A CATECHISM FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

ERROLL HULSE
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Contents

1. God, Man and Sin................................................................................................................... 3
2. Salvation..................................................................................................................................... 7
3. The Ten Commandments................................................................................................. 7
4. Prayer................................................................................................................................. 10
5. The Word, Church, and Ordinances............................................................................... 12
6. Last Things.......................................................................................................................... 13
7. Bible References for Each Answer ................................................................................ 19
A Catechism for Boys and Girls

1. God, Man, and Sin

Q.1. Who made you?
   A. God made me.

Q.2. What else did God make?
   A. God made all things.

Q.3. Why did God make you and all things?
   A. For His own glory.

Q.4. How can you glorify God?
   A. By loving Him and doing what He commands.

Q.5. Why ought you to glorify God?
   A. Because He made me and takes care of me.

Q.6. Are there more gods than one?
   A. There is only one God.

Q.7. In how many Persons does this one God exist?
   A. In three Persons.

Q.8. Who are they?
   A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Q.9. Who is God?
   A. God is a Spirit, and has not a body like men.

Q.10. Where is God?
    A. God is everywhere.

Q.11. Can you see God?
    A. No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.

Q.12. Does God know all things?
A. Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

Q.13. Can God do all things?
   A. Yes. God can do all His holy will.

Q.14. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?
   A. In the Bible alone.

Q.15. Who wrote the Bible?
   A. Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit.

Q.16. Who were our first parents?
   A. Adam and Eve.

Q.17. Of what were our first parents made?
   A. God made the body of Adam out of the ground, and formed Eve from the body of Adam.

Q.18. What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?
   A. He gave them souls that could never die.

Q.19. Have you a soul as well as a body?
   A. Yes. I have a soul that can never die.

Q.20. How do you know that you have a soul?
   A. Because the Bible tells me so.

Q.21. In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?
   A. He made them holy and happy.

Q.22. Did Adam and Eve stay holy and happy?
   A. No. They sinned against God.

Q.23. What is sin?
   A. Sin is any transgression of the Law of God.

Q.24. What is meant by transgression?
   A. Doing what God forbids.

Q.25. What was the sin of our first parents?
   A. Eating the forbidden fruit.

Q.26. Why did they eat the forbidden fruit?
A. Because they did not believe what God had said.

Q.27. Who tempted them to this sin?
   A. The devil tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam.

Q.28. What happened to our first parents when they had sinned?
   A. Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.

Q.29. What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind?
   A. All mankind is born in a state of sin and misery.

Q.30. What do we inherit from Adam as a result of this original sin?
   A. A sinful nature.

Q.31. What does every sin deserve?
   A. The anger and judgment of God.

Q.32. Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature?
   A. No. Our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven.

Q.33. What is a change of heart called?
   A. Regeneration.

Q.34. Who can change a sinner’s heart?
   A. The Holy Spirit alone.

Q.35. What is righteousness?
   A. It is God’s goodness.

Q.36. Can anyone be saved by his own righteousness?
   A. No. No one is good enough for God.

2. Salvation

Q.37. What is a covenant?
   A. An agreement between two or more persons.

Q.38. What is the covenant of grace?
   A. The agreement God the Father made with Christ concerning His elect people, to save them from their sins.

Q.39. What did Christ undertake in the covenant of grace?
Q.40. Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever sin?
A. No. He was holy, blameless, and undefiled.

Q.41. How could the Son of God suffer?
A. Christ, the Son of God, took flesh and blood—that He might obey and suffer as a man.

Q.42. What is meant by the atonement?
A. Christ satisfying divine justice, by His sufferings and death, in the place of sinners.

Q.43. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace?
A. To justify and sanctify those for whom Christ should die.

Q.44. What is justification?
A. It is God regarding sinners as if they had never sinned.

Q.45. What is sanctification?
A. It is God making sinners holy in heart and conduct.

Q.46. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?
A. For those whom the Father had given Him.

Q.47. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?
A. A life of perfect obedience to the Law of God.

Q.48. What kind of death did Christ die?
A. The painful and shameful death of the Cross.

Q.49. Who will be saved?
A. Only those who repent of sin and believe in Christ.

Q.50. What is it to repent?
A. To be sorry for sin and to hate and forsake it, because it is displeasing to God.

Q.51. What is it to believe in Christ?
A. To trust in Christ alone for salvation.

