

The Christian Catechism For the Covenant of Peace Church

Just What is a Catechism?

1Corinthians 14:19

however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Galatians 6:6

The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches *him*.

The Acts 18:25

This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

In each of these verses the Greek word for "instruct"; "instructed"; "teaches"; "taught"; or "teaching" is *katecheo* (CAT-eh-KAY-oh). And it is from this Greek word that we get our English word "catechize". So to "catechize" someone therefore is to simply *teach* them *Biblical Truth in an orderly and systematic way*. And down through the centuries- the best way to accomplish that effort is through a series of Questions accompanied by Biblical support and explanation so that the student may learn the correct Biblical Answer.

What is the History of the Baptist Catechism?

"The Baptist Catechism" was first put forth in 1689 in the city of London, England and is one of the oldest Baptist documents on record. It was adopted in America by the *Philadelphia Baptist Association* in 1742 and was used in most Baptist Churches until the dawn of the 20th Century when Sound Biblical Truth went "out of fashion" and gave way to emotionalism, psychology, and spiritual entertainment.

The Baptist Catechism is patterned after the well-known Reformed **Westminster Catechism**- with appropriate changes made for "believers baptism". The few comments in the earlier Questions are meant to help parents make Biblical Truths plain to their children.

Was There a Particular Pattern in Which Biblical Truth was Taught in the Early Church?

Several Biblical texts suggest that there was. For example, in **Romans 6:17** Paul gives thanks that,

... you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

2Timothy 1:13

Retain (hold faithfully/follow) the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

The Acts 2:42a

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching...

2Thessalonians 2:15

So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

The Acts 20:27

For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

So it appears that even in the early Church- there was a defined and consistent body of authoritative Teaching and that there was also a "way" or a "means" by which that Teaching was *systematically* and *continually* given to the people of the Church. We know from history that the 27 Books of the New Testament were not compiled into a single collection until hundreds of years after the death of the Apostles and yet we see in these verses- way *before* the completion of the Canon- the people of the Church were engaged in some type of ongoing; formal; and systematic instruction in the Truth of Scripture. And we are told that that is the pattern that we are to follow.

So there was a formal, complete, and systematic way in which the people of the early Church were being taught the Word of God- most probably through the use of various catechisms.

Why is This Important?

The Bible clearly teaches that there are at least five main reasons why God's people should be taught the Word of God and the basic elements of Christianity *systematically* and in an *ongoing* and *formal* method:

1. Because All Believers are Required to Know the Truth
2. Because There are Many Deceivers Determined to Pervert the Way of the Lord
3. Because Deep and Profound Biblical Truths Must be Explained Properly
4. Because We Live in the Last Days
5. Because Leaders Must be Raised Up to Teach Each Succeeding Generation

Let's examine each one.

1. Because All Believers are Required to Know the Truth

Matthew 28:18b-20

18 ... All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Colossians 1:23

... continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

2. Because There are Many Deceivers Determined to Pervert the Way of the Lord

Titus 1:9-11

9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain.

1John 2:26

These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

1John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Jude 3&4

³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

⁴ For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

3. Because Deep and Profound Biblical Truths Must be Explained Properly

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

1Corinthians 2:12&13

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

2Peter 3:15b-18

¹⁵ ... just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

4. Because We Live in the Last Days

1Timothy 4:1

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

2Timothy 4:1-5

4 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

5. Because Leaders Must be Raised up to Teach Each Succeeding Generation

1Timothy 4:6

In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.

1Timothy 4:11

Prescribe and teach these things.

2Timothy 2:2

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Titus 1:9

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Aren't All Catechisms Roman Catholic?

No. The Roman Church uses their *own* catechisms which employ *some* Biblical Truth- but these are mixed together with papal edicts; magisterial bulls and writs; which employ human reasoning; church tradition; and the findings of church councils- many of which contradict or overrule previous statements.

So after seeing how destructive this method became and after witnessing firsthand the many unbiblical practices and beliefs that were developed from this effort- the Reformers of the 16th Century penned down other Catechisms that were developed from Scripture alone which were used from the very beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Among them are:

- ✓ The Westminster Catechism (Presbyterian)
- ✓ The Heidelberg Catechism (Lutheran)
- ✓ The 39 Articles (Anglican)

- ✓ The London Baptist Catechism (Baptist)

These various Reformed Catechisms differ significantly from the Roman catechisms in fundamental and vital areas of Biblical Truth while differing between each other only in the assumptions made in the vague or the unclear passages.

