

A Catechism of the Christian Faith

From *The Westminster Shorter Catechism* as abridged by John Wesley edited by Henry Volk and revised by Shawn Candelaria

1. What is man's chief end?	Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.
2. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?	The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy Him.
3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?	The Scriptures principally teach what we are to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of us.
4. What is God?	God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.
5. Is there more than one God?	There is only one living and true God.
6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?	There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.
7. What is the work of creation?	The work of creation is God's making all things out of nothing, by His powerful word, in the space of six days, and it all was very good.
8. How did God create mankind?	God created mankind male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness; and he gave them dominion over the creatures.
9. What are God's works of providence?	God's works of providence are His most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing of all his creatures, and all their actions.

10. What special act of providence did God exercise towards the first man in his created state?	When God created the first man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, on the condition of perfect obedience, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.
11. Did our first parents continue in their created state?	Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own wills, fell from their created state by sinning against God.
12. What is sin?	Sin is breaking the law of God, or not following it completely.
13. What was the sin our first parents committed that caused them to fall from their created state?	They ate the forbidden fruit.
14. Did all humanity fall in Adam's first transgression?	The covenant made with Adam was not only for himself, but for all his descendants; therefore, all humanity, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him and fell with him in the first transgression.
15. What state did the fall bring humanity into?	The fall brought humanity into a state of sin and misery.
16. What is sinful about the state into which humanity fell?	The sinfulness of the state into which humanity fell consists of the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, the corruption of the entirety of human nature (which is commonly called Original Sin), and all actual transgressions that proceed from it (which is called Actual Sin).
17. What is the misery of that state into which humanity fell?	The entire human race, by their fall, lost communion with God. They are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, even to death itself, and to the agonies of hell forever.

18. Who is humanity's Redeemer?	<p>It is the Lord Jesus Christ! He, being the eternal Son of God, became man. He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures but one Person forever.</p>
19. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become human?	<p>Christ the Son of God became human by obtaining for himself a real body and a rational soul. Being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, he was born of her, yet without sin.</p>
20. What office does Christ execute as our Redeemer?	<p>Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his state of humiliation and exaltation.</p>
21. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?	<p>Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us by his word and Spirit the will of God for our salvation.</p>
22. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?	<p>Christ executes the office of a priest by offering himself once (for all time) as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.</p>
23. How does Christ execute the office of a king?	<p>Christ executes the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.</p>
24. Of what did Christ's humiliation consist?	<p>Christ's humiliation consisted of his being born in a low condition, made under law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross, in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.</p>
25. Of what does Christ's exaltation consist?	<p>Christ's exaltation consists of his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the Last Day.</p>

26. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?	We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ by the Holy Spirit effectually applying it to us.
27. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?	The Spirit applies the redemption purchased by Christ to us by working faith in us and thereby uniting us to Christ.
28. What benefits do those who put their faith in Christ partake of in this life?	They partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the several benefits in this life that either accompany or flow from them.
29. What is justification?	Justification is an act of God's free grace through which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone.
30. What is adoption?	Adoption is an act of God's free grace by which we are received as, and given all the rights and privileges of being, children of God.
31. What is sanctification?	Sanctification is the work of God's free grace through which we are renewed in our entire person after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live righteously.
32. What are the benefits in this life that either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?	The benefits that in this life accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance in all these till the end.
33. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?	The souls of believers at their death immediately pass into glory, and their bodies rest in their graves till the resurrection.

34. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?	At the resurrection believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God for all eternity.
35. What duty does God require of humanity?	The duty which God requires of humanity is obedience to his revealed will.
36. What rule of obedience did God first reveal to humanity?	The rule that God first revealed to humanity was obedience to the Moral Law.
37. Where is the Moral Law summarized?	The Moral Law is summarized in the Ten Commandments.
38. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?	The sum of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.
39. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?	In the preface to the Ten Commandments, God says, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.”
40. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?	Because God is the Lord, and our God and Redeemer, we are bound to keep all his commandments.
41. What is the First Commandment?	Do not have other gods besides me.
42. What is required in the First Commandment?	The First Commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God as the only true God, as our God, and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

43. What is forbidden in the First Commandment?	<p>The First Commandment forbids us to deny, or not worship and glorify, the true God as God, and as our God, or to give worship and glory to any other person or thing which is due to God alone.</p>
44. What are we specifically taught by the words “besides me” in the First Commandment?	<p>These words, besides me, in the First Commandment teach that God, who sees all things, takes notice of, and is very displeased with, the sin of having any other God.</p>
45. What is the Second Commandment?	<p>Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.</p>
46. What is required in the Second Commandment?	<p>The Second Commandment requires us to receive, observe, and keep in purity and in their entirety the ordinances and ways of worship that God has appointed in his word.</p>
47. What is forbidden in the Second Commandment?	<p>The Second Commandment forbids the worship of God by images or any other way not appointed by his word.</p>
48. What do we learn from the Second Commandment?	<p>We learn from the Second Commandment that God is sovereign over us, we belong to him, and he insists on being our one and only object of worship.</p>
49. What is the Third Commandment?	<p>Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.</p>

50. What is required in the Third Commandment?	<p>The Third Commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, word, and works. It also requires that we who identify as God's people walk in his ways with holiness and integrity.</p>
51. What is forbidden in the Third Commandment?	<p>The Third Commandment forbids misrepresenting God, misleading people concerning the nature of God and his word, and all profaning and abusing of anything God uses to make himself known.</p>
52. What are we to learn from the Third Commandment?	<p>We learn from the Third Commandment that even if those who break it escape punishment from men, the Lord our God will not allow them to escape his righteous judgment.</p>
53. What is the Fourth Commandment?	<p>Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: You are to labor six days and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. For the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.</p>
54. What is required in the Fourth Commandment?	<p>The Fourth Commandment requires us to set aside one whole day out of seven to be a holy sabbath to him.</p>
55. Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?	<p>From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath, but since then the first day of the week has been observed as the sabbath by most Christians, because Christ rose on a Sunday, now also called the Lord's Day.</p>

56. How do we keep the Sabbath holy?	<p>We keep the sabbath holy—set aside as a special day belonging to the Lord—by taking a break from otherwise good and acceptable work, recreation, and pursuits and, instead, spending the whole time engaged in public and private acts of worship, except for the time used in tending to necessities or showing mercy.</p>
57. What is forbidden in the Fourth Commandment?	<p>The Fourth Commandment forbids neglecting or half-heartedly doing the good things God requires of us at all times, treating the Lord's Day as ordinary with passive idleness rather than active worship, doing anything that is sinful, or any unnecessary thinking, talking, or working on any regular everyday business, recreation, and pursuits.</p>
58. What do we learn from the Fourth Commandment?	<p>We learn from the Fourth Commandment that God allows us six days for our own employments and enjoyments, but the seventh day belongs to him by virtue of his example and blessing of the Sabbath.</p>
59. What is the Fifth Commandment?	<p>Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.</p>
60. What is required in the Fifth Commandment?	<p>The Fifth Commandment requires us to preserve the honor and perform the duties appropriate to our various roles and relationships whether as superiors, subordinates, or equals.</p>
61. What is forbidden in the Fifth Commandment?	<p>The Fifth Commandment forbids neglecting, or doing anything against, the honor and duty due to everyone according to their various roles and relationships.</p>
62. What do we learn from the Fifth Commandment?	<p>We learn from the Fifth Commandment that God promises a long, prosperous life to all who obey this command, insofar as it serves for God's glory and their good.</p>

