

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 1 What is the chief purpose for which man is made?

A. The chief purpose for which man is made is to glorify God,^[a] and to enjoy him forever.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 86:9; Isaiah 60:21; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Revelation 4:11

[b]. Psalm 16:5-11; Psalm 144:15; Isaiah 12:2; Luke 2:10; Philippians 4:4; Revelation 21:3-4

Q. 2 What rule has God given to direct us how to glorify and enjoy him?

A. The Word of God, which consists of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments,^[a] is the only rule to direct us how to glorify and enjoy him.^[b]

[a]. Matthew 19:4-5 with Genesis 2:24; Luke 24:27, 44; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 14:37; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Peter 3:2, 15-16

[b]. Deuteronomy 4:2; Psalm 19:7-11; Isaiah 8:20; John 15:11; John 20:30-31; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 John 1:4

Q. 3 What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God,^[a] and what duty God requires of man.^[b]

[a]. Genesis 1:1; John 5:39; John 20:31; Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:15

[b]. Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:105; Micah 6:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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Q. 4 What is God?

A. God is a Spirit,^[a] infinite,^[b] eternal,^[c] and unchangeable^[d] in his being,^[e] wisdom,^[f] power,^[g] holiness,^[h] justice,^[i] goodness,^[j] and truth.^[k]

[a]. Deuteronomy 4:15-19; Luke 24:39; John 1:18; John 4:24; Acts 17:29

[b]. 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 139:7-10; Psalm 145:3; Psalm 147:5; Jeremiah 23:24; Romans 11:33-36

[c]. Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; Psalm 102:12; Psalm 102:24-27; Revelation 1:4; Revelation 1:8

[d]. Psalm 33:11; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:12; Hebrews 6:17-18; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17

[e]. Exodus 3:14; Psalm 115:2-3; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:15-16

[f]. Psalm 104:24; Romans 11:33-34; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20

[g]. Genesis 17:1; Psalm 62:11; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26; Revelation 1:8

[h]. Hebrews 1:13; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 3:3; 1 John 3:5; Revelation 15:4

[i]. Genesis 18:25; Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 96:13; Romans 3:5; Romans 3:26

[j]. Psalm 103:5; Psalm 107:8; Matthew 19:17; Romans 2:4

[k]. Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 86:15 vs Psalm 117:2; Hebrews 6:18

Q. 5 Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is only one God,^[a] the living and true God.^[b]

[a]. Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 45:21-22; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

[b]. Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 5:20

Q. 6 How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;^[a] and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.^[b]

[a]. Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2

[b]. Psalm 45:6; John 1:1; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Jude 1:24-25

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Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are his eternal plan, according to the purpose of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has foreordained whatever comes to pass;^[b] yet in such a manner as to be in no way the author of sin.

[a]. Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 14:24; Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:11-12

Q. 8. How does God carry out his decrees?

A. God carries out his decrees in the works of creation and providence.^[a]

[a]. Psalm 148:8; Isaiah 40:26; Daniel 4:35; Acts 4:24-28; Revelation 4:11

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Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is the making by God of all things from nothing, by his powerful word,^[a] in the space of six days, and all very good.^[b]

[a]. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3

[b]. Genesis 1:31

Q. 10. How did God create man?

A. God created man, male and female, in his own image,^[a] in knowledge,^[b] righteousness, and holiness,^[c] with rule over the creatures.^[d]

[a]. Genesis 1:27

[b]. Colossians 3:10

[c]. Ephesians 4:24

[d]. Genesis 1:28; see Psalm 8:1-9

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Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are his most holy,^[a] wise,^[b] and powerful^[c] preservation^[d] and control^[e] of all his creatures, and all their actions.^[f]

[a]. Psalm 145:17

[b]. Psalm 104:24

[c]. Hebrews 1:3

[d]. Nehemiah 9:6

[e]. Ephesians 1:19-22

[f]. Psalm 36:6; Proverbs 16:33; Matthew 10:30

Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state in which he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, on condition of perfect obedience, forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil on penalty of death.^[a]