Simply because the name, "Catechism" is used should not offend any reasonable person. As explained above- the term, "Catechism" comes from the Greek word which means: *to teach or to instruct* and is a Biblical Word that has absolutely *nothing* to do with Rome or any man- made doctrines flowing out from that religious institution.

Why Not Just Leave This Up to Individuals

First of all- the individualism of the American culture that has manifested itself now for over 100 years has *not* brought forth godliness and holiness on any large scale. In our view- this kind of "rugged individualism" is actually a *hindrance* to Biblical understanding and of knowing and understanding and obeying Objective Propositional and Eternal Divine Truth. So leaving Biblical instruction up to individuals to develop and implement and understand as they see fit- doesn't have a very good track record.

Secondly, by allowing the people of the modern Church to "do their own thing" as it comes to Biblical Interpretation and Study has produced the most confused; contradictory; weak; and inconsistent believers that the Christian Church has ever known. The people of the Church today are- by and large- more ignorant of God and the Bible than at any time in Church History. So the very popular method of allowing people to learn the Bible on their own that has been employed over the last hundred years has been an abject failure and should be discarded immediately.

We live in a day when personal opinion has been elevated to the level of being "Truth"; while the Divine Truth of Scripture is often relegated to being nothing more than "*that's your opinion*" or "*that's your interpretation*". We must understand that Divine Truth is an eternally fixed Reality that is not affected or altered by time; societal changes; human development; or personal preferences. In order for anyone to know God; God's Will; or God's Way- they must rightly and fully understand God's Word. Therefore the systematic and ongoing teaching of the Scriptures is the main focus of the Christian Church.

The Great Commission not only commands that we "go and tell" but that we also "baptize and teach". And as we teach believers to obey everything that Jesus taught- we really only have a few options. For example- we can teach God's Word:

- ✓ Inconsistently or Consistently
- ✓ Haphazardly or Systematically
- ✓ Sporadically or Continually
- ✓ With Untrained Amateurs or with Trained and Called Teachers

We see absolutely no value in teaching God's Word other than by Trained and Called Men who teach the Scriptures in a Consistent; Systematic; and Continuous way. And the single best proven way of doing that- is through the use of a Catechism that is 100% Biblical and that has blessed the lives of countless believers way before we were ever born.

It is also important to know that our goal in presenting this historic Baptist Catechism to you in this Church is *not* to teach you Baptist Theology- but Biblical Truth. There are many items in the Westminster and Heidelberg Catechisms as well as the 39 Articles (which are predominately Presbyterian and Anglican) that are also very helpful and useful for us today- precisely because they are Biblical- and so there is no reason why we shouldn't employ those items in our teaching as well.

Our goal and effort is to comprehend all that God has revealed in Scripture. We want to not only read the Bible- but to understand it and to be able- by God's Help- to apply the Truths of Scripture to our daily lives so that we may be found faithful and to honor and glorify God in all that we do.

How Will We Do This?

Our goal will be to make room for one Question from the Catechism each Lord's Day Morning in our Regular Worship. We will be assigned the Question the week before- so that as you conduct your Family Devotions during the week- you can read, study, and discuss the Scriptures that pertain to that particular Question with your family.

Someone will be asked to stand and read the Question on the next Lord's Day Morning and then that "Herald" will lead the entire Body in giving the Answer together.

There are 118 Questions in this historic Catechism with additional Questions from the other Reformed Catechisms- so this effort will take between 2-1/2 to 3 years for us to go through it as a Church. By that time (in God's Providence) we will have another group of people whom God has joined to us and we will then begin all over again.

Our goal is that over time- through the combination of hearing Scripture read in an authoritative and public way; singing God honoring music; giving financially to God and His Work; praying; being challenged encouraged, rebuked, and edified by the Word of God being expounded in a line upon line, precept upon precept manner; partaking of the Lord's Supper; going over Questions and Answers designed to help us understand Scripture and apply it to our lives; and engaging in deep, serious Bible Studies- three things will be accomplished:

- ✓ Lost sinners will be saved
- ✓ Compromising believers will be convicted and reconciled
- ✓ Faithful believers will be equipped and encouraged

And as God's Love and Peace flows among us- Jesus Christ will be exalted and obeyed; God the Father will be worshipped and respected; God the Holy Spirit will be welcomed and followed; and the people of this Church will be transformed into the very Likeness and Image of our Lord Jesus and we will provoke one another to love and good works- and we will actually *be* a people who are prepared for the coming of the Lord!

