



THE CATECHISM

A SHARED PURSUIT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



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INTRODUCTION

The Catechism is a series of questions and answers that allow individuals to explore foundational truths of Scripture and discover the redemptive story of God. This catechism is written by a diverse team of theologians and local church ministers – informed by the great catechisms of church history – to be a useful discipleship resource for 21st century contexts.

01. **WHY AM I ALIVE?**

To love God and serve his world by reflecting his goodness in my thoughts, attitude, and actions.

02. **HOW CAN I KNOW GOD?**

I can know God by the power of the Holy Spirit through His resurrected Son, Jesus.



01

PART

CREATION
FALL
COVENANT + LAW



SECTION 1 CREATION

03. WHO IS GOD?

God is the loving Creator and sustainer of everything. He is eternal and unchanging in his goodness, wisdom, and power.

04. ARE THERE MORE GODS THAN ONE?

There is only one living and true God, who exists eternally as three Persons in loving relationship. God alone is worthy of our worship.

05. WHO ARE THE THREE PERSONS OF THE ONE TRUE GOD?

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully God, and they are equal in goodness, wisdom, and power.

06. WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD?

The Word of God is the Bible. God inspired people to write the books of the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is the trustworthy and authoritative rule for what we believe and do.

07. HOW DID GOD CREATE ALL THINGS?

In the beginning, God created all things out of nothing by his spoken word. All of his creation was very good.

08. HOW DID GOD CREATE HUMANITY?

God created humanity as male and female in his own image.

09. WHY DID GOD CREATE HUMANS?

God created humans to worship him by bearing his image for the world.

10. DID THE FIRST HUMANS WORSHIP GOD LIKE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO?

No. They sinned against God by worshipping idols rather than bearing the image of the One who created them.

11. WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is loving anything more than God. It is thinking, speaking, or acting in ways that are against God's will for us.

12. HOW ARE WE AFFECTED BY SIN?

Sin brings guilt, shame, and death into our lives, making us unclean before God, who is holy.

13. WHAT IS THE LASTING CONSEQUENCE OF SIN?

Our sin has separated us from God and brought us under corruption, guilt, and God's holy wrath.



SECTION 3
COVENANT + LAW

14. WHAT DID GOD PROMISE AFTER SIN ENTERED THE WORLD?

God promised that a Savior would defeat evil and rescue his creation from the power of sin and death.

15. HOW DID GOD BEGIN TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE?

God began to fulfill his promise by calling Abraham. God promised to bless the world through Abraham and his descendants.

16. WHO WERE ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS?

The Israelites. They were God's chosen people to be a blessing to the world. Through them, God's promised Savior would come.

17. HOW DID GOD SHOW HIS LOVE TO THE ISRAELITES?

Through his covenant promises given to Abraham and the Israelites when he gave them the law.

18. HOW DID GOD GIVE ISRAEL THE LAW?

God gave Israel the law to teach them how to live and show the world what he is like. The whole law is summarized in the greatest commandments.

19. WHAT ARE THE GREATEST COMMANDMENTS?

First, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Second, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

20. DID ISRAEL KEEP THE LAW OF GOD PERFECTLY?

No. Israel failed to keep God's law like they were supposed to. They could no longer show the world what God is like.

21. WHAT HAPPENED TO ISRAEL WHEN THEY FAILED TO KEEP GOD'S LAW?

God sent Israel out of the land he gave them and into exile. Then he removed his presence from the temple.

22. DID GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM FAIL BECAUSE ISRAEL DISOBEDIED GOD?

No. God is faithful to his covenant, even when humanity is faithless. God promised to rescue his people, forgive their sins, and restore his world by sending the promised Savior; called the Messiah.



PART

02

INCARNATION
REDEMPTION
GRACE + FORGIVENESS



SECTION 4
INCARNATION

23. HOW DID GOD FULFILL HIS PROMISES TO ISRAEL AND THE WORLD?

God sent his Son, Jesus of Nazareth, to rescue Israel and the world from the power of sin and death.

24. WHO IS JESUS OF NAZARETH?

Jesus is God's eternal Son and Israel's Messiah, the promised Savior. Through Jesus, we know who God is.

25. WHY IS JESUS ABLE TO SHOW US WHAT GOD IS LIKE?

Because he is both fully God and fully human, having two distinct natures in his one person.

26. WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT JESUS WAS FULLY HUMAN?

Jesus lived as a human made in God's image without the corruption of sin so that he could restore the image of God in our humanity.

27. WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT JESUS WAS FULLY GOD?

Only God can rescue humanity from the power of sin and restore his creation from the curse of the fall.



SECTION 4
INCARNATION

28. WHAT WAS THE GOSPEL THAT JESUS PROCLAIMED?

The Gospel is that God the King has come near to us in Jesus to establish his Kingdom on earth as in heaven. Everyone who believes in and follows him can be forgiven of their sins and enjoy eternal life.

29. HOW DOES JESUS CALL US TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL?

Jesus calls us to follow him by turning away from our sin, trusting in him as our Savior, and living to obey him as our Lord.

30. HOW DOES JESUS CARE FOR HIS PEOPLE?

As our Prophet, Jesus proclaims the Word of God to us. As our Priest, Jesus prays to the Father on our behalf. As our King, Jesus rules over the world, making all things new.



SECTION 5
REDEMPTION

31. HOW DID JESUS SAVE GOD'S PEOPLE?

Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins, resurrected from the grave to give us new life, and ascended to Heaven to reign as our King.

32. HOW DID JESUS DIE?

According to God's plan, although he had done nothing wrong, Jesus was handed over by the Jewish leaders to be crucified by the Romans.