[a]. Genesis 2:16-17; James 2:10

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Q. 13. Did our first parents continue in the state in which they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state in which they were created by sinning against God.^[a]

[a]. Genesis 3:6-8; Genesis 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3

Q. 14. What is sin?

A. Sin is any failure to measure up to what God requires, or any disobedience to his commands.^[a]

[a]. Leviticus 5:17; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4

Q. 15. What was the sin by which our first parents fell from the state in which they were created?

A. The sin by which our first parents fell from the state in which they were created, was their eating the fruit^[a] that God had forbidden.

[a]. Genesis 3:6

Q. 16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first disobedience?

A. Since the covenant of life was made with Adam^[a] for his descendants as well as for himself, all mankind descending from him in the ordinary manner, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.^[b]

[a]. Genesis 2:16-17; James 2:10

[b]. Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:22

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Q. 17. Into what state did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.^[a]

[a]. Genesis 3:16-19, 23; Romans 3:16; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1

Q. 18. What is the sinfulness of that state into which man fell?

A. The sinfulness of the state into which man fell includes the guilt of Adam's first sin,^[a] the lack of the righteousness^[b] which he had at first, and the corruption every part of his nature,^[c] which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual sins which flow from it.^[d]

[a]. Romans 5:12, 19

[b]. Romans 3:10; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24

[c]. Psalm 51:5; John 3:6; Romans 3:18; Romans 8:7-8; Ephesians 2:3

[d]. Genesis 6:5; Psalm 53:1-3; Matthew 15:19; Romans 3:10-18, 23; Galatians 5:19-21; James 1:14-15

Q. 19. What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

A. The fall brought upon mankind loss of communion with God,^[a] and his wrath^[b] and curse,^[c] so that we are justly liable to all miseries in this life,^[d] to death^[e] itself, and to punishment in hell forever.^[f]

[a]. Genesis 3:8, 24; John 8:34, 42, 44; Ephesians 2:12; Ephesians 4:18

[b]. John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:3; Ephesians 5:6

[c]. Galatians 3:10; Revelation 22:3

[d]. Genesis 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Ecclesiastes 2:22-23; Romans 8:18-23

[e]. Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23

[f]. Matthew 25:41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:9-11

Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the state of sin and misery?

A. God, solely out of his love and mercy, from all eternity elected some to everlasting life,^[a] and entered into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer.^[b]

[a]. Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

[b]. Genesis 3:15; Genesis 17:7; Exodus 19:5-6; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 20:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 9:15

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Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,^[a] who, being the eternal Son of God^[b] became man,^[c] and so was and continues to be God and man, in two distinct natures and one person forever.^[d]

[a]. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

[b]. Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17; Matthew 17:5; John 1:18

[c]. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4

[d]. Acts 1:11; Hebrews 7:24-25

Q. 22. How did Christ, the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a body and a soul^[a] like ours, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her,^[b] yet without sin.^[c]

[a]. Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14, 17

[b]. Luke 1:27, 31, 35

[c]. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26; 1 John 3:5

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Q. 23. What offices does Christ fill as our Redeemer?

A. Christ as our Redeemer fills the offices of a prophet,^[a] of a priest,^[b] and of a king,^[c] in his states both of humiliation and exaltation.

[a]. Deuteronomy 18:18; Acts 2:33; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 1:1-2

[b]. Hebrews 4:14-15; Hebrews 5:5-6

[c]. Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; 1 Corinthians 15:25

Q. 24. How does Christ fill the office of a prophet?

A. Christ fills the office of a prophet in revealing to us by his Word^[a] and Spirit^[b] the will of God for our complete salvation.^[c]

[a]. Luke 4:18-19, 21; Acts 1:1-2; Hebrews 2:3

[b]. John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 1:11

[c]. John 4:41-42; John 20:30-31

Q. 25. How does Christ fill the office of a priest?

A. Christ fills the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself to God as a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice^[a] and reconcile us to God;^[b] and in making constant intercession for us.^[c]