Q.52. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?
A. No. I can do nothing good without God's Holy Spirit.
Q.53. How can you receive the Holy Spirit?
A. God has told us that we must pray to Him for the Holy Spirit.

Q.54. How were godly persons saved before the coming of Christ?
A. By believing in the Saviour to come.

Q.55. How did they show their faith?
A. By offering sacrifices on God’s altar.

Q.56. What did these sacrifices represent?
A. Christ, the Lamb of God, Who was to die for sinners.

Q.57. What does Christ do for His people?
A. He does the work of a prophet, a priest, and a king.

Q.58. Why is Christ a prophet?
A. Because He teaches us the will of God.

Q.59. Why is Christ a priest?
A. Because He died for our sins and prays to God for us.

Q.60. Why is Christ a king?
A. Because He rules over us and defends us.

Q.61. Why do you need Christ as a prophet?
A. Because I am ignorant.

Q.62. Why do you need Christ as a priest?
A. Because I am guilty.

Q.63. Why do you need Christ as a king?
A. Because I am weak and helpless.

3. The Ten Commandments

Q.64. How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?
A. Ten commandments.

Q.65. What are the Ten Commandments sometimes called?
A. God’s moral Law.

Q.66. What do the first four commandments teach?
A. Our duty to God.

Q.67. What do the last six commandments teach?
   A. Our duty to our fellow men.

Q.68. What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?
   A. To love God with all my heart, and my neighbour as myself.

Q.69. Who is your neighbour?
   A. All my fellow men are my neighbours.

Q.70. Is God pleased with those who love and obey Him?
   A. Yes. He says, “I love them that love me.”

Q.71. Is God pleased with those who do not love and obey Him?
   A. No. God is angry with the wicked every day.

Q.72. What is the First Commandment?
   A. The First Commandment is, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

Q.73. What does the First Commandment teach us?
   A. To worship God only.

Q.74. What is the Second Commandment?
   A. The Second Commandment is, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven 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: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I, the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

Q.75. What does the Second Commandment teach us?
   A. To worship God in the right way, and to avoid idolatry.

Q.76. What is the Third Commandment?
   A. The Third Commandment is, “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”

Q.77. What does the Third Commandment teach us?
   A. To reverence God’s name, Word, and works.

Q.78. What is the Fourth Commandment?
A. The Fourth Commandment is, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Q.79. What does the Fourth Commandment teach us?
A. To keep the Sabbath holy.

Q.80. What day of the week is the Christian Sabbath?
A. The first day of the week, called the Lord’s Day.

Q.81. Why is it called the Lord’s Day?
A. Because on that day Christ rose from the dead.

Q.82. How should the Sabbath be kept?
A. In prayer and praise, in hearing and reading God’s Word, and in doing good to our fellow men.

Q.83. What is the Fifth Commandment?
A. The Fifth Commandment is, “Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”

Q.84. What does the Fifth Commandment teach us?
A. To love and obey our parents.

Q.85. What is the Sixth Commandment?
A. The Sixth Commandment is, “Thou shalt not kill.”

Q.86. What does the Sixth Commandment teach us?
A. To avoid hatred.

Q.87. What is the Seventh Commandment?
A. The Seventh Commandment is, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Q.88. What does the Seventh Commandment teach us?
A. To be pure in heart, language, and conduct.

Q.89. What is the Eighth Commandment?
A. The Eighth Commandment is, “Thou shalt not steal.”
Q.90. What does the Eighth Commandment teach us?
A. To be honest and not to take the things of others.

Q.91. What is the Ninth Commandment?
A. The Ninth Commandment is, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

Q.92. What does the Ninth Commandment teach us?
A. To tell the truth and not to speak evil of others.

Q.93. What is the Tenth Commandment?
A. The Tenth Commandment is, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour’s.”

Q.94. What does the Tenth Commandment teach us?
A. To be content with what we have.

Q.95. Can any man keep these Ten Commandments perfectly?
A. No mere man, since the fall of Adam, ever did or can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly.

Q.96. Of what use are the Ten Commandments to us?
A. They teach us our duty, and show us our need of a Saviour.

4. Prayer

Q.97. What is prayer?
A. Prayer is talking with God.

Q.98. In whose name should we pray?
A. Only in the name of Christ.

Q.99. What has Christ given to teach us how to pray?
A. The Lord’s Prayer.

Q.100. Can you 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 trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Q.101. How many petitions are there in the Lord’s Prayer?
A. Six.

