 "God created man in his own image."*
2. What else did God make?
 - *God made all things.*
 - *Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*
3. How did God make all things?
 - *God made all things out of nothing.*
 - *Genesis 1:3 "And God said, 'Let there be!'"*
4. Why did God make all things?
 - *God made all things for his glory.*
 - *Isaiah 43:7 "[Those] whom I formed and made [I created for my glory]."*
5. What were you made to do?
 - *I was made to glorify God and enjoy him forever.*
 - *1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*
6. How can you glorify God?
 - *I can glorify God by loving him with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength.*
 - *Mark 12:30*
7. Which command is this?
 - *Jesus said it is the first and greatest commandment.*
 - *Mark 12:29*
8. What is the second greatest commandment?
 - *The second greatest commandment is: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*
 - *Mark 12:31*
9. How do we know that God exists?
 - *We know that God exists from creation, conscience, and the Bible.*
 - *Romans 1:19-23, Romans 2:15, and Hebrews 1:2*
10. What does creation tell mankind?
 - *Creation tells mankind that God exists. That he is the eternal, righteous, and glorious Creator, and that his invisible attributes are clearly seen.*
 - *Psalms 19:1 and Romans 1:20*
11. How many gods are there?
 - *There is one God and his name is Yahweh.*
 - *Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one!"*
12. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

- *There are three persons in the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- *Matthew 3:16*

13. What is the term for this understanding of God?

- *The term for this is "Trinity" – God is a Trinity.*

14. Who is the Holy Spirit and what is his work?'

- *The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. His work is in the following:*
 1. *Creation*
 2. *Giving assurance of salvation to believers*
 3. *Regeneration*
 4. *Inspiring the biblical writers*
 5. *Convicting of sin*
 6. *Helping believers understand the Scriptures*

15. Does God have a body like man?

- *No, God does not have a body like man. God is a Spirit.*
- *John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

16. Can you see God?

- *No, I cannot see God, but he always sees me.*
- *Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."*

17. Who created God?

- *No one created God. He has always been and always will be.*
- *Psalms 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."*

18. Has God ever changed?

- *God has never changed and never will change.*
- *Psalms 102:27 "You are the same, and your years will have no end."*

19. What is God's unchanging character called?

- *God's unchanging character is called immutability or aseity.*

20. Is God dependant on anyone or anything?

- *No, God needs nothing else but himself for sustenance, happiness or fulfillment.*
- *Acts 17:25 "...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."*

21. Where is God?

- *God is everywhere.*
- *Psalms 139:7-10 "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.*

22. What is this called, that God is everywhere?

- *This is called omnipresence.*

23. Does God know everything?

- *Yes, God knows all things, even my thoughts.*
- *1 Chronicles 28:9 "The Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought."*

24. What is this called?

- *God knowing all things is called omniscience.*

25. Can God do all things?

- *God can do all that he wills, and he wills to do what is good and right.*
- *Daniel 4:34b-35 "For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

26. What is this called?

- *God's ability to do anything he wants is called omnipotence.*

27. What is God's fundamental attribute?

- *God's fundamental attribute is his holiness: he is holy, holy, holy.*
- *Isaiah 6:3 "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"*

28. What does it mean that God is sovereign?

- *Sovereignty means that God decrees or causes all that comes to pass.*
- *Ephesians 1:11 "...who works all things according to the counsel of his will."*

29. What is God's providence?

- *Providence means that God cares and provides for his creatures; he has worked out all the details of their lives.*
- *Acts 17:26 "And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place."*

30. Does providence include something else for God's people?

- *Yes, God makes all things to work together for their spiritual good.*
- *Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*

31. Is there such a thing as luck or chance?

- *There is no such thing as luck or chance; everything is controlled and ordained in the providence of God.*
- *Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."*

II. On the Doctrine of Scripture

1. How does God reveal himself to human beings?
 - *God reveals himself through creation, conscience and the Bible.*
 - *Psalm 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."*
2. Which of these sources reveals God more clearly and thoroughly?
 - *The Bible reveals God more clearly and thoroughly.*
 - *2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."*
3. What does the word "revelation" refer to?
 - *Revelation refers to God revealing or showing himself.*
4. What is general revelation?
 - *General revelation is information about God given to everyone through creation and conscience.*
 - *Romans 1:19 "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them."*
5. What does general revelation teach us?
 - *General revelation teaches us that there is a Creator God who is just and that we have sinned against him.*
 - *Romans 1:20 "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*
6. What is special revelation?
 - *Special revelation is God revealing or showing himself savingly in his Word.*
7. Does the Bible teach us everything about God?
 - *No, that would be impossible since he is infinite. But the Bible teaches us "all things that pertain to life and godliness."*
 - *2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence."*
8. Who wrote the Bible?
 - *God and men both mysteriously wrote the Bible.*
 - *2 Peter 1:21 "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."*
9. Are there any errors in the Bible?
 - *No, the Bible is without error in all that it affirms.*
 - *Psalm 19:7 "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."*
10. How do we know there are no errors in the Bible?
 - *We know there are no errors in the Bible because Scripture tells us so and God's Word has proven faithful.*

