

Grace Community Church (Huntsville)
A Catechism of the Christian Faith

Introduction:

A catechism is a summary of the principles of the Christian faith in the form of questions and answers, used for the purpose of instruction. As a discipleship tool, catechisms have a long and well-established history in the Christian church. This tool is meant as a guide and resource to help believers, children, or new converts learn basic truths of the faith. Please feel free to incorporate this resource into your training in the home or for personal use. Some Scripture references are offered for most questions and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Question 1: Who made you?

Answer: God made me.

(Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; Eccles. 12:1; Acts 17:24-29)

Question 2: What else did God make?

Answer: God made everything.

(Gen. 1, esp. vv. 1, 31; Acts 14:15; Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16)

Question 3: Why did God make everything?

Answer: God made everything for His own glory

(Ps. 19:1; Jer. 9:23-24; Rev. 4:11)

Question 4: How can you glorify God?

Answer: I can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

(Eccles. 12:13; Mark 12:29-31; John 5:8-10; 1 Cor. 10:31)

Question 5: Where do you learn how to love and obey God?

Answer: I learn how to love and obey God in the Word of God.

(Job 11:7; Ps. 119:104; Isa. 8:20; Matt. 22:29; 2 Tim. 3:15-17)

Question 6: What is the Word of God?

Answer: The Bible is the Word of God. It is God's verbally inspired, inerrant, and infallible written revelation to mankind.

(1 Cor. 2:7-14; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

Question 7: What does "verbally inspired" mean?

Answer: "Verbally inspired" means that every single word in Scripture is God-given and fully authoritative.

(Zech. 7:12; Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 2:20-21)

Question 8: What do "inerrant" and "infallible" mean?

Answer: "Inerrant" and "infallible" mean that the Bible has no errors.

(Ps. 12:6; Ps. 19:7; Ps. 119:160; John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 2:20-21)

Question 9: Who wrote the Bible?

Answer: Men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible.

(Acts 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:10-11, 20-21)

Question 10: Should you read the Bible?

Answer: Yes. I should read the Bible because it is the only way to know what I should believe and how I should behave.

(Matt. 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

Question 11: How can you understand what the Bible teaches?

Answer: I can understand what the Bible teaches because the Holy Spirit teaches me as I prayerfully work hard to apply the literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation.

(John 7:17; 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:7-15; 1 John 2:20)

Question 12: What does the “literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation” mean?

Answer: The “literal, grammatical-historical method of interpretation” means that I seek to understand the plain meaning of the words based on an understanding of the historical and cultural settings in which the book was written.

Question 13: How many interpretations are there for any given passage in the Bible?

Answer: There is only one interpretation, but there may be several applications.

Question 14: What is prayer?

Answer: Prayer is instant and intimate communication with God to offer up desires to Him, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of sins, and with thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.

(Ps. 3-6, 54:2; 55:1, 69:13; Matt. 6:9-13; Phil. 4:6; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; James 5:15; 1 John 1:9, 5:14)

Question 15: How often should you pray?

Answer: I am to pray without ceasing, which means I should constantly have an attitude of prayer where I am communicating and communing with God repeatedly and often.

(Matt. 6:9-13; Phil. 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:17)

Question 16: How many Gods are there?

Answer: There is only one living and true God.

(Deut. 6:4; Ps. 96:4-5; Jer. 10:10)

Question 17: In how many persons does this one God exist?

Answer: God exists in three persons, each the same in essence, in power, and in glory.

(Matt 28:19; John 1:1; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:11; 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3)

Question 18: Who are the three persons?

Answer: The three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, together referred to as the Trinity.

(Matt. 28:19; John 1:1; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:11; 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3)

Question 19: Who is God the Father?

Answer: God the Father is a Spirit and does not have a body like man. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.

(Ex. 34:6-7; Num. 23:19; Ps. 89:14; 90:2; 147:5; John 4:24; 1 Tim. 1:17; Jas. 1:17; Rev. 4:8)

Question 20: Where is God the Father?