33. WHAT DOES THE DEATH OF JESUS MEAN FOR THE WORLD?

Because Jesus died, sin has been defeated, and all people can receive forgiveness for their sins and be reconciled to God.

34. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JESUS DIED?

After three days, Jesus rose bodily from the dead, leaving an empty tomb behind him.

35. WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS MEAN FOR THE WORLD?

Jesus' resurrection proves that God's Kingdom has come just as he said and that through faith in him, anyone can be set free from the power of sin and death.

36. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JESUS WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD?

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples bodily and taught them about the Kingdom of God. Then he ascended into heaven.

37. WHAT DOES THE ASCENSION OF JESUS MEAN FOR THE WORLD?

Jesus is seated in power at the Father's right hand, where he intercedes for his people and reigns as Lord over everyone and everything.

38. HOW CAN WE BE SAVED?

By the grace of God, we confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead.

39. WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

It is turning our hearts and minds away from sin and towards the God who can forgive us and make us new.

40. WHAT IS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST?

It is trusting in Jesus alone and what he has done for our salvation.

41. WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

Justification is the gracious act of God where he declares believers not guilty, but in right standing with him because of Jesus.

42. WHAT IS ADOPTION?

Adoption is when God makes us his sons and daughters through faith in Jesus Christ.

43. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

Sanctification is the lifelong process where God works with us to make us more like Jesus in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

44. WHAT IS THE RESULT OF TRUE FAITH?

True faith will result in transformed living as the Holy Spirit works in us to make us like Jesus.

PART 03

THE HOLY SPIRIT THE CHURCH NEW CREATION





SECTION 7

THE HOLY SPIRIT

45. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal in power and glory with the Father and the Son.

46. WHY DID THE FATHER AND SON SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit was sent into the world to fulfill God's promise to give life to his people and dwell with them forever.

47. HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We receive him by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

48. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US?

As our Teacher, the Holy Spirit reveals God's truth to us in the Bible. As our Helper, the Holy Spirit gives us new life. As our Comforter, the Holy Spirit supports us when we are weak and suffering.

49. HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

The Holy Spirit guides us into truth by leading us to meet with Jesus when we open the Bible.

50. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

Being filled with the Spirit is an experience of God's power and life-giving love that moves us to worship and obedience.



SECTION 7

THE HOLY SPIRIT

51. **WHAT IS THE RESULT OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?**

We grow in our relationship with Jesus and are transformed to be more like him, bearing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

52. **WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT?**

They are good things that the Spirit continues to give to all his people to serve, strengthen, and unify the Church in love.



SECTION 8
THE CHURCH

53. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The Church is the family of believers who are united in Christ, in all times and all places, and expressed in many different local congregations.

54. HOW IS THE CHURCH UNITED?

The Church is united by the Holy Spirit into one body under one Head, Jesus Christ, having peace with God and one another.

55. HOW SHOULD WE LIVE TOGETHER AS THE CHURCH?

Christ commands us to love one another through meeting together regularly, serving each other's needs, and strengthening each other's faith in Christ by exercising the gifts of the Spirit.

56. WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

The Church's mission is to go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all the things that Jesus commanded.

57. HOW DOES THE CHURCH WORSHIP GOD?

We seek to understand and obey the Bible and to faithfully participate in the sacraments as Jesus commanded.

58. WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS?

The sacraments are Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are signs of God's grace that we experience together in worship.



SECTION 8

THE CHURCH

59. **WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

Baptism is the washing of water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, believers signify their union with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection.

60. **WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

The Lord's Supper is the bread and the cup. When we partake of the Lord's Supper together, as Jesus commanded, we remember his death on the cross and look forward to his coming again.

61. **WHAT IS PRAYER?**

Prayer is talking with God and enjoying fellowship with him. By faith, when we pray we come to the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit.

62. **HOW DID JESUS TEACH US TO PRAY?**

Jesus taught us to pray in this way: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."



SECTION 9
NEW CREATION

63. WHAT IS THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH?

That God will make all things right when Jesus returns to defeat evil and resurrect his people in the new heaven and new earth.

64. HOW WILL JESUS RETURN?

Jesus will return personally and visibly in power; the same way that he ascended into Heaven.

65. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN JESUS RETURNS?

When Jesus returns, he will raise everyone from the dead, judge us all perfectly, and restore God's creation.

66. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO UNBELIEVERS AT THE FINAL JUDGMENT?

Jesus will judge unbelievers openly according to their works, and he will cast them into hell with the devil and his angels as an everlasting punishment.

67. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO BELIEVERS AT THE FINAL JUDGMENT?

Believers will be openly judged by Jesus according to their works to determine the rewards they will receive as they enter into the joy of his Kingdom in the new heaven and new earth.

68. WILL THERE BE ANY SIN OR DEATH IN THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH?

No. In the new heaven and new earth there will be no more sin or death. God will wipe away every tear from our eyes and make his home with us forever.



SECTION 9

NEW CREATION

69. HOW SHOULD WE PREPARE FOR JESUS' RETURN?

We should be ready for Jesus' return by loving God and loving our neighbor through the power of the Spirit, sharing the Gospel of Jesus in every opportunity.

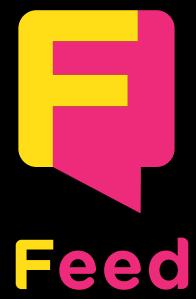
CONCLUSION

70. HOW CAN OUR FAITH BE SUMMARIZED?

Our faith can be summarized in the Apostle's Creed:

*We believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

*universal



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