[a]. Isaiah 53:1-12; Acts 8:32-35; Hebrews 9:26-28; Hebrews 10:12

[b]. Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Colossians 1:21-22

[c]. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:24

Q. 26. How does Christ fill the office of a king?

A. Christ fills the office of a king in making us his willing subjects, in ruling and defending us,^[a] and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 110:3; Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:2; Colossians 1:13

[b]. Psalm 2:6-9; Psalm 110:1-2; Matthew 12:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Colossians 2:15

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Q. 27. In what did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in being born, and that in a poor circumstance;^[a] in being subject to God's law;^[b] in undergoing the miseries of this life,^[c] the wrath of God^[d] and the curse of death on the cross;^[e] in being buried; and in continuing under the power of death for a time.^[f]

[a]. Luke 2:7; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Galatians 4:4

[b]. Galatians 4:4

[c]. Isaiah 53:3; Luke 9:58; John 4:6; John 11:35; Hebrews 2:18

[d]. Psalm 22:1 (Matthew 27:46); Isaiah 53:10; 1 John 2:2

[e]. Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:8

[f]. Matthew 12:40; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Q. 28. In what does Christ's exaltation consist?

A. Christ's exaltation consists in his rising again from the dead on the third day;^[a] in ascending into heaven;^[b] in sitting at the right hand^[c] of God the Father; and in coming to judge the world at the last day.^[d]

[a]. 1 Corinthians 15:4

[b]. Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:11; Ephesians 4:8

[c]. Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:33-34; Hebrews 1:3

[d]. Matthew 16:27; Acts 17:31

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Q. 29. How are we made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. We are made to share in the redemption purchased by Christ by the effective application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.^[a]

[a]. Titus 3:4-7

Q. 30. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ by producing faith in us,^[a] and by this uniting us to Christ in our effective calling.^[b]

[a]. Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29

[b]. John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 3:17

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Q. 31. What is effective calling?

A. Effective calling is the work of God's Spirit by which he convinces us of our sin and misery, enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ,^[a] and renewing our wills,^[b] and so persuades and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ,^[c] freely offered to us in the gospel.^[d]

[a]. Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 1:17-18

[b]. Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 3:5; Titus 3:5

[c]. John 6:44-45; Acts 16:14

[d]. Isaiah 45:22; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17

Q. 32. What benefits in this life are shared by those who are effectively called?

A. In this life those who are effectively called share in justification, adoption and sanctification, and the further benefits in this life which accompany or flow from them.^[a]

[a]. Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 1:5

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Q. 33. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace^[a] in which he pardons all our sins^[b] and accepts us as righteous in his sight^[c] for the sake of the righteousness of Christ alone, which is credited to us^[d] and received by faith alone.^[e]

[a]. Romans 3:24

[b]. Romans 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:19

[c]. 2 Corinthians 5:21

[d]. Romans 4:6, 11; Romans 5:19

[e]. Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9

Q. 34. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace^[a] by which we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.^[b]

[a]. 1 John 3:1

[b]. John 1:12; Romans 8:17

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace^[a] by which we are renewed throughout in the image of God^[b] and are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness.^[c]

[a]. Ezekiel 36:27; Philippians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13

[b]. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

[c]. Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 6:4, 6, 12-14; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 2:24

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Q. 36. What benefits in this life accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification?