Answer: God is everywhere.

(Ps. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28)

Question 21: Can you see God the Father?

Answer: I cannot see God, but He always sees me.

(Ex. 33:20; Ps. 139, esp. vv. 1-5; Pr. 5:21; John 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16; Heb. 4:12-13)

Question 22: Does God the Father know all things?

Answer: God knows everything. Nothing can be hidden from Him.

(1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 16:9; Luke 12:6-7; Rom. 2:16)

Question 23: What does God's Fatherhood involve?

Answer: God's Fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind.

(Rom. 8:14, 2 Cor. 6:18)

Question 24: How is God a Father to mankind?

Answer: God is Father to all men as Creator, but He is Spiritual Father only to believers.

(Rom. 8:14; 2 Cor. 6:18, Eph. 4:6)

Question 25: Who is God the Son?

Answer: Jesus Christ is God the Son. He is the eternal Son of God the Father and is the Redeemer of the elect.

(Ps. 2:7-9; Is. 9:6, 47:4; John 1:1,14,29, 10:27-30; 14:6-9; Phil. 2:9-11; Col 1:13-14; Heb. 7:25,26; 1 Pet. 1:18,19)

Question 26: Who are the elect?

Answer: The elect, also called believers, are those whom, before the foundation of the world, God chose in Christ to make atonement for, to regenerate, to justify, and to sanctify.

(Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:4-11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Pet. 1:1-2)

Question 27: What does "to make atonement for" mean?

Answer: "To make atonement for" means that Jesus Christ suffered and died in the place of sinners and satisfied God's divine justice.

(Mark 10:45; Acts 13:38, 39; Rom. 3:24-26; 5:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 3:18)

Question 28: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is any violation of the law of God, either in act, attitude, or nature.

(Matt. 5:48; Rom. 14:23; 1 Cor. 10:31; Jam. 2:9-11; 1 John 3:4)

Question 29: What is the law of God?

Answer: The law of God is an expression of God's holy nature, which expression in turn creates a demand for perfect conformity.

(Lev. 11:44; 20:26; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8)

Question 30: Is everyone a sinner?

Answer: Yes. Everyone is born dead in sin. Therefore, everyone is a sinner by nature, by choice, and by divine permission

(Ps. 14:1-3; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9-18, 23; 5:10-12)

Question 31: What does it mean to be “born dead in sin”?

Answer: “To be born dead in sin” means that man is inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing what is acceptable to God apart from God’s grace.

(Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-19; John 3:36; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14; 1 John 1:8)

Question 32: How did man become inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of doing good?

Answer: Man became utterly incapable of doing good because a nature corrupted by Adam’s sin has been transmitted to all men of all ages.

(Ps. 14:1-3; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9-18, 23; 5:10-12)

Question 32: What is the penalty of sin?

Answer: Man, in his sinful state, is subject to the wrath of God.

(Rom. 1:18; 2:5; 5:12; 6:23; 2 Thess. 1:6-10)

Question 33: What does “regenerate” mean?

Answer: “Regenerate” means that the supernatural and instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit brings believers from being spiritually dead to being spiritually alive.

(John 1:13; 3:3; Rom. 6:11; Eph. 2:5-8; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:23)

Question 34: What does “justify” mean?

Answer: “Justify” means that God declares sinners righteous by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

(Rom. 3:24; 5:8-9, 19; 8:30; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 1:7; Phil. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:21)

Question 35: What does “sanctify” mean?

Answer: “Sanctify” means that God makes sinners holy in heart and in conduct.

(1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23)

Question 36: Will believers never sin again?

Answer: Believers will sin again because they are involved in a daily battle between their new identity in Christ and their remaining sinful desires.

(Rom. 8:12-13; Gal 5:16-17; Phil. 3:12-16; 2 Pet. 1:4-9)

Question 37: How do I fight this battle?

Answer: I fight this battle through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within me.