So as we learn the Word of God together- I encourage you to make these teaching tools part of your own family devotions or use them for yourself. I am excited about being a partner with you in building a "stable and firm" generation who truly knows and loves God; His Word and His Will; and who seeks to enjoy our Lord forever.

Learning and teaching with you,

Pastor Blair

The Catechism

2Peter 3:17&18

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Note:

Sometimes there are other ways to express a true answer to these questions. Feel free to use Scripture to formulate other true answers with your family during your own Family Devotions where possible and helpful. Remember- the goal of any Catechism is not to be exhaustive- but to give a solid beginning from which we may continue to grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ both individually and as a Church Body. The Comments underneath some of the Questions are to assist you in teaching these Eternal Truths to your family and to encourage discussion. The best way to use this catechism is to first read the Scriptures listed under each Question and then read the Question and see if the Answer best fits the Question.

Question 1 (for February 2, 2014): Who is the first and best of beings?

Answer: God is the first and best of Beings.

Scripture: Isaiah 44:6; Psalm 8:1; 96:4; 97:9, 1Samuel 2:2

Question 2 (for February 9, 2014): What is the chief end of Man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to know God; to glorify God; and to love and enjoy Him forever.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 16:11; 37:4; 73:25-26; Isaiah 43:7.

Comment: "Glorify" does not mean: to *cause* to be glorious. It means to reflect or display as glorious. Other words you could use for "end" are "goal" or "purpose". You may wish to engage your family on what it means to "enjoy" God.

Question 3 (for February 16, 2014): How do we know there is a God?

Answer: The light of nature in Man, and the Works of God throughout Creation, plainly declares that there is a God; but His Word and Spirit effectually reveal Him unto us for our Salvation.

Scripture: Romans 1:18-20; Psalm 19:1-2; 2Timothy 3:15; 1Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:9, 10; Matthew 11:27.

Comment: This question distinguishes two kinds of human knowledge: one is “natural knowledge” and comes from conscience (“the light of nature in man”) and from the Works of God throughout Creation. The other is “spiritual knowledge” or “saving knowledge” and comes from the recognition of the true Value of God and the Beauty of His Character. The Bible teaches in **Romans 1** that “natural knowledge” is possessed by *all* people and thus makes all people accountable to honor and thank God. But “spiritual knowledge” is possessed only by those whose natural blindness has been Sovereignly and graciously overcome by the Spirit of God. (the elect/ **1Corinthians 2:14-16**). Our children must come to see the difference between these two types of knowledge lest they think they are saved by much natural knowledge about God—which the devils also have **James 2:19**).

Question 4 (for February 23, 2014): What is the Word of God?

Answer: The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being given by Divine Inspiration, are the Word of God- the only infallible Rule (Canon) of Faith and Practice.

Scripture: **2Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17- 18; 1Corinthians 2:13; Psalm 19:7-8.**

Comment: "The Scriptures" is a special term for the "Sacred Writings" of the 66 Books of both the Old and New Testaments- excluding those books, collectively called, *The Apocrypha*- which are *not* inspired. The OT deals with God’s Word that came *before* Jesus was born; and the NT is the Word of God that came *after* Jesus was born. "Infallible" means that the Scriptures are not *able* to be wrong and thus it will *never* lead us astray in what it teaches. Scripture is true and does not err. It can be trusted. "Faith" refers to right thinking and feeling; and "Practice" refers to right doing. We measure the “rightness” of our thoughts, emotions, and actions by the Rule of the Bible- not by personal experience, human reasoning, or cultural changes. "Inspiration" means that Scripture is God-breathed: by His Spirit God guided His writers to record God’s Word in their own language.

Question 5 (for March 2, 2014): How do we know that the Bible is the Word of God?

Answer: The Bible evidences itself to be God’s Word by the heavenliness of its Doctrine; the unity of its parts; and its power to convert sinners and to edify saints. But only the Spirit of God can make us willing to agree and submit to the Bible as the Word of God.

Scripture: **1Corinthians 2:6-7,13-16; Psalm 19:7-9; 119:18,129; The Acts 10:43; 26:22; 18:28; Hebrews 4:12; Romans 15:4; John 16:13,14; 1John 2:20-27; 2Corinthians 3:14-17; 4:4, 6.**

Comment: "Heavenliness" refers to the fact that the teachings of Scripture are of such a nature that they cannot be explained by mere human resources. They bear the marks of the supernatural. "No man ever spoke like this man" (**John 7:46**). The "unity of its parts" has to do especially with the way all Scripture points to Christ. "To him all the prophets bear witness" (**The Acts 10:43**). There are detailed and scholarly historical arguments for the reliability of the Bible, but these are generally beyond the acquaintance of ordinary Christians, and so do not serve as widespread support for Scripture. They are needed, however, in the scholarly arena. [See *"Is the Bible a*

Reliable Guide to Lasting Joy" by John Piper (Multnomah Press, 1986).]