A. The benefits in this life which accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification are: assurance of God's love,^[a] peace of conscience,^[b] joy in the Holy Spirit,^[c] progress in holiness,^[d] and perseverance in it to this life's end.^[e]

[a]. Romans 5:5

[b]. Romans 5:1

[c]. Romans 14:17

[d]. 2 Peter 3:18

[e]. Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness^[a] and immediately pass into glory;^[b] and their bodies, being still united to Christ,^[c] rest in their graves until the resurrection.^[d]

[a]. Hebrews 12:23

[b]. Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6, 8; Philippians 1:23

[c]. 1 Thessalonians 4:14

[d]. Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15

Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection Christ will immediately raise up in glory all believers;^[a] he will openly acknowledge and acquit them in the day of judgement,^[b] graciously rewarding them according to their works of faith, and they will enter into the full enjoyment of God^[c] for all eternity.^[d]

[a]. 1 Corinthians 15:42-43

[b]. Matthew 25:33-34, 46

[c]. Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:2

[d]. Psalm 16:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:17

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Q. 39. What is the duty which God requires of man?

A. The duty which God requires of man is obedience to his revealed will.^[a]

[a]. Deuteronomy 29:29; Micah 6:8; 1 John 5:2-3

Q. 40. What rule did God at first reveal to man for his obedience?

A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.^[a]

[a]. Romans 2:14-15; Romans 10:5

Q. 41. Where is the moral law set out briefly?

A. The moral law is set out briefly in the Ten Commandments.^[a]

[a]. Deuteronomy 4:13; Matthew 19:17-19

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Q. 42. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?

A. 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 neighbour as yourself.^[a]

[a]. Matthew 22:37-40

Q. 43. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is: *I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:2; Deuteronomy 5:6

Q. 44. What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the LORD and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.^[a]

[a]. Luke 1:74-75; 1 Peter 1:14-19

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Q. 45. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is: *You shall have no other gods before me.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.^[a]

[a]. 1 Chronicles 28:9; Isaiah 45:20-25; Matthew 4:10

Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment forbids the denial of,^[a] or failure to worship and glorify, the true God as God^[b] and our God;^[c] and it forbids giving that worship and glory to any other which is due to God alone.^[d]

[a]. Psalm 14:1

[b]. Romans 1:20-21

[c]. Psalm 81:10-11

[d]. Ezekiel 8:16-18; Romans 1:25

Q. 48. What do the words "before me" in the first commandment teach us?

A. These words "before me" in the first commandment teach us that God, who sees all things, takes notice of and is much displeased with the sin of having any other God.^[a]

[a]. Deuteronomy 30:17-18; Psalm 44:20-21; Ezekiel 8:12

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Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is: *You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10

Q. 50. What are the duties required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requires us to receive, observe, and keep pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances as God has appointed in his Word.^[a]

[a]. Deuteronomy 12:32; Matthew 28:20

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment forbids the worship of God by images,^[a] or any other way not appointed in his Word.^[b]

[a]. Deuteronomy 4:15-19; Romans 1:22-23

[b]. Leviticus 10:1-2; Jeremiah 19:4-5; Colossians 2:18-23

Q. 52. What are the reasons attached to the second commandment?

A. The reasons attached to the second commandment are God's authority as our lawgiver,^[a] the fact that we belong to him,^[b] and the zeal he has for his own worship.^[c]

[a]. Psalm 95:2-3, 6-7; Psalm 96:9-10

[b]. Exodus 19:5; Psalm 45:11; Isaiah 54:5

[c]. Exodus 34:14; 1 Corinthians 10:22

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Q. 53. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is: *You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's name, titles,^[a] attributes,^[b] ordinances,^[c] Word,^[d] and works.^[e]

[a]. Deuteronomy 10:20; Psalm 29:2; Matthew 6:9

[b]. 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Revelation 15:3-4

[c]. Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:27-28

[d]. Psalm 138:2; Revelation 22:18-19

[e]. Psalm 107:21-22; Revelation 4:11

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment forbids all unworthy use of anything by which God makes himself known.^[a]

[a]. Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12

Q. 56. What is the reason attached to the third commandment?

A. The reason attached to the third commandment is that through the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the LORD your God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgement.^[a]

[a]. Deuteronomy 28:58-59; 1 Samuel 3:13; 1 Samuel 4:11

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Q. 57. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is: *Remember the sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien/stranger within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but he rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Q. 58. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word, in particular, one whole day in seven.^[a]