63. What is the Sixth Commandment?	Do not murder.
64. What is required in the Sixth Commandment?	The Sixth Commandment requires us to make every effort (within biblically moral boundaries) to preserve our own life, and the life of others.
65. What is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment?	The sixth commandment forbids the taking of our own life, or the life of another, unjustly, or anything that would lead to doing so.
66. What is the Seventh Commandment?	Do not commit adultery.
67. What is required in the Seventh Commandment?	The Seventh Commandment requires us to preserve our own and our neighbor's chastity, in our thoughts, intentions, language, and behavior.
68. What is forbidden in the Seventh Commandment?	The Seventh Commandment forbids any thought, word, or action that is unchaste, impure, or immoral toward another.
69. What is the Eighth Commandment?	Do not steal.
70. What is required in the Eighth Commandment?	The Eighth Commandment requires us to righteously work to gain and grow wealth and worldly possessions for ourselves and others.
71. What is forbidden in the Eighth Commandment?	The Eighth Commandment forbids any action that unjustly hinders or diminishes our own, or our neighbor's, wealth, property, or possessions.
72. What is the Ninth Commandment?	Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.
73. What is required in the Ninth Commandment?	The Ninth Commandment requires us to conduct ourselves with honesty and integrity and to maintain our own and our neighbor's good name, especially when bearing witness.
74. What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?	The Ninth Commandment forbids bias against, prejudice to, or any other distortion of truth, as well as any injury to our own or our neighbor's good name.

75. What is the Tenth Commandment?	Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
76. What is required in the Tenth Commandment?	The Tenth Commandment requires us to be fully content with whatever we have, and to maintain a right and charitable attitude toward our neighbors and all that belongs to them.
77. What is forbidden in the Tenth Commandment?	The Tenth Commandment forbids being discontent with our own real or perceived lack, envying the good of our neighbor, grieving because we do not seem to measure up, and any pining after or acting to acquire what belongs to someone else.
78. Is anyone able to keep the commandments of God perfectly?	Since The Fall, no one is able in this life to keep the commandments of God perfectly. The only exception is Jesus Christ the God-Man.
79. Are all transgressions of God's law equally heinous?	Some sins, by nature of their offense, are more weighty and gravely serious and, therefore, more detestable in the sight of God than others.
80. What does every sin deserve?	Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse both in this life and in the afterlife.
81. What does God require of us so that we may escape his wrath and the curse due to us for sin?	God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ and repentance unto life, along with a diligent participation in all the outward means by which He transmits to us the benefits of redemption in Christ.
82. What is faith in Jesus Christ?	Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive him, as he is offered to us in the gospel, and place our confidence in him alone for salvation.

83. What is repentance unto life?	<p>Repentance unto life is a saving grace by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin and God's mercy in Christ, with grief and hatred of his sin, turns from it unto God, newly and fully resolved to make every effort to obey the Lord.</p>
84. What are the outward and ordinary means by which Christ transmits the benefits of redemption to us?	<p>The ordinary means of grace are his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer, all of which are made to work for the salvation of those who partake and participate in faith.</p>
85. How is the Word made to work for our salvation?	<p>The Spirit of God makes the reading and the preaching of the Word a means of convincing and converting sinners and of building up the saints in holiness and comfort through faith.</p>
86. How is the Word to be read and heard?	<p>We must consider it with diligence, preparation, and prayer, receive it with faith and love, know it by heart, and put it into practice.</p>
87. How are the sacraments made to work for our salvation?	<p>It is not from any virtue in them or in those who administer them but only by the blessing of Christ and the working of his Spirit in those who receive the sacraments by faith.</p>
88. What is a sacrament?	<p>A sacrament is a sacred tradition established by Christ that represents all the benefits of the New Covenant and applies them to the believer in a tangible way.</p>
89. What are the sacraments of the New Covenant?	<p>The sacraments are baptism and communion.</p>
90. What is baptism?	<p>Baptism—washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit—is a sacrament that signifies and confirms our ingrafting into Christ—being united with him in his death, burial, and resurrection—and our pledge to faithfully love and serve the Lord from that moment on.</p>