Q.102. What is the first petition?
A. “Hallowed be thy name.”

Q.103. What do we pray for in the first petition?
A. That God’s name may be honoured by us and all men.

Q.104. What is the second petition?
A. “Thy kingdom come.”

Q.105. What do we pray for in the second petition?
A. That the Gospel may be preached in all the world, and believed and obeyed by us and all men.

Q.106. What is the third petition?
A. “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

Q.107. What do we pray for in the third petition?
A. That men on earth may serve God as the angels do in heaven.

Q.108. What is the fourth petition?
A. “Give us this day our daily bread.”

Q.109. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?
A. That God will give us all things needful for our bodies.

Q.110. What is the fifth petition?
A. “And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.”

Q.111. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?
A. That God will pardon our sins, and help us to forgive those who have sinned against us.

Q.112. What is the sixth petition?
A. “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Q.113. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?
A. That God will keep us from sin.
5. The Word, the Church, and the Ordinances

Q.114. How does the Holy Spirit bring us to salvation?
   A. He uses the Bible, which is the Word of God.

Q.115. How can we know the Word of God?
   A. We are commanded to hear, read, and search the Scriptures.

Q.116. What is a Church?
   A. An assembly of believers met together under the preaching of the Word of God.

Q.117. What two ordinances did Christ give to His Church?
   A. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Q.118. Why did Christ give these ordinances?
   A. To show that His disciples belong to Him, and to remind them of what He has done for them.

Q.119. What is baptism?
   A. The dipping of believers into water, as a sign of their union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Q.120. What is the purpose of baptism?
   A. To show believers that God has cleansed them from their sins through Jesus Christ.

Q.121. Who are to be baptized?
   A. Only those who repent of their sins, and believe in Christ for salvation.

Q.122. Should babies be baptized?
   A. No; because the Bible neither commands it, nor gives any example of it.

Q.123. What is the Lord’s Supper?
   A. The eating of bread and drinking of wine to remember the sufferings and death of Christ.

Q.124. What does the bread represent?
   A. The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

Q.125. What does the wine represent?
   A. The blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.
Q.126. Who should partake of the Lord’s Supper?
   A. Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Christ for salvation, and love their fellow men.

6. Last Things

Q.127. Did Christ remain in the tomb after His crucifixion?
   A. No. He rose from the tomb on the third day after His death.

Q.128. Where is Christ now?
   A. In heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Q.129. Will Christ come again?
   A. Yes. At the last day He will come to judge the world.

Q.130. What happens to men when they die?
   A. The body returns to dust, and the soul goes into the world of spirits.

Q.131. Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?
   A. Yes. “There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.”

Q.132. What will happen to the wicked in the Day of Judgment?
   A. They shall be cast into hell.

Q.133. What is hell?
   A. A place of dreadful and endless punishment.

Q.134. What will happen to the righteous in the Day of Judgment?
   A. They shall live with Christ for ever, in a new heaven and a new earth.

7. Bible References for Each Answer

The teaching of the Bible is not proved by just a few texts. Each text of Scripture should be understood in the light of the passage in which it is found. Sometimes a truth is stated clearly in a single verse. When this is the case just one or two references are given. More usually the truths to which the Catechism refers are woven throughout the whole Bible, and when this is so several references are given.