[a]. Exodus 31:13, 16-17

Q. 59. Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly sabbath?

A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath,^[a] but thereafter he appointed the first day of the week, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian sabbath or Lord's Day.^[b]

[a]. Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:11

[b]. Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10

Q. 60. How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

A. The sabbath or Lord's Day, which is given for man's good and as a pointer to his eternal destiny,^[a] is to be kept holy by resting all that day from our work and recreations,^[b] and spending the whole time in the public and private worship,^[c] except the time spent in works of necessity and mercy.^[d]

[a]. Mark 2:27; Hebrews 4:4-5, 9-11

[b]. Exodus 20:10; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 58:13-14

[c]. Exodus 20:8; Leviticus 23:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7

[d]. Matthew 12:1-13

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Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the misuse of the day by idleness, sinful acts, or unnecessary thoughts, words or works about our worldly affairs and recreations.^[a]

[a]. Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 58:13-14; Amos 8:4-6

Q. 62. What are the reasons attached to the fourth commandment?

A. The reasons attached to the fourth commandment are God's allowance of six days for worldly tasks,^[a] his claim to special ownership of the seventh, his own example, and his blessing of the sabbath day.^[b]

[a]. Exodus 20:9; Exodus 31:15; Leviticus 23:3

[b]. Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:11; Exodus 31:17

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Q. 63. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment is: *Honour your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment requires us to preserve the honour and perform the duties belonging to everyone in their different positions and relationships in life.^[a]

[a]. Romans 13:1, 7; Ephesians 5:21-22, 24; Ephesians 6:1, 4-5, 9; 1 Peter 2:17

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. The fifth commandment forbids us to neglect or to do anything against the honour and duty which belongs to everyone in their various positions and relationships in life.^[a]

[a]. Matthew 15:4-6; Romans 13:8

Q. 66. What is the reason attached to the fifth commandment?

A. The reason attached to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (so far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all those who keep this commandment.^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:2-3

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Q. 67. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is: *You shall not murder.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17

Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life and the life of others.^[a]

[a]. Ephesians 5:28-29

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids us to take our own life or to take unjustly the life of our neighbour, or anything tending to these ends.^[a]

[a]. Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:22; 1 John 3:15

Q. 70. Which is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is: *You shall not commit adultery.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18

Q. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment requires us to preserve our own and our neighbour's chastity in heart, speech, and behaviour.^[a]

[a]. 1 Corinthians 7:2-3, 5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Q. 72. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment forbids all impure thoughts, words, and actions.^[a]

[a]. Matthew 5:28; Ephesians 5:3-4

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Q. 73. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is: *You shall not steal.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19

Q. 74. What is required in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment requires us to obtain lawfully, and to further, the wealth and material well-being of ourselves and others.^[a]

[a]. Leviticus 25:35; Ephesians 4:28 b; Philippians 2:4

Q. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment forbids whatever does or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth and material well-being.^[a]

[a]. Proverbs 28:19-20, 22, 24, 27; Ephesians 4:28 a; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8

Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is: *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requires us to maintain and promote truth between men, and our own and our neighbour's good name,^[a] especially when called upon to bear witness.^[b]

[a]. Zechariah 8:16; Acts 25:10; 3 John 1:12

[b]. Proverbs 14:5, 25

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment forbids whatever misrepresents truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name.^[a]

[a]. Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 15:3; Proverbs 6:16-19; Luke 3:14

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Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment is: *You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or his donkey, or anything which belongs to your neighbour.*^[a]

[a]. Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21

Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment requires full contentment with our own condition,^[a] and a right and charitable attitude toward our neighbour and all that is his.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 34:1; Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5

[b]. Luke 15:6, 9, 11-32; Romans 12:15; Philippians 2:4

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. The tenth commandment forbids all discontent with our own state;^[a] envying and grieving at the good of our neighbour, together with all ungoverned longings and desires for things that belong to him.^[b]

[a]. 1 Corinthians 10:10; James 3:14-16

[b]. Galatians 5:26; Colossians 3:5

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Q. 82. Is any man able to keep the commandments of God perfectly?