Question 6 (for March 9, 2014): May all men make use of the Scriptures?

Answer: All men are not only *permitted* but *commanded* and *exhorted* to read, hear, study, and understand the Scriptures.

Scripture: **John 5:39; Luke 16:29; The Acts 8:28-30; 17:11.**

Question 7 (for March 16, 2014): What do the Scriptures mainly teach?

Answer: The Scriptures mainly teach what Man is to believe about God and what duty God requires of Man.

Scripture: 2Timothy 3:16, 17; John 20:31; The Acts 24:14; 1Corinthians 10:11; Ecclesiastes 12:13.

Question 8 (for March 23, 2014): What is God?

Answer: God is a Spirit, Infinite, Eternal, and Unchangeable, in His Being, Wisdom, Power, Holiness, Justice, Goodness, and Truth.

Scripture: John 4:24; Psalm 89:14; 90:2; 147:5; James 1:17; The Revelation 4:8; Exodus 34:6, 7; 1Timothy 1:17; Numbers 23:19.

Comment: Ask your children what "infinite" means (there is no limit to how great God is!). What does "eternal" mean? (He never had a beginning and will never have an ending!) Talk about how God can respond to us and yet not be "changeable." (His Character never changes; He acts consistently on the same Principles always. Even His Responses to us are known and planned long before so that His Purposes are unchanging.) for further information see, "**The Doctrines of Grace/Doctrine 1 The Absolute Sovereignty of God/Part A**" by Blair Bradley www.covenantofpeace.net

Question 9 (for March 30, 2014): Are there more Gods than one?

Answer: There is only one living and true God.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Psalm 96:4-5.

Comment: There are "gods" which are manufactured idols, but they are not "living". And there are "gods" which are angels or demons, but they are not "true" God, that is they are not eternal, infinite and unchanging. Only one God is living and true.

Question 10 (for April 6, 2014): How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

Answer: There are three Persons in the Godhead: God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God- the same in Essence and equal in Power and Glory.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 2:11; 8:6; John 1:1; 10:30; 14:9; 20:28; The Acts 5:3,4; Matthew 28:19; 2Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3.

Comment: The word "Godhead" is needed because we shouldn't say that there are three Persons *in* God. No, there are three Persons Who are God. Nor should we say that there are three Gods. There is one God. They are distinct Persons with special roles in Creation and Redemption. But they are in perfect harmony and are (in ways beyond our comprehension) perfectly One God. (See *The Pleasures of God*, by John Piper, Multnomah Press, pp. 38, 42-44 for one explanation of the Trinity.

Question 11 (for April 13, 2014): What are the Decrees of God?

Answer: The Decrees of God are His Eternal Purpose, according to the Counsel of His Will, whereby for His Own Glory, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:11; Romans 11:36; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 115:3; Amos 3:6.

Comment: You might shorten it to: "God's decrees are His Own Plans for history- and they *always* happen precisely as God desires." Other aspects to understand are: "His Purpose for the world is eternal because there never was a time when He didn't know what He was going to do. His Purpose accords with the Counsel of His Will--that is He did not consult with anyone else. He thought it all up. All Plans were made in order to maximize the display of His Glory. Nothing falls outside the Decrees of God."

Question 12 (for April 20, 2014): How does God execute His Decrees?

Answer: God executes His Decrees in the Works of Creation and Providence.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1; The Revelation 4:11; Matthew 5:45; 6:26; The Acts 14:17; Proverbs 16:9, 33; 19:21; 20:24; 21:1,31.

Comment: Instead of "execute" you can say "perform" or "accomplish" or "bring about". The word "Providence" will be taken up in a later Question. For now it refers to the Way God Preserves and Governs all His creatures and all their actions (like the fall of a bird or the election of a president). It refers to God's general Rule over the world He has created.

Question 13 (for April 27, 2014): What is the Work of Creation?

Answer: The Work of Creation is God's making all things [out] of nothing, by the Word of His Power and all God created was very good.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1, 31; Hebrews 11:3; Exodus 20:11; Romans 4:17.