- *2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."*

11. Why are there no errors in the Bible?

- *There are no errors in the Bible because it is God's Word and he cannot lie: it is inspired or God-breathed.*

12. Into what two parts is the Bible divided?

- *The Bible is divided into Old and New Testaments, telling us one complete story of God saving sinners in Christ for his glory.*

13. How many books are in the Bible?

- *There are 66 books in the Bible.*

14. What are the books of the Bible?

- *Genesis, Exodus...Revelation (sing songs of the books of the Bible)*

15. What two Psalms are particularly devoted to the theme of the Bible?

- *Psalm 19 and Psalm 119*

16. What are we to do with the Bible?

- *We are to read, study, meditate, memorize and obey the Bible.*
- *Psalm 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."*

17. How does the Bible describe how we should pursue these things?

- *We should seek after God's Word more than gold, and we should hunger for it as babies hunger for their mother's milk.*
- *Psalm 19:10 "More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb."*
- *1 Peter 2:2 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation."*

III. On the Doctrine of Man and Sin

1. Who were our first parents?
 - *Adam and Eve were our first parents.*
2. How did God make them?
 - *God made Adam and Eve in his own image and without sin.*
 - *Genesis 1:27 "God created man in his own image."*
3. What does it mean to be made in God's own image?
 - *We were made to create, rule, think, relate to others, and worship God.*
4. In how many parts did God make us?
 - *God made us in two parts, body and soul.*
5. What are some other biblical terms for soul?
 - *Some other biblical terms for soul are mind, spirit, heart, and inner man.*
6. What did God command Adam and Eve in the garden?
 - *God commanded Adam and Eve to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
 - *Genesis 2:17 "...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*
7. Who tempted Eve to eat of the tree?
 - *The Serpent, who is the Devil, tempted Eve. This is recorded in Genesis 3.*
8. What lie did the Serpent use to tempt Eve to eat of the tree?
 - *The Serpent promised Eve that if she ate of the tree, she would be like God.*
 - *Genesis 3:5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*
9. Why else did Eve eat of the tree?
 - *Genesis 3:6a "[she] saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise..."*
10. Why did Adam eat of the fruit?
 - *Adam was deceived by Eve, led astray, and rebelled against God.*
 - *Genesis 3:6b "...she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate."*
11. What was Adam and Eve's next sin?
 - *Adam and Eve's next sin was to blame others for their own sin.*
 - *Genesis 3:12, 13 "The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate.'"*
12. What was God's judgment for Adam and Eve's disobedience?
 - *God judged them with physical, spiritual, and eternal death, as he said he would.*

- *Genesis 2:17 "...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

13. Did God judge Adam and Eve in other ways as well?

- *The man's work was cursed with futility and difficulty, the woman was cursed with pain in childbirth, and their relationship with each other was cursed in that they desire to control each other.*
- *Genesis 3:16-19*

14. How does Adam and Eve's sin affect all of those who were born after them?

- *All of those born after Adam and Eve have been born with a sinful nature, sinful desires, and under God's judgment.*
- *Romans 3:10-12 "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

15. So, then, in what spiritual state were you born?

- *I was born sinful and guilty in God's sight.*

16. What is sin?

- *Sin is not doing what God commands or doing what God forbids. Sin is lawlessness. It is rebellion against God. It is not glorifying God.*

17. How do we know what sin is?

- *We know what sin is through conscience and, more clearly, through the Bible.*

18. What are the Ten Commandments?

1. *You shall have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make for yourself any likeness of me.*
3. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy*
5. *Honor your father and mother.*
6. *You shall not murder.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's things.*

19. Where are the Ten Commandments recorded in Scripture?

- *The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20.*

20. As we have already learned, how did Jesus summarize God's Law?

- *Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and the second is like it, to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:30-31).*

21. Can you keep these commandments perfectly?

- *No, I am inclined by nature to be the enemy of both God and my neighbor and to love myself.*

22. Why, then, was the Law given?

- *God's Law was given to show us our sin and to drive us, helpless and hopeless, to Jesus for our redemption.*
- *Galatians 3:24 "So then, the law was our guardian till Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."*

IV. On Jesus Christ

1. Who is Jesus?

- *Jesus is the eternal Son of God; the second person of the trinity; who took on flesh to be our Redeemer.*
- *John 20:31 "...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God."*

2. Tell me more. What does it say in the Nicene Creed (AD 325)?

- *We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things, visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten of the Father; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,*

being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made, in heaven and on earth; who, for us and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man;

he suffered and died; on the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; and from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