Q.1. Gen 1:26-27; 2:7; Ecc 12:1; Act 17:24-29
Q.2. Gen 1, esp. vv. 1 and 3; Act 14:15; Rom 11:36; Col 1:16
Q.4. Ecc 12:13; Mar 12:29-31; Joh 15:8-10; 1Co 10:31
Q.5. Rom 11:36; Rev 4:11; Dan 5:23
Q.6. Deu 6:4; Jer 10:10; Mar 12:29; Act 17:22-31
Q.8. Mat 28:19; 2Co 13:14; 1Pe 1:2; Jude 20-21
Q.11. Exo 33:20; Joh 1:18; 1Ti 6:16; Psa 139, esp. vv. 1-5; Pro 5:21; Heb 4:12-13
Q.12. 1Ch 28:9; 2Ch 16:9; Luk 12:6-7; Rom 2:16
Q.13. Psa 147:5; Jer 32:17; Dan 4:34-35; Eph 1:11
Q.14. Job 11:7; Psa 119:104; Isa 8:20; Mat 22:29; 2Ti 3:15-17
Q.15. 2Pe 1:20-21; Act 1:16; 2Ti 3:16; 1Pe 1:10-11
Q.17. Gen 2:7; 21-23; 3:19; Psa 103:14
Q.18. 1Co 15:45; Ecc 12:7; Zec 12:1
Q.19. Mat 10:28; Mar 8:34-38; 12:30
Q.21. Gen 1:26-28; Psa 8:4-8
Q.23. 1Jo 3:4; Rom 3:20; Jam 2:9-11
Q.24. 1Sa 13:8-14; 15:22-23; Hos 6:7; Rom 1:21-32
Q.29. Psa 51:5; Rom 5:12, 18-19; 1Co 15:21-22; 1Jo 5:19
Q.30. 1Ki 8:46; Psa 14:2, 3; 58:3; Ecc 9:3; Mat 15:18-20; Joh 2:24-25; Rom 8:7
Q.31. Deu 27:26; Rom 1:18; 2:2, Gal 3:10; Eph 5:6
Q.32. Jer 31:33-34; Eze 36:25-27; Joh 1:12-13; 3:1-10; 1Jo 5:1, 4, 18
Q.33. Ti 3:5-7
Q.34. Joh 3:3; Rom 8:6-11; 1Co 2:9-14; 2Th 2:13-14; Ti 3:5-6
Q.35. Exo 33:19; 34:6; Psa 33:5; Hos 3:5; Rom 11:22
Q.36. Pro 20:9; Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:10-23
Q.37. For example 1Sa 18:3; Mat 26:14-15
Q.39. Rom 8:3-4; Gal 4:4-5; Heb 9:14-15
Q.40. Luk 23:47; Heb 7:26; 4:15; 1Pe 2:22; 1Jo 3:5
Q.41. Joh 1:14; Rom 8:3; Gal 4:4; Phi 2:7-8; Heb 2:14, 17; 4:15
Q.42. Mar 10:45; Act 13:38-39; Rom 3:24-26; 5:8-9; 2Co 5:19-21; Gal 3:13; 1Pe 3:18
Q.43. Rom 8:29-33; Heb 10:9-10; 1Co 1:8-9; Phi 1:6; 1Th 4:3, 7
Q.44. Zec 3:1-5; Rom 3:24-26; 4:5; 8:33; 2Co 5:21; Heb 8:12
Q.45. Joh 17:17; Eph 2:10; 4:22-24; Phi 2:12-13; 1Th 5:23
Q.46. Isa 53:8; Mat 1:21; Joh 10:11, 15-16, 26-29; 17:9; Heb 2:13
Q.47. Mat 5:17; Rom 10:4; 1Pe 2:21-22
Q.48. Psa 22; Isa 53; the Gospel records
Q.50. Luk 19:8-10; Rom 6:1-2; 2Co 7:9-11; 1Th 1:9-10
Q.51. Joh 14:6; Act 4:12; 1Ti 2:5; 1Jo 5:11-12
Q.52. Joh 3:5-6; 6:44; Rom 8:2, 5, 8-11; 1Co 2:9-14; Gal 5:17-18; Eph 2:4-6
Q.53. Luk 11:9-13; Joh 4:10; 16:24
Q.56. Exo 12:46 (compare Joh 19:36); Heb 9 and 10; Joh 1:29; 1Co 5:7; 1Pe 1:19
Q.57. Heb 1:1-3; 5:5-10; Rev 1:5; Mat 13:57; Joh 18:37
Q.58. Deu 18:15, 18; Joh 1:18; 4:25; 14:23-24; 1Jo 5:20
Q.60. Psa 2:6-9; Mat 28:18-20; Eph 1:19-23; Col 1:13, 18; Rev 15:3-4
Q.62. Pro 20:9; Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:19-23; Heb 10:14, 27-28; 1Jo 1:8-9