Comment: Before Creation there was only God in the holy fellowship of the Trinity. Therefore Creation is reserved solely to God.

Question 14 (for May 4, 2014): How did God create Man?

Answer: God created Man- male and female, after His own Image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Scripture: Genesis 1:27-28; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24.

Comment: In saying that we were created after his image "in knowledge, righteousness and holiness," doesn't mean that we know all that God knows, nor that we are a "source" of righteousness and holiness the way He is. It means that we were capable of sharing His Knowledge and Righteousness and Holiness in a relationship of trust and love unlike any other creature under the angels.

Question 15 (for May 11, 2014): What are God's Works of Providence?

Answer: God's Works of Providence are the holy, wise, and powerful Acts through and by which He *preserves* and *governs* all His creatures, and all their actions.

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 10:29-30.

Comment: It would be helpful to discuss this with your family in relation to the common concepts of "luck; "chance" and "accidents"." Is there such a thing as "luck" in a world ruled by the Providence of God? "**The lot is cast into the lap, but the decision is wholly from the Lord**" (Proverbs 16:33). You will also need to stress that many of God's Acts of Providence may immediately appear to be "holy or "wise" to us in our limited and finite eyes (like storms that kill thousands of people). But then stress that God has His secret; wise and good Purposes (Deut. 29:29) that we are never great enough to see, and that the Judge of all the earth always does Right for He is Good (Genesis 18:25).

Question 16 (for May 18, 2014): What special Act of Providence did God exercise towards Man when he was first created?

Answer: When God had created Man, He made a Covenant with him that he should live and enjoy all the benefits of Creation, but that he would die if he forsook the obedience that comes from faith. God commanded him not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and thus forsake his child-like dependence upon God for all things.

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-17; Galatians 3:12; Romans 5:12.

Comment: The "knowledge of good and evil" is the ability to judge independently what is beneficial (good) and harmful (evil) for yourself. What God is forbidding is that Man should choose to be independent from God in his evaluation of things. He is commanding Man to walk by faith in the wise and loving care of his heavenly Father. (See the use of this phrase in Gen. 3:5, 22; 2 Sam. 14:17; Is. 7:15; 2 Sam 19:35.)

Question 17 (for May 25, 2014): Did our first parents continue in the glad obedience for which they were created?

Answer: No, but desiring to be like God, our first parents forsook the obedience of faith, ate of the forbidden tree, sinned against God, and fell from the innocence in which they were created.

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-7; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Romans 5:12.

Question 18 (for June 1, 2014): What is sin?

Answer: Sin is transgression of the revealed Will of God which teaches that we are

to act in perfect holiness from a heart of faith to the Glory of God. Sin is any act or thought that does not bring Glory to God.

Scripture: 1John 3:4; Romans 5:13; 14:23; 1Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:48; 1Corinthians 10:31.

Comment: Sin is any attitude or desire or action that explicitly breaks a Commandment of Scripture, or comes from a heart of unbelief or is not done for the Glory of God.

Question 19 (for June 8, 2014): What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

Answer: The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit

Scripture: Genesis 3:6, 12, 13.

Question 20 (for June 15, 2014): Did all Mankind fall in Adam's first sin?

Answer: All Mankind, descending from Adam by ordinary generation, sinned in Adam and fell with him in his first sin.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 15:21-22; Romans 5:12, 18-19.

Comment: God considered all Mankind as being in Adam so that when Adam went "bad" we *all* went "bad" in him. This is a good opportunity to discuss with your family the Truth about Original Sin. The nature that we have by virtue of belonging to Adam's race is morally corrupt. We are under the Wrath of God "by nature" (**Ephesians 2:3**) from the time we were conceived in the womb. This is why Conversion and Salvation must be much more than simply a "decision" for Christ. It must be a "new creation"; a "rebirth"; and a "transformation" of nature.

Question 21 (for June 22, 2014): Into what condition did The Fall bring Mankind?

Answer: The Fall brought Mankind into a condition of sin and misery.

Scripture: Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:18-19; 7:18; Isaiah 53:6; 64:6; John 3:6-7; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1Corinthians 2:14.

Question 22 (for June 29, 2014): What is the sinfulness of that condition into which all Mankind has fallen?

Answer: The sinfulness of the condition into which all Mankind fell is the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, and the corruption of our whole nature (which is commonly called original sin), together with all actual transgressions which come from this nature.

Scripture: Romans 5:19; 3:10; Ephesians 2:1; Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 15:19.

