

CATECHISM FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

**An introduction to the Westminster
Shorter Catechism with changes to reflect
Baptistic distinctives.**



Revised July 2012
ESV Edition

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All quoted Scripture passages are taken from the English Standard Version, with the exception of the Lord's Prayer (#103) which is quoted from the King James Version.

A Catechism for Young Children

1. Q. *Who made you?*

A. God made me.

2. Q. *What else did God make?*

A. God made all things.

3. Q. *Why did God make you and all things?*

A. God made all things, including me, for His own glory.

4. Q. *How can you glorify God?*

A. I can glorify God by loving Him and doing what He commands.

5. Q. *Why should you glorify God?*

A. I should glorify God because He made me and takes care of me.

6. Q. *Are there more gods than one?*

A. There is only one God.

7. Q. *In how many persons does this one God exist?*

A. God exists in three persons.

8. Q. *What are these three persons?*

A. The three persons of the Godhead are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

9. Q. *What is God?*

A. God is a spirit and does not have a body.

10. Q. *Where is God?*

A. God is everywhere.

11. Q. *Can you see God?*

A. No, I cannot see God, but He always sees me.

12. Q. *Does God know all things?*

A. Yes, nothing can be hidden from God.

13. Q. *Can God do all things?*

A. Yes, God can do all His holy will.

14. Q. *Where do you learn how to love and obey God?*

A. I learn how to love and obey God only in the Bible.

15. Q. *Who wrote the Bible?*

A. The Bible was written by holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit.

16. Q. *Who were our first parents?*

A. Adam and Eve were our first parents.

17. Q. *How were our first parents made?*

A. God made the body of Adam out of the ground and formed Eve from the body of Adam.

18. Q. *What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?*

A. God gave Adam and Eve souls that could never die.

19. Q. *Do you have a soul as well as a body?*

A. Yes, I have a soul that can never die.

20. Q. *How do you know that you have a soul?*

A. The Bible tells me that I have a soul.

21. Q. *In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?*

A. God made Adam and Eve holy and happy.

22. Q. *What is a covenant?*

A. A covenant is an agreement between two or more persons.

23. Q. *What covenant did God make with Adam?*

A. God made the covenant of works with Adam.

24. Q. *What did God require of Adam in the covenant of works?*

A. God required Adam to obey Him perfectly.

25. Q. *What was the special command God gave to Adam in the Covenant of Works?*

A. God commanded Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

26. Q. *What was God's warning if Adam disobeyed Him?*

A. God's warning was that He would punish Adam with death.

27. Q. *Did Adam keep the covenant of works?*

A. No, Adam sinned against God.

28. Q. *What is sin?*

A. Sin is any failure to keep God's law.

29. Q. *What is meant by failure to keep God's law?*

A. We fail to keep God's law when we do not do what God requires or when we do what God forbids.

30. Q. *What was the sin of our first parents?*

A. Our first parents sinned by eating the fruit that God told them not to eat.

31. Q. *Who tempted Adam and Eve to do this sin?*

A. The devil tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam.

32. Q. *What happened to our first parents when they sinned?*

A. Instead of remaining holy and happy, Adam and Eve's sin made them sinful and miserable.

33. Q. *Did Adam act only for himself in the covenant of works?*

A. No, Adam acted for all mankind.

34. Q. *What effect has the sin of Adam had on all mankind?*

A. All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.

35. Q. *What does every sin deserve?*

A. Every sin deserves the anger and judgment of God.

36. Q. *Can anyone go to heaven with a sinful nature?*

A. No, our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven.

37. Q. *What is a change of heart called?*

A. A change of heart is called regeneration.

38. Q. *Who can change a sinner's heart?*

A. Only the Holy Spirit can change a sinner's heart.

39. Q. *Can anyone get to Heaven by keeping God's law?*

A. No one can get to Heaven by keeping God's law.

40. Q. *Why can no one get to Heaven by keeping God's law?*

A. No one can get to Heaven by keeping God's law because everyone has broken it and is condemned by it.

41. Q. *What is the covenant of redemption?*

A. The covenant of redemption is the eternal plan that God the Father,

Son, and Holy Spirit made to save sinners.