(Rom. 8:12-13; Gal 5:16-17; Phil. 3:12-16; 2 Pet. 1:4-9)

Question 38: Why do I need a Redeemer?

Answer: I need a Redeemer because I am born dead in my sin and incapable of redeeming myself.

(Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-19; John 3:36; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Tim. 2:13-14; 1 John 1:8)

Question 39: How did Jesus Christ redeem believers?

Answer: Jesus Christ, through his sinless life and voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, and propitiatory death and resurrection, paid the full price to redeem believers from the curse of sin and bring them into eternal blessing.

(John 10:15; Rom. 3:24-25; 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:24)

Question 40: What does it mean that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life?

Answer: Living a sinless life means that Jesus never committed a sin.

(2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5)

Question 41: Why is it important that Jesus Christ is without sin?

Answer: The only way believers could be redeemed and reconciled to a holy and perfect God was through a holy and perfect sacrifice. Because Jesus lived a sinless life, He became that perfect sacrifice through His death on the cross.

(2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26; 9:26-28; 1 Pet. 1:19; 3:18)

Question 42: What is the meaning of Jesus' "voluntary death and resurrection"?

Answer: Jesus' "voluntary death" means that He willingly humbled Himself to die on the cross for the salvation of sinners.

(John 10:17-18; 18:4-5; Acts 2:23)

Question 43: What is the meaning of Jesus' "vicarious and substitutionary death and resurrection"?

Answer: Jesus' "vicarious and substitutionary death" means that Jesus died on behalf of the elect. He took on their sins, suffered their punishment, and, thereby, satisfied God's wrath against them.

(Isa. 53:4-5; 11; 1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 1:3-4; Heb. 9:28; 1 Pet. 2:24)

Question 44: What is the meaning of Jesus' "propitiatory death and resurrection"?

Answer: Jesus' "propitiatory death" means that Jesus' death satisfied the wrath of God and reconciled the elect to Him.

(Rom. 3:25-26; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 4:10)

Question 45: What did Jesus Christ's death and resurrection accomplish for the elect?

Answer: Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the elect are freed from the punishment, penalty, power, and, one day, the very presence of sin. They are declared righteous, given eternal life, and adopted into the family of God.

(Rom. 3:25; 5:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18)

Question 46: What does God require of you in response to Jesus Christ's work of redemption?

Answer: God requires that I place my faith in Jesus Christ and repent of my sins.

(Acts 16:30-31; 17:30; 20:21)

Question 47: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a gift from God, where I receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation, trusting Him to forgive my sins solely on the basis of His divine power and atoning death.

(Matt. 14:31; John 1:12; 6:35; Gal. 2:15-16, 20; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 10:39)

Question 48: What does it mean to repent of your sins?

Answer: Repentance is a gift of God whereby I turn from my sin and turn toward God.
(*Jer. 31:18-19; Joel 2:13; Acts 2:37; Rom. 6:18; 2 Cor. 7:10-11*)

Question 49: Can you have faith in Christ and repent of your sins by your own power?

Answer: No. I can do nothing good without the help of God's Holy Spirit.
(*John 1:12-13, 3:5-6, 6:44; Rom. 8:8-11; 1 Cor. 2:9-14; Gal. 5:17, 18; Eph. 2:4-6*)

Question 50: As your Redeemer, what offices does Jesus Christ perform on your behalf?

Answer: Jesus Christ, as my Redeemer, performs the offices of prophet, priest, and king.
(*Ps. 2:6; Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:6*)

Question 51: How is Jesus Christ a prophet?

Answer: Jesus is a prophet because He teaches me the will of God.
(*Deut. 18:15-18; John 1:18, 4:25, 14:23-24; 1 John 5:20*)

Question 52: Why do you need Jesus Christ as a prophet?

Answer: I need Jesus Christ as a prophet because I am ignorant of the things of God.
(*Job 11:7; Mt 11:25-27; John 17:25, 26; 1 Cor. 2:14-16; 2 Cor. 4:3-6*)

Question 53: How is Jesus Christ a priest?