Comment: The Bible says that "in Adam all die" (**1Cor. 15:22**) and that "one transgression yields condemnation for all men" (**Rom. 5:18**) and that "one man's disobedience made many sinners" (**Rom. 5:19**). These statements lead us to conclude that God, in a way beyond our comprehension, established a unity between Adam and his posterity which makes it correct for us to receive the imputation of his guilt and corruption. He was in some sense our representative head. We sinned in him and fell with him.

Question 23 (for July 6, 2014): What is the misery into which all Mankind fell through Adam's first sin?

Answer: All Mankind, by their Fall, lost communion with God, are under His Wrath and Curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Scripture: Genesis 3:8, 24; Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 3:10; Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:41-46; Psalm 9:17.

Comment: Keep in mind that "liable to" means that these miseries will indeed befall *all* people unless and until a special Work of God's Grace through Jesus Christ intervenes.

Question 24 (for July 13, 2014): Did God leave all Mankind to perish in the condition of sin and misery?

Answer: God, out of His mere good Pleasure, from all eternity, having chosen a people to everlasting life, did enter into a Covenant of Grace, to deliver them out of the condition of sin and misery, and to bring them into a condition of Salvation, by a Redeemer.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 5:21; 8:29-30; 9:11-12; 11:5-7; Acts 13:48; Jeremiah 31:33.

Comment: The term "Covenant of Grace" is filled with sweet and precious hope. It refers to the free Decision, Commitment and Oath of God to employ all His Omnipotence, Wisdom, and Love to rescue and glorify His people from sin and misery. It is wholly initiated and carried through by God. It cannot fail.

It is valid for all who believe. WHOSOEVER WILL MAY COME AND ENJOY THIS GRACE! And, since this "believing" and this "willing" is a Work of God's Sovereign Grace, those who believe and come are the elect, "chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). Thus the Covenant was sealed in the Heart of God before the world was.

This "Covenant of Grace" is the cry of victory over all the battle strife in missions. THE GRACE OF GOD WILL TRIUMPH! He is "covenant-bound" and "oath-bound" to save all those who are foreordained to eternal life (The Acts 13:48)! "Jesus died for the nation (of Jews), and not for the nation only, but to gather into one- all the children of God who are scattered abroad"- both Jew and Gentile (John 11:52).

The battle cry of missions is, "The Lord has other sheep that are not of this fold: He MUST (covenant-bound!!) bring them also. They WILL (Sovereign Grace!!) heed His Voice!" John 10:16.

Question 25 (for July 20, 2014): Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

Answer: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, Who, being the eternal Son of God, became Man, and so was and continues to be God and Man, in two distinct Natures and one Person, forever.

Scripture: Galatians 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:5; 3:16; John 1:14; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9.

Question 26 (July 27, 2014): How did Christ, being the Son of God, become Man?

Answer: Christ, the Son of God became Man by taking to Himself a true body and a reasonable soul. 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.

Scripture: Hebrews 2:14; 4:14; 7:26; Matthew 26:38; Luke 2:52; John 1:14; 12:27; Luke 1:31, 35; 2:52; Colossians 2:9.

Question 27 (for August 3, 2014): What Offices does Christ perform as our Redeemer?

Answer: Christ, as our Redeemer, performs the Offices of a Prophet, of a Priest, and of a King, both in his condition of humiliation and exaltation.

Scripture: The Acts 3:22; Hebrews 5:6; Psalm 2:6.

Question 28 (for August 10, 2014): How does Christ perform the Office of a Prophet?

Answer: Christ performs the Office of a Prophet, in revealing to us- by His Word and Spirit- the Will of God for our Salvation.

Scripture: John 1:18; 14:26; 15:15.

Question 29 (for August 17, 2014): How does Christ perform the Office of a Priest?

Answer: Christ performs the Office of a Priest by once offering Himself as a Sacrifice to satisfy the Divine Justice against sin and to reconcile us to God; and by making continual Intercession for us before God.

Scripture: 1Peter 2:24; Hebrews 2: 17; 7:25; 9:28; Ephesians 5:2; Romans 8:34.

Question 30 (for August 24, 2014): How does Christ perform the Office of a King?

Answer: Christ performs the Office of a King, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Scripture: Psalm 110:1-2; Matthew 2:6; Luke 1:32-33; 1Corinthians 15:25.

Question 31 (for August 31, 2014): What do we mean by Christ's Humiliation?