3. What do the names "Jesus" and "Christ" mean?

- *The name Jesus means "Yahweh saves" (Matt. 1:21).*
- *Christ means "Anointed" or "Messiah" – it tells us that He is the Expected One.*

4. Was Jesus God or a man?

- *Jesus was fully God and fully man in one person. It is mysterious and wonderful.*

5. How did Jesus become a man? What is this called?

- *The eternal Son of God was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary. He was and is eternally God, and yet He fully became a man. This is called the "incarnation," which means "in flesh."*

6. How do we know that the man, Jesus, is truly God?

- *The Bible writers tell us so many, many times.*
- *Jesus Himself said so – even his enemies understood him to say so.*
- *He also forgave sin and received worship, which only God can do.*

7. How do we know that Jesus was truly a man?

- *At times, he was hungry, thirsty, tired, and hurt... just like me.*
- *He also "increased in wisdom and in stature" (Luke 2:52); and He died.*

8. Was Jesus ever tempted?

- *Yes, he was truly tempted in every way, and even by Satan himself.*

9. Did Jesus ever sin?

- *No, He never sinned at all, but kept the law of God perfectly in every way.*

10. What does Jesus' temptation and sinlessness mean for His people?

- *Hebrews 4:15–16 "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

11. What three offices did Jesus come to fulfill?

- *Jesus came to fulfill the offices of Prophet, Priest, and King.*

12. Who does each office mean? How do they relate to the Old Testament?

- **Prophet** is rooted in the OT picture of Moses, the prophet and lawgiver of the old covenant. Christ comes as the final Prophet, the Lawgiver of the New Covenant.
- **Priest** is rooted in the OT priests' animal sacrifices. Jesus is the perfect priest and the perfect sacrifice.
- **King** is pictured in David's reign. The great promises given to David are fulfilled by Jesus who rules over and defends His people. One day He will put all of His enemies under His feet forever.

13. What did Jesus say that He came to do?

- *He said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32). He said that He "came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).*

14. How did Jesus seek and save the lost in his earthly ministry?

- *Jesus sought and saved the lost by preaching the good news that God saves sinners, and by dying in the sinners' place.*

15. Did he remain in the grave after his death?

- *No, he rose from the dead on the third day, as he said he would.*
- *Luke 9:22 "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."*

16. Where is Jesus now?

- *Jesus has ascended to heaven; he is at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- *Hebrews 1:3 "After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."*

17. Is Jesus still a man?

- *Jesus is still and forever will be the God-man. He has forever united himself to humankind by becoming one of us. Jesus now has a perfect glorified body just as he will give to us when he comes again.*

18. Will Jesus come to earth again?

- *Yes, Jesus will come to earth again someday, perhaps soon. He will judge the living and the dead, some "into eternal punishment" and others "into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46).*

V. On Salvation

1. What are the five “solas” that the Reformation used to describe how salvation comes to us?
 - *Salvation comes:*
 - *Sola Fide (through faith alone)*
 - *Solus Christus (in Christ alone)*
 - *Sola Gratia (by grace alone)*
 - *Sola Scriptura (revealed in the Scriptures alone)*
 - *Soli Deo Gloria (to the glory of God alone)*
2. How can sinners be made right with God a holy God?
 - *Only by trusting in Jesus’ righteousness and death in their place.*
3. What do you mean “in their place”?
 - *We call it substitution. Jesus was punished as if he committed all our sins, and we are blessed as if we were as perfect as him.*
 - *2 Corinthians 5:21 “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*
4. Do we earn this great blessing, if we work hard enough to show God that we deserve it?
 - *No! God’s grace is completely unmerited—a gift of his love, received only through faith and not at all through our good works.*
 - *Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*
5. What does it mean when the Bible says that God “justifies”?
 - *God declares us righteous on account of Christ alone.*
 - *Romans 4:4-5 “To the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.”*
6. What are some other words the Bible uses to describe the result of his grace?
 - *In his grace we are justified, forgiven, reconciled, and adopted.*
7. Does God offer this grace to everyone?
 - *Yes, but not all have heard the good news; and many have heard and will not repent and believe.*
 - *Romans 10:14 “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?”*
8. How do we come to repent and believe?
 - *It is the work of God to convict us of sin and convince us that Christ is Savior and Lord.*
 - *John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...”*
9. What do we call this part of God’s saving work?
 - *We call it effectual calling, which means that all those he calls in this way will truly come to faith and repentance.*
 - *Romans 8:30 “Those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”*

10. What does "predestined" mean?

- *Before creation God chose those who would be saved, not on the basis of any good in them, but only by his grace and for his glory.*
- *Ephesians 1:5-6 "He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace."*

11. Does God choose or predestine some because he knows they will later choose him?

- *No, it is through his choice of us that we are led to believe in him.*

12. What is expected of those who come to believe in Jesus and receive him?

- *It is expected that they be baptized, follow in their Lord's commands, and tell others the gospel.*
- *Matthew 28:19-20*