Answer: Jesus Christ is a priest because He died for my sins and pleads with God for me.
(*Ps 110:4; Eph. 2:13, 18, 5:2; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:14-15, 7:25, 8:1-3; 1 John 2:1, 2*)

Question 54: Why do you need Jesus Christ as a priest?

Answer: I need Jesus as a priest because I am guilty of sin.
(*Pr. 20:9; Ecc. 7:20; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8*)

Question 55: How is Jesus Christ a king?

Answer: Jesus is a king because He rules over me and defends me.
(*Eph. 1:19-23; Col. 1:13-18*)

Question 56: Why do you need Christ as a king?

Answer: I need Christ as a king because I am weak and helpless.
(*John 15:4, 5; 2 Cor. 12:9; Col. 1:10-11; Jude 24*)

Question 57: What is the Incarnation?

Answer: The Incarnation is the event in which Jesus Christ became flesh and dwelt among mankind, thus beginning His earthly work of redemption.
(*Luke 2:7; John 1:14; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:17*)

Question 58: What does "became flesh and dwelt among mankind" mean?

Answer: Jesus Christ became man by taking to Himself a true body. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary and was born of her, yet without sin.
(*Matt. 26:38; Luke 1:31, 35; 2:52; John 1:14; 12:27; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:14; 4:14; 7:26*)

Question 59: What was the purpose of the Incarnation?

Answer: The purpose of the Incarnation is to reveal God the Father, to redeem men, and to rule over God's kingdom

(Ps. 2:7-9; Is. 9:6; John 1:29)

Question 60: In the Incarnation, was Jesus Christ part man and part God?

Answer: No. In the Incarnation, Jesus Christ is fully man and fully God.

(John 1:14, 14:9, 10; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3)

Question 61: Where is Jesus Christ now?

Answer: Jesus Christ is now at the right hand of God the Father.

(Luke 22:69; Eph. 1:20-22; Heb. 1:3, 8:1)

Question 62: Who is the God the Holy Spirit?

Answer: God the Holy Spirit is God, eternal and perfect.

(Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 9:14, 10:15-17)

Question 63: What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

Answer: The work of the Holy Spirit is to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind.

(Gen. 1:2; Matt. 1:18; John 3:5-7; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21)

Question 64: What is the Holy Spirit's relation to the world?

Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

(John 16:7-9)

Question 65: What is the Holy Spirit's relation to the elect?

Answer: Upon being saved, the Holy Spirit indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers, and seals the elect.

(Rom. 8:9-11; 2 Cor. 3:6; 18; Eph. 1:13; 2:22; 1 John 2:20; 27)

Question 66: What are angels?

Answer: Angels are created beings that serve God and worship Him.

(Luke 2:9-14; Heb. 1:6-7, 14; 2:6-7; Rev. 5:11-14)

Question 67: Has an angel ever decided not to serve God or worship Him?

Answer: Yes. Satan, God's enemy, rebelled against God and incurred God's judgment.

(Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Matt. 4:1-11; Rev. 12:9-10)

Question 68: What was God's judgment for Satan?

Answer: Satan has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and Satan will be eternally punished in the lake of fire.

(Is. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Matt. 25:41; Rom. 16:20; Rev. 20:10)

Question 69: What is the church?

Answer: The church is the united spiritual body comprised of all believers of this present age.

(1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 2:11-3:6)

Question 70: Who leads the church?

Answer: Jesus is the head of the church, the one supreme authority. The leaders serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders and deacons.

(Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22; 4:11,15; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-5)

Question 71: What is the purpose of the church?

Answer: The purpose of the church is to glorify and worship God by growing in faith, teaching the Bible, fellowshiping with one another, observing the ordinances, and evangelizing the lost.

(Matt. 28:19; Luke 22:19; Acts 1:8; 2:38-42, 2:47; Eph. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 2:2,15; 3:16-17; 1 John 1:3)

Question 72: What are the ordinances the church observes?