Answer: By Christ's Humiliation we mean that He was born, and that in a low condition; that He was made under the Law, and underwent the miseries of this life, the Wrath of God, and the cursed Death of the Cross; that He was buried, and continued under the power of death for a time.

Scripture: Luke 2:7; Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 53:3; Luke 22:44; Matthew 12:40; 27:46; Philippians 2:8; Mark 15:45-6.

Question 32: (for September 7, 2014) What do we mean by Christ's Exaltation?

Answer: By Christ's Exaltation we mean His rising again from the dead on the third day, ascending up into Heaven, sitting at the Right Hand of God the Father, and coming to judge the world at the last day.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:11; Mark 16:19; Acts 17:31.

Question 33: (for September 14, 2014) How are we made partakers of the Redemption purchased by Christ?

Answer: We are made partakers of the Redemption purchased by Christ, by the effective application of it to us, by His Holy Spirit.

Scripture: John 3:5, 6; Titus 3:5, 6.

Question 34: (for September 21, 2014) How does the Spirit apply to us the Redemption purchased by Christ?

Answer: The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Scripture: 1John 5:1; Philippians 1:29; Ephesians 2:8; Acts 16:14; 18:27; John 3:8; 6:64f.

Question 35: (for September 28, 2014) What is "Effectual Calling"?

Answer: Effectual Calling is the Sovereign Work of God's Spirit, to convince us of our sin and misery; to enlighten our minds in the Knowledge of Christ; to renew our wills; and thus empower and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ- Who is freely offered to us in the Gospel.

Scripture: 2Timothy 1:9; John 6:44, 45; 16:8-11; Acts 2:37; 26:18; Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 8:30; 1Corinthians 1:24; 12:3.

Comment: This is a good place to begin the conversation with your family about how human "choice" is possible with a ruined nature from The Fall. Several resources about this subject are available from the Church Website: www.covenantofpeace.net

Question 36: (for October 5, 2014) What Benefits do those who are Effectually Called receive in this life?

Answer: Those who are Effectually Called receive in this life Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, and the several Benefits which in this life accompany or flow from them.

Scripture: Romans 8:30-32; Galatians 3:26; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11; Ephesians 1:5.

Comment: Here you should distinguish between the "Effectual Call" to God's Elect and the "General Call" of the Gospel to everyone. Not all who hears the Gospel believes. But all who are Effectually Called by God do believe because inherent in the Effectual Call is the power to accomplish God's Purpose in sending it. The Effectual Call *creates* what it commands.

Question 37: (for October 12, 2014) What is Justification?

Answer: Justification is a Sovereign Act of God's free Grace, by which He pardons all our sins and accepts us as Righteous in His Sight. This occurs because the Righteousness of Christ is *imputed* to us and received by Faith alone.

Scripture: Romans 3:24; 5:19; Ephesians 1:7; 2Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9; Galatians 2:16.

Comment: This might be a good place to discuss both the concept and history of "Sola Fide" (Latin for "by Faith Alone") with your family.

Question 38: (for October 19, 2014) What is Adoption?

Answer: Adoption is a Sovereign Act of God's free Grace, by which we are lovingly received into the Company of God's children and have a right to all the privileges of his sons.

Scripture: 1John 3:1; John 1:12; Romans 8:16, 17.

Question 39: (for October 26, 2014) What is Sanctification?

Answer: Sanctification is the Sovereign Work of God's free Grace by which we are renewed in the whole person after the Image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Scripture: 2Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 4:23, 24; Romans 6:11.

Question 40: (for November 2, 2014) What are the Benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from Justification; Adoption; and Sanctification?

Answer: The Benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from Justification; Adoption; and Sanctification, are: Assurance of God's Love; Peace of Conscience; Sweet Fellowship with Christ; Joy in the Holy Spirit; Increase of Grace; Effectual Prayer; and Perseverance Therein to the End.

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5; 14:17; Proverbs 4:18; 1Peter 1:5; 1John 5:13; 1Corinthians 1:9; John 15:7.

Question 41: (for November 9, 2014) What Benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

Answer: At death the souls of believers are made perfect in holiness, and immediately pass into Glory. Their bodies rest in their graves till the Resurrection.

Scripture: Hebrews 12:23; Philippians 1:23; 2Corinthians 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1Thessalonians 4:14; Isaiah 57:2; Job 19:26.

Question 42: (for November 16, 2014) What Benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?

Answer: At the Resurrection, believers are raised up in Glory; they shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in

the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

Scripture: Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 43; Matthew 10:32; 1John 3:2; 1Thessalonians 4:17.

