The New City Catechism for Kids

52 Questions & Answers for Our Hearts & Minds
Part 1

God, Creation & Fall, Law
Question 1

What is our only hope in life and death?

Answer

That we are not our own but belong to God.
Question 2

What is God?

Answer

God is the creator of everyone and everything.
Question 3

How many persons are there in God?

Answer

There are three persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Question 4

How and why did God create us?

Answer

God created us male and female in his own image to glorify him.
Question 5

What else did God create?

Answer

God created all things, and all his creation was very good.
Question 6

How can we glorify God?

Answer

By loving him and by obeying his commands and law.
Question 7

What does the law of God require?

Answer

That we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves.
Question 8

What is the law of God stated in the Ten Commandments?

Answer

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not misuse the name of the LORd your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.
Question 9

What does God require in the first, second, and third commandments?

Answer

First, that we know God as the only true God. Second, that we avoid all idolatry. Third, that we treat God's name with fear and reverence.
Question 10

What does God require in the fourth and fifth commandments?

Answer

Fourth, that on the Sabbath day we spend time in worship of God. Fifth, that we love and honor our father and our mother.
Question 11

What does God require in the sixth, seventh, and eighth commandments?

Answer

Sixth, that we do not hurt or hate our neighbor. Seventh, that we live purely and faithfully. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else.
Question 12

What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Answer

Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.
Question 13

Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

Answer

Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.
Question 14

Did God create us unable to keep his law?

Answer

No, but because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, we are all born in sin and guilt, and unable to keep God's law.
Question 15

Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

Answer

That we may know the holy nature of God, and the sinful nature of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior.
Question 16

What is sin?

Answer

Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.
Question 17

What is idolatry?

Answer

Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator.
Question 18

Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

Answer

No, God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them both in this life, and in the life to come.
Question 19

Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God’s favor?

Answer

Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.
Question 20

Who is the Redeemer?

Answer

The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ.
Part 2

Christ, Redemption, Grace
Question 21

What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God?

Answer

One who is truly human and also truly God.
Question 22

Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

Answer

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin.
Question 23

Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Answer

That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.
Question 24

Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Answer

Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.
Question 25

Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Answer

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.
Question 26

What else does Christ’s death redeem?

Answer

Every part of fallen creation.
Question 27

Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

Answer

No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.
Question 28

What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

Answer

They will be cast out from the presence of God, into hell, to be justly punished, forever.
Question 29

How can we be saved?

Answer

Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross.
Question 30

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer

Receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.
Question 31

What do we believe by true faith?

Answer

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, died, and was 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.
Question 32

What do justification and sanctification mean?

Answer

Justification means our declared righteousness before God. Sanctification means our gradual, growing righteousness.
Question 33

Should those who have faith in Christ seek their salvation through their own works, or anywhere else?

Answer

No, everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ.
Question 34

Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God’s Word?

Answer

Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.
Question 35

Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through faith alone, where does this faith come from?

Answer

From the Holy Spirit.
Part 3

Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace
Question 36

What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

Answer

That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son.
Question 37

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and he enables us to pray and to understand God’s Word.
Question 38

What is prayer?

Answer

Prayer is pouring out our hearts to God.
Question 39

With what attitude should we pray?

Answer

With love, perseverance, and gratefulness.
Question 40

What should we pray?

Answer

The whole Word of God directs us in what we should pray.
Question 41

What is the Lord’s Prayer?

Answer

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 evil.
Question 42

How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

Answer

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith and practice it in our lives.
Question 43

What are the sacraments or ordinances?

Answer

Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
Question 44

What is baptism?

Answer

Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Question 45

Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?

Answer

No, only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from sin.
Question 46

What is the Lord’s Supper?

Answer

Christ commanded all Christians to eat bread and to drink from the cup in thankful remembrance of him.
Question 47

Does the Lord’s Supper add anything to Christ’s atoning work?

Answer

No, Christ died once for all.
Question 48

What is the church?

Answer

A community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together.
Question 49

Where is Christ now?

Answer

Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
Question 50

What does Christ’s resurrection mean for us?

Answer

Christ triumphed over sin and death so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come.
Question 51

Of what advantage to us is Christ’s ascension?

Answer

Christ is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father and also sends us his Spirit.
Question 52

What hope does everlasting life hold for us?

Answer

That we will live with and enjoy God forever in the new heaven and the new earth, where we will be forever freed from all sin in a renewed, restored creation.