91. To whom is baptism to be administered?	Baptism is to be administered to all those who profess their faith in Christ and pledge obedience to him.
92. What is Communion?	Communion, also known as The Lord's Supper, or the Eucharist (which means "thanksgiving"), is a sacrament in which we remember the body and blood of Christ broken and poured out for us and receive all the benefits of that sacrifice spiritually as we, in posture of faith, partake in the life and real presence of Christ through the bread and wine, thus nourishing our souls.
93. What is required to partake of Communion in a worthy manner?	To partake of Communion in a worthy manner we must first judge ourselves to make sure that we do not selfishly seek to satisfy ourselves while neglecting to serve our brothers and sisters in need. Showing contempt for any person in the Body of Christ dishonors the sacrifice of Christ's body for us that we celebrate and share in through communion, thus bringing judgment on us.
94. What is prayer?	Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.
95. What guide has God given to direct us in prayer?	The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer, especially the Psalms; but Christ Himself taught his disciples to pray The Lord's Prayer and to model their own prayers after it.
96. What does the beginning of the Lord's Prayer teach us?	The beginning of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father in heaven," teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father who able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for one another.

97. What is our first priority in prayer?	<p>The first priority—"your name be honored as holy,"—is to pray that God would make himself known through us so that we may glorify him; and that he would arrange all things to his own glory.</p>
98. What is our second priority in prayer?	<p>The second priority—"your kingdom come"—is to pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed and Christ's kingdom may be advanced, bringing ourselves and others into it; and that the King would soon come in glory.</p>
99. What is our third priority in prayer?	<p>The third priority—"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"—is to pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.</p>
100. What is our fourth priority in prayer?	<p>The fourth priority—"give us today our daily bread"—is to pray that of God's grace we may receive all we need of the good things of this life and enjoy his favor.</p>
101. What is our fifth priority in prayer?	<p>The fifth priority—"forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"—is to pray that God would freely pardon all our sins and to pledge by his grace also to forgive freely everyone who wrongs, or is indebted to, us.</p>
102. What is our sixth priority in prayer?	<p>The sixth priority—"do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one"—is to pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin or help us overcome sin when are tempted; and that he would protect us from those who would seek to do us harm, whether human or demonic.</p>

103. What does the ending of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

The ending of the Lord's Prayer that we add when we recite it together—"for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever"—teaches us to both be confident in him and praise him, because he is sovereign, almighty, and able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think to the praise of his glory; and, in testimony of our confidence that he hears us and will surely fulfill his purpose for us, we say, "Amen."

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians
15:1-8, 21-27

Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, **the gospel** I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand and by which you are being saved, if you hold to the message I preached to you — unless you believed in vain. For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures, and that **he appeared** to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then he appeared to over five hundred brothers and sisters at one time; most of them are still alive, but some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born at the wrong time, he also appeared to me.

For since death came through a man, **the resurrection** of the dead also comes through a man. For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, **at his coming, those who belong to Christ**. Then comes the end, when **he hands over the kingdom** to God the Father, when **he abolishes all rule and all authority and power**. For **he must reign** until **he puts all his enemies under his feet**. The last enemy to be abolished is death. **For God has put everything under his feet** . . . We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible**, and we will be changed . . . When this corruptible body is clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place, “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, death, is your victory? Where, death, is your sting?” But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

<p>FOLLOWING JESUS</p> <p>Matthew 16:24- 28</p>	<p>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”</p>
<p>COUNTING THE COST</p> <p>Luke 14:26-33</p>	<p>If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, “This man started to build and wasn't able to finish.” Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple. – Jesus</p>
<p>REPENT & BE BAPTIZED</p> <p>Acts 2:38</p>	<p>Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.</p>

BAPTISM 1 Peter 3:18-22	<p>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, in which he also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few — that is, eight people — were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.</p>
KNOWING CHRIST Philippians 3:8-11	<p>I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith. My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.</p>
THE BLESSED HOPE Titus 2:11-14	<p>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.</p>

**THE NICENE
CREED**

“The Symbol of
Faith”

I believe in One God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became Man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and He suffered and was buried. On the third day He rose according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets.

In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead; and the life of the age to come. Amen.

Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.

(1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

**Contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints
once for all.** (Jude 1:3)