42. Q. *What did Christ agree to do in the covenant of redemption?*

A. Christ agreed to keep the whole law for His people and to suffer the punishment that their sins deserved.

43. Q. *Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever commit any sin?*

A. No, Jesus remained perfectly sinless to the end of His life.

44. Q. *How could the Son of God suffer?*

A. Christ, the Son of God, became a man that He might obey and suffer as a man.

45. Q. *What is Christ's atonement?*

A. Christ's atonement is His satisfying of God's justice by suffering and dying in the place of sinners.

46. Q. *What did God the Father agree to do in the covenant of redemption?*

A. God the Father agreed to justify and sanctify those for whom Christ would die.

47. Q. *What is justification?*

A. Justification is God's forgiving sinners and treating them as if they had never sinned.

48. Q. *What is sanctification?*

A. Sanctification is God's making sinners holy both in heart and conduct.

49. Q. *For whom did Christ obey and suffer?*

A. Christ obeyed and suffered for those whom the Father had given Him.

50. Q. *What kind of death did Christ die?*

A. Christ died the painful and shameful death of the cross.

51. Q. *Who will be saved?*

A. Only those who repent of sin, believe in Christ, and lead holy lives will be saved.

52. Q. *What does it mean to repent?*

A. To repent means to be sorry for our sin, to hate it, and turn away from it because it displeases God.

53. Q. *What is it to believe or have faith in Christ?*
A. To believe in Christ means to trust only in Christ for salvation.
54. Q. *Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?*
A. No, I can do nothing good without the help of God's Holy Spirit.
55. Q. *How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?*
A. God has told us that we must pray to Him for the Holy Spirit.
56. Q. *How long ago is it that Christ died?*
A. Christ died almost 2000 years ago.
57. Q. *How were Old Testament people saved?*
A. They were saved through Christ's future work.
58. Q. *How did Old Testament people show their faith in God?*
A. They showed their faith by offering sacrifices on God's altar.
59. Q. *What did their sacrifices represent?*
A. Their sacrifices represented Christ, the Lamb of God, who would come to die for sinners.
60. Q. *How many offices does Christ fulfill?*
A. Christ fulfills three offices.
61. Q. *What are the offices of Christ?*
A. Christ fulfills the offices of a prophet, a priest, and a king.
62. Q. *How is Christ a prophet?*
A. Christ is a prophet because He teaches us the will of God.
63. Q. *How is Christ a priest?*
A. Christ is a priest because He died for our sins and pleads with God for us.
64. Q. *How is Christ a king?*
A. Christ is a king because He rules over us and defends us.
65. Q. *Why do you need Christ as a prophet?*
A. I need Christ as a prophet because I do not know the will of God for salvation.
66. Q. *Why do you need Christ as a priest?*
A. I need Christ as a priest because my sin separates me from God.

67. Q. *Why do you need Christ as a king?*
A. I need Christ as a king because I am weak and helpless.
68. Q. *How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?*
A. God gave ten commandments.
69. Q. *What are the Ten Commandments sometimes called?*
A. The Ten Commandments are sometimes called the Decalogue.
70. Q. *What do the first four commandments teach us?*
A. The first four commandments teach our duty to God.
71. Q. *What do the last six commandments teach us?*
A. The last six commandments teach our duty to our fellow men.
72. Q. *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*
A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is to love God with all my heart and my neighbor as myself.
73. Q. *Who is your neighbor?*
A. All my fellow men are my neighbors.
74. Q. *With whom is God pleased?*
A. God is pleased with those who love and obey Him.
75. Q. *With whom is God displeased?*
A. God is displeased with those who do not love and obey Him.
76. Q. *What is the first commandment?*
A. The first commandment is: You shall have no other gods before me.
77. Q. *What does the first commandment teach us?*
A. The first commandment teaches us to worship only God.
78. Q. *What is the second commandment?*
A. The second commandment is: You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.
79. Q. *What does the second commandment teach us?*

A. The second commandment teaches us to worship God in a proper manner and to avoid idolatry.

80. Q. *What is the third commandment?*

A. The third commandment is: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

81. Q. *What does the third commandment teach us?*

A. The third commandment teaches us to reverence God's name, word, and works.

82. Q. *What is the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment is: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, 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, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

83. Q. *What does the fourth commandment teach us?*

A. The fourth commandment teaches us to keep the Sabbath holy.

84. Q. *What day of the week is the Christian Sabbath?*

A. The first day of the week, called the Lord's Day, is the Christian Sabbath.

85. Q. *How should the Sabbath be spent?*

A. The Sabbath should be spent in prayer and praise, in hearing and reading God's Word, and in doing good to our fellow men.