A. No mere human person, since the fall, is able to keep the commandments of God perfectly in this life, but breaks them daily in thought, word, and deed.^[a]

[a]. Genesis 8:21; Romans 3:9-18, 23

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally sinful?

A. Some sins, because of their nature and the circumstances, are more sinful in the sight of God than others.^[a]

[a]. Ezekiel 8:6, 13, 15; Matthew 11:20-24; John 19:11

Q. 84. What does every sin deserve?

A. Although some sins will be more severely punished than others,^[a] yet every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and the life that is to come.^[b]

[a]. Matthew 11:21-24; Luke 12:47-48

[b]. Matthew 25:41; Galatians 3:10; Ephesians 5:6; James 2:10

Q. 85. What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and repentance leading to life^[a] together with the diligent use of all the outward means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption.^[b]

[a]. Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21

[b]. Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25; Colossians 3:16

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Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace^[a] by which we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is freely offered to us in the gospel.^[b]

[a]. Ephesians 2:8-9; cf. Romans 4:16

[b]. John 20:30-31; Galatians 2:15-16; Philippians 3:3-11

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance leading to life is a saving grace,^[a] by which a sinner having truly realised his sin and grasped the mercy of God in Christ,^[b] turns from his sin with grief and hatred and turns to God^[c] with full resolve and effort after new obedience.^[d]

[a]. Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25

[b]. Psalm 51:1-4; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7, 10; Acts 2:37

[c]. Jeremiah 31:18-19; Luke 1:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 1:9

[d]. 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 119:57-64; Matthew 3:8; 2 Corinthians 7:10

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Q. 88. What are the outward and ordinary means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means by which Christ gives to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer, and all these are made effective in the salvation of the elect.^[a]

[a]. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42

Q. 89. How is the Word of God made effective to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading but especially the preaching of the Word, an effective means of convincing and converting sinners, and building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, to salvation.^[a]

[a]. Nehemiah 8:8-9; Acts 20:32; Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Q. 90. How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effective to salvation?

A. We must attend to the Word with diligence, preparation and prayer,^[a] receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practise it in our lives,^[b] so that it may become effective to salvation.

[a]. Deuteronomy 6:16-18; Psalm 119:18; 1 Peter 2:1-2

[b]. Psalm 119:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:10; Hebrews 4:2; James 1:22-25

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Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effective means of salvation?

A. The sacraments become effective means of salvation not because of any power in them or in him who administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ and the working of his Spirit in those who receive them in faith.^[a]

[a]. 1 Corinthians 3:7; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:12-17

Q. 92. What is a sacrament?

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance appointed by Christ,^[a] by which, by visible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed and applied to believers.^[b]

[a]. Matthew 28:19; Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 1:22-26

[b]. Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, two only, Baptism,^[a] and the Lord's Supper,^[b] and these take the place of Circumcision and the Passover in the Old Testament.

[a]. Matthew 28:19

[b]. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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Q. 94. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is the sacrament of solemn admission into the church on earth in which the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,^[a] signifies and seals our being grafted into Christ, and having a share in the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our pledge to be the Lord's.^[b]

[a]. Matthew 28:19

[b]. Acts 2:38-42; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21

Q. 95. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A. Baptism is not to be administered to any outside membership of the church on earth, until they profess their faith in Christ and obedience to him,^[a] but infants descending from parents (one or both) professing faith in Christ and obedience to him, are, for that reason, within the covenant and are to be baptised.^[b]

[a]. Acts 2:41; Acts 8:12, 36, 38; Acts 18:8

[b]. Genesis 17:7, 9-11; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 16:32-33; Colossians 2:11-12