Answer: The church observes believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.

(Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:1-11; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:23-32)

Question 73: What is believer's baptism?

Answer: Believer's baptism is an immersion in water and a solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer showing forth his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life.

(Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12)

Question 74: To whom is believer's baptism to be administered?

Answer: Believer's baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God and faith in and obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ and to no other.

(Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36; 10:47-48; Matt. 3:6; Mark 16:16)

Question 75: Are the infants of professing believers to be baptized?

Answer: The infants of believers are not to be baptized because there is neither command in, example in, or implication from the Holy Scriptures to baptize such.

(Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21)

Question 76: How is believer's baptism rightly administered?

Answer: Believer's baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Question 77: What is the Lord's Supper?

Answer: The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of Christ's death until He comes. It is communion with the risen Christ who is present in a unique way, fellowshiping with His people.

(1 Cor. 10:16; 11:23-32)

Question 78: What is required to partake of the Lord's Supper?

Answer: Those who partake of the Lord's Supper must be believers and solemnly examine themselves prior to partaking.

(1 Cor. 5:8; 11:27-31; 2 Cor. 13:5)

Question 79: What are spiritual gifts?

Answer: Spiritual gifts are unique and special abilities that God gives to each member of the church for the purpose of edification.

(Rom. 12:5-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)

Question 80: When did the formation of the church begin?

Answer: The formation of the church began on the day of Pentecost.

(Acts 2:1-21, 38-47)

Question 81: When will the church be complete?

Answer: The church will be complete at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture.

(1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Question 82: What is the rapture of the church?

Answer: The rapture is the imminent removal of the church from the earth to meet Jesus in the clouds.

(John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:16; Titus 2:13)

Question 83: What happens on earth after the rapture of the church?

Answer: After the rapture of the church comes the great tribulation where the righteous judgment of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world.

(Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:27; 12:1; 2 Thess. 2:7-12; Rev. 16)

Question 84: What is the climax of this judgment?

Answer: The climax of this judgment is Jesus' return to earth.

(Matt. 24:27-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 2:7-12)

Question 85: What happens when Jesus returns to earth?

Answer: When Jesus returns to earth, Old Testament and tribulation saints will be raised, the living will be judged, the antichrist will be overthrown, Satan will be removed from the earth, and Jesus will occupy the throne of David for 1,000 years.

(Dan. 7:17-27; 12:2-3; Matt. 25:31; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 1:10-11; 2:29-30; Rev. 20:1-7)

Question 86: What is the purpose of Jesus' 1,000-year reign?

Answer: The purpose of Jesus' 1,000-year reign is to fulfill God's promise to Israel to restore them to the promised land.

(Is. 65:17-25; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:22-32; 37:21-28; Zech. 8:1-17; Rom. 11:25-29)

Question 87: What will those 1,000 years be like?

Answer: The 1,000 years will be a time of harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, and long life.

(Is. 11; 65:17-25; Ezek. 36:33-38)

Question 88: What happens after Jesus' 1,000-year reign?

Answer: After Jesus' 1,000-year reign, Satan returns to earth, assembles an army of unbelievers, and is destroyed by fire from heaven.

(Rev 20:7-9)

Question 89: What happens after Satan is defeated once and for all?

Answer: Satan, along with all unbelievers that have ever lived, will receive eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

(Matt. 25:41; John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:10-15)

Question 90: What happens after Satan and all unbelievers are eternally punished?

Answer: After Satan and all unbelievers are eternally punished, all believers will enter the eternal state of glory with God, fully enjoying fellowship with God and one another.

(John 17:3; Rev. 21-22)

Question 91: Where will believers live?

Answer: The old earth will dissolve and be replaced with a new earth and heavenly city where believers will live.

(Eph. 5:5; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 20:15, 21-22; 21:2)

Question 92: How long will we live there?

Answer: Believers will live there forever and ever.

(1 Cor. 15:28)