86. Q. *What is the fifth commandment?*

A. The fifth commandment is: Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

87. Q. *What does the fifth commandment teach us?*

A. The fifth commandment teaches us to love and obey our parents.

88. Q. *What is the sixth commandment?*

A. The sixth commandment is: You shall not murder.

89. Q. *What does the sixth commandment teach us?*

A. The sixth commandment teaches us that we should not hate nor hurt our neighbor with our thoughts, words, or actions.

90. Q. *What is the seventh commandment?*

A. The seventh commandment is: You shall not commit adultery.

91. Q. *What does the seventh commandment teach us?*

A. The seventh commandment teaches us to be pure in our thoughts, words, and actions.

92. Q. *What is the eighth commandment?*

A. The eighth commandment is: You shall not steal.

93. Q. *What does the eighth commandment teach us?*

A. The eighth commandment teaches us to be honest and hardworking.

94. Q. *What is the ninth commandment?*

A. The ninth commandment is: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

95. Q. *What does the ninth commandment teach us?*

A. The ninth commandment teaches us to tell the truth.

96. Q. *What is the tenth commandment?*

A. The tenth commandment is: You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

97. Q. *What does the tenth commandment teach us?*

A. The tenth commandment teaches us to be content with all that God has given us.

98. Q. *Can anyone keep the Ten Commandments perfectly?*

A. No one can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly.

99. Q. *Of what use are the Ten Commandments to us?*

A. The Ten Commandments teach us our duty and show that we need Jesus to save us.

100. Q. *What is prayer?*

A. Prayer is talking with God.

101. Q. *In whose name should we pray?*

A. We should pray only in the name of Christ.

102. Q. *What has Christ given us to teach us how to pray?*
A. Christ gave us the Lord's Prayer to teach us how to pray.
103. Q. *Repeat the Lord's Prayer.*
A. *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. (KJV)*
104. Q. *How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer?*
A. There are six petitions in the Lord's Prayer.
105. Q. *What is the first petition?*
A. The first petition is Hallowed be thy name.
106. Q. *What do we pray for in the first petition?*
A. We pray that God's name would be honored by us and all people.
107. Q. *What is the second petition?*
A. The second petition is Thy kingdom come.
108. Q. *What do we pray for in the second petition?*
A. We pray that the gospel would be preached in the entire world and that it would be believed and obeyed by us and all people.
109. Q. *What is the third petition?*
A. The third petition is Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
110. Q. *What do we pray for in the third petition?*
A. We pray that people on earth may serve God as the angels do in Heaven.
111. Q. *What is the fourth petition?*
A. The fourth petition is Give us this day our daily bread.
112. Q. *What do we pray for in the fourth petition?*
A. We pray that God would give us all the things that our bodies and souls need.
113. Q. *What is the fifth petition?*
A. The fifth petition is forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

114. Q. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?*

A. We pray that God would forgive our sins for Christ's sake and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us.

115. Q. *What is the sixth petition?*

A. The sixth petition is Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

116. Q. *What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

A. We pray that God would keep us from sin.

117. Q. *What is a sacrament?*

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance given to the church by Christ.

118. Q. *What two sacraments did Christ give to the church?*

A. Christ gave the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper to the church.

119. Q. *Why did Christ give these sacraments to the church?*

A. Christ gave these sacraments for His own honor and for the blessing of His disciples.

120. Q. *What is baptism?*

A. Baptism is the immersing of believers in water as a sign of their union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

121. Q. *In whose name are we baptized?*

A. We are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

122. Q. *Who should be baptized?*

A. Only those who repent of sin and believe in Christ for salvation should be baptized.

123. Q. *Why should infants not be baptized?*

A. Infants have neither repented of sin, nor believed in Christ for salvation.

124. Q. *Does Christ care for little children?*

A. Yes, Christ said, Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.

125. Q. *To what do I pledge myself in baptism?*

A. In baptism, I pledge myself to be a true follower of Christ.

126. Q. *What is the Lord's Supper?*

A. The Lord's Supper is the eating of bread and drinking of wine in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.

127. Q. *What does the bread represent?*

A. The bread represents the body of Christ, broken for our sins.

128. Q. *What does the wine represent?*

A. The wine represents the blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.

129. Q. *Who should take part in the Lord's Supper?*

A. Only those who repent of sin, believe in Christ for salvation, and are baptized should take part in the Lord's Supper.

130. Q. *Did Christ remain in the tomb after his death?*

A. No, Christ rose from the tomb on the third day after His death.

131. Q. *Where is Christ now?*

A. Christ is in Heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

132. Q. *Will Christ come again?*

A. Yes, at the last day Christ will come to judge the world.

133. Q. *What happens to us at death?*

A. At death, the body returns to dust, and the soul goes either to Heaven or to Hell.

134. Q. *Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?*

A. Yes, there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

135. Q. *What will happen to the wicked on the Day of Judgment?*

A. The wicked will be cast into Hell.

136. Q. *What is Hell?*

A. Hell is a place of dreadful and endless torment.

137. Q. *What will happen to the righteous on the Day of Judgment?*

A. The righteous will go to be with Christ forever in Heaven.

138. Q. *What is Heaven?*

A. Heaven is a glorious and happy place where the righteous will be forever with the Lord.

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