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ's appointment, his death is proclaimed,^[a] and those who receive rightly are by faith (and not by the mouth in a physical manner) made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.^[b]

[a]. Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

[b]. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Q. 97. What is required to receive rightly the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of those who would receive rightly the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves as to their knowledge of the meaning and object of this sacrament, their faith to feed upon Christ, and their repentance, love and new obedience; for coming in an unworthy manner would bring judgement on themselves.^[a]

[a]. 1 Corinthians 11:27-32

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Q. 98. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God,^[a] for things agreeable to his will,^[b] in the name of Christ,^[c] with confession of our sins^[d] and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.^[e]

[a]. Psalm 10:17; Psalm 62:8; Matthew 7:7-8

[b]. 1 John 5:14

[c]. John 16:23-24

[d]. Psalm 32:5-6; Daniel 9:4-19; 1 John 1:9

[e]. Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 136:1-26; Philippians 4:6

Q. 99. What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer,^[a] but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer.^[b]

[a]. 1 John 5:14

[b]. Matthew 6:9-13

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Q. 100. What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's Prayer (which is, *Our Father in heaven*) teaches us firstly to draw near to God with all holy reverence^[a] and confidence^[b] as children to a father^[c] able and ready to help us;^[d] and secondly, that we should pray with and for others.^[e]

[a]. Psalm 95:6

[b]. Ephesians 3:12

[c]. Matthew 7:9-11, cf. Luke 11:11-13; Romans 8:15

[d]. Ephesians 3:20

[e]. Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first request?

A. In the first request (which is, *Hallowed be your name*) we pray that God may enable us and others to glorify him in all in which he makes himself known;^[a] and that he would overrule all things for his own glory.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 67:1-3; Psalm 99:3; Psalm 100:3-4

[b]. Romans 11:33-36; Revelation 4:11

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second request?

A. In the second request (which is, *Your kingdom come*) we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed,^[a] that the kingdom of grace may be advanced^[b] and ourselves and others brought into it and kept in it,^[c] and that Christ's return and the kingdom of glory may come quickly.^[d]

[a]. Matthew 12:25-28; Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8

[b]. Psalm 72:8-11; Matthew 24:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

[c]. Psalm 119:5; Luke 22:32; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

[d]. Revelation 22:20

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third request?

A. In the third request (which is, *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*) we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey and submit to his will in all things,^[a] as the angels do in heaven.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 19:14; Psalm 119; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20-21

[b]. Psalm 103:20-21; Hebrews 1:14

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Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth request?

A. In the fourth request (which is, *Give us today our daily bread*) we pray that by God's free gift we may receive a sufficient share of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.^[a]

[a]. Proverbs 30:8-9; Matthew 6:31-34; Philippians 4:11, 19; 1 Timothy 6:6-8

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth request?

A. In the fifth request (which is, *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*) we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins;^[a] and we are encouraged to ask this because, by his grace, we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 51:1-2, 7, 9; Daniel 9:17-19; 1 John 1:7

[b]. Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth request?

A. In the sixth request (which is, *And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one*) we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin,^[a] or support and deliver us when we are tempted.^[b]

[a]. Psalm 19:13; Matthew 26:41; John 17:15

[b]. Luke 22:31-32; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Hebrews 2:18

Q. 107. What does the conclusion attached to the Lord's Prayer teach us?*

A. The conclusion attached to the Lord's Prayer (which is, *For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen*) teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only,^[a] and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power and glory to him.^[b] And in testimony of our desire and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.^[c]

* The conclusion does not appear in Luke's record of the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11), and it is omitted in several important Greek manuscripts of Matthew 6. However, it is a perfectly scriptural kind of conclusion – see the texts cited.

[a]. Daniel 9:4, 7-9, 16-19; Luke 18:1, 7-8

[b]. 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 5:11-13

[c]. 1 Corinthians 14:16; Revelation 22:20