15
Q.63. Joh 15:4-5; 2Co 12:9; Phi 4:13; Col 1:11; Jude 24-25
Q.64. Exo 20:1-17; Deu 5:1-22
Q.65. Luk 20:25-28; Rom 2:14-15; 10:5
Q.66. Deu 6:5-6; 10:12-13
Q.67. Deu 10:19; Mic 6:8; compare Gal 6:10
Q.68. Deu 6:1-15; 11:1; Mat 22:35-40; Jam 2:8
Q.69. Luk 10:25-37; 6:35
Q.70. Pro 8:17; Exo 20:6
Q.71. Psa 7:11; Mal 2:17; Pro 6:16-19
Q.72. Exo 20:3; Deu 5:7
Q.73. Isa 45:5-6; Mat 4:10; Rev 22:8-9
Q.74. Exo 20:4-6; Deu 5:8-10
Q.75. Isa 44:9-20; 46:5-9; Joh 4:23-24; Act 17:29
Q.76. Exo 20:7; Deu 5:11
Q.77. Isa 8:13; Psa 29:2; 138:2; Rev 15:3-4
Q.78. Exo 20:8-11; 23:12; Deu 5:12-15
Q.79. Lev 19:30; 23:3; Isa 58:13-14
Q.80. Act 20:7; Rev 1:10
Q.81. Mat 28:1; Mar 16:9; Luk 24:1-6; Joh 20:1
Q.82. Isa 58:13-14; Act 20:7; 1Co 16:2; Luk 4:16; Mat 12:10-13
Q.83. Exo 20:12; Deu 5:16
Q.84. Mat 15:3-6; Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20
Q.85. Exo 20:13; Deu 5:17
Q.86. Mat 5:21-24; 1Jo 3:15
Q.87. Exo 20:14; Deu 5:18
Q.88. Mat 5:27-28; Eph 5:3, 5; Phi 4:8-9
Q.89. Exo 20:15; Deu 5:19
Q.90. Exo 23:4; Pro 21:6-7; Eph 4:28
Q.91. Exo 20:16; Deu 5:20
Q.92. Psa 15:1-3; Zec 8:16; 1Co 13:6; Jam 4:11
Q.93. Exo 20:17; Deu 5:21; Rom 7:7
Q.94. Phi 4:11; 1Ti 6:6-8; Heb 13:5
Q.95. Pro 20:9; Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:19-20; Jam 2:10; 1Jo 1:8, 10
Q.96. 1Ti 1:8-11; Rom 3:20; Gal 3:24
Q.97. Gen 17:22; 18:33; Neh 1:4-11; 2:4; Mat 6:6; Rom 8:26-27
Q.102. Mat 6:9; Luk 11:2
Q.103. Psa 8:1; 72:17-19; 113:1-3; 145:21; Isa 8:13
Q.104. Mat 6:10; Luk 11:2
Q.105. Mat 28:19-20; Joh 17:20-21; Act 8:12; 28:30-31; 2Th 3:1
Q.106. Mat 6:10; Luk 11:2
Q.107. Psa 67; 103:19-22; Joh 9:31; Rev 4:11
Q.108. Mat 6:11; Luk 11:3
Q.109. Psa 145:15-16; Pro 30:8-9; 1Ti 4:4-5
Q.110. Mat 6:12; Luk 11:4
Q.111. Psa 51; Mat 5:23-24; 18:21-35; 1Jo 4:20-21
Q.112. Mat 6:13; Luk 11:4
Q.113. 1Ch 4:10; Psa 119:11; Mat 26:41
Q.114. 1Th 1:5-6; 2:13; 2Ti 3:15-16; Jam 1:18; 1Pe 1:22-23
Q.115. 1Pe 2:2; Rev 3:22; Mat 21:42; 22:29; 2Ti 3:14-17
Q.116. Mat 18:20; Act 2:42
Q.117. Mat 28:19; 1Co 11:23-26
Q.118. Mat 28:19; 1Co 11:24-26
Q.119. Joh 3:23; Act 2:41; 8:12, 35-38; Col 2:12
Q.120. Act 22:16; Col 2:11-14
Q.121. Act 2:37-41; 8:12; 18:8; 19:4-5
Q.124. Mat 26:26; 1Co 11:24
Q.125. Mat 26:27-28; 1Co 11:25
Q.126. Mat 5:21-24; 1Co 10:16-17; 11:18, 20, 27-33; 1Jo 3:14-17; 4:9-11
Q.127. Luk 24:45-47; 1Co 15:3-4
Q.128. Rom 8:34; Heb 1:3; 10:12; 12:2
Q.129. Mat 25:31-46; 2Th 1:7-10; 2Ti 4:1
Q.130. Gen 3:19; Ecc 12:7; 2Co 5:1-6
Q.132. Psa 9:16-17; Luk 12:5; Rev 20:12-15
Q.133. Mat 25:46; Mar 9:43-48; Luk 16:19-31
Q.134. Isa 66:22; 1Th 4:16-17; 2Pe 3:10-13; Rev 21:1-4