Question 43: (for November 23, 2014) What shall be done to the wicked at death?

Answer: The souls of the wicked shall, at death, be cast into the torments of Hell, and their bodies lie in their graves till the Resurrection and Judgment of the great Day.

Scripture: Luke 16:22-4; Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; The Revelation 20:11- 15.

Question 44: (for November 30, 2014) What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?

Answer: At the Day of Judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever.

Scripture: Daniel 12:2; John 5:28, 29; 2Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 25:41; The Revelation 20:14-15.

Question 45: (for December 7, 2014) What is the Duty which God requires of Man?

Answer: The Duty which God requires of Man is the obedience that comes from Faith.

Scripture: Galatians 5:6; 1Thessalonians 1:3; 2Thessalonians 2:11; Romans 1:5; 16:26; 15:18.

Comment: See questions 16-18.

Question 46: (for December 13, 2014) What did God at first reveal to Man for the Rule of his obedience?

Answer: The Rule which God at first revealed to Man for his obedience was the Moral Law.

Scripture: Romans 2:14; 15; 5:13, 14.

Question 47: (for December 20, 2014) Where is the "Obedience of Faith" recorded in summary form?

Answer: A summary form of the Obedience that comes from Faith is given in the Ten Commandments.

Scripture: Hebrews 3:18-19; 4:2; Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 10:4; Romans 9:32.

Question 48: (for December 27, 2014) What is the Sum of the Ten Commandments?

Answer: The Sum of the Ten Commandments is to love the Lord our God, with all our heart; with all our soul; with all our mind; and with all our strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Scripture: Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-33.

Question 49: (for January 4, 2015) What is the Preface to the Ten Commandments?

Answer: The Preface to the Ten Commandments is, "**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**"

Scripture: Exodus 20:2.

Question 50: (for January 11, 2015) What does the Preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?

Answer: The Preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the LORD, and our gracious Redeemer- His Commandments are for our Good and He does not will for us to depend on ourselves in keeping them- but to trust His Grace and Power.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:13, 16; 30:6.

Question 51: (for January 18, 2015) Which is the First Commandment?

Answer: The First Commandment is, "**You shall have no other gods before Me.**"

Scripture: Exodus 20:3.

Question 52: (for January 25, 2015) What is required of us in the First Commandment?

Answer: The First Commandment *requires* us to know and acknowledge God to be the only *true* God; and that He is *our* God; and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.

Scripture: Joshua 24:15; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Deuteronomy 26:17; Psalm 29:2; Matthew 4:10.

Question 53: (for February 1, 2015) What is forbidden in the First Commandment?

Answer: The First Commandment *forbids* us to deny or *not* to worship and glorify the true God as God and *our* God; and to give that worship and glory to any other, which is due unto Him alone.

Scripture: Joshua 24:27; Romans 1:20-21, 25; Psalm 14:1.

Question 54: (for February 8, 2015) What are we especially taught by these words, "before Me," in the First Commandment?

Answer: These words "before Me," in the First Commandment teach us that God-Who sees all things; takes notice of, and is much displeased with the sin of us having any other "god".

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:17, 18; Psalm 44:20-21; 90:8.

Question 55: (for February 15, 2015) Which is the Second Commandment?

Answer: The Second Commandment is, "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Scripture: Exodus 20:4-6.

Question 56: (for February 22, 2015) What is required in the Second Commandment?

Answer: The Second Commandment *requires* the receiving; observing; and keeping pure and entire- all such religious Worship and Ordinances, as God has appointed in His Word.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 12:32; 32:46; Matthew 28:20.

Question 57: (for March 1, 2015) What is forbidden in the Second Commandment?

Answer: The Second Commandment *forbids* the worshipping of God by images, or any other way that draws the heart and mind *away* from His true Glory rather than *toward* His true Glory.

Scripture: Romans 1:22, 23; Deuteronomy 4:15, 16; Colossians 2:18; 3:17; 1Corinthians 10:31.

Question 58: (for March 8, 2015) What are the Reasons added to the Second Commandment?

Answer: The Reasons added to the Second Commandment are God's Holy Jealousy for His Own Name, and the Holy Zeal He has for His Own Worship.

Scripture: Exodus 20:4-6; Exodus 34:14; 1Corinthians 10:22.

Question 59: (for March 15, 2015) Which is the Third Commandment?

Answer: The Third Commandment is, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."
Scripture: Exodus 20:7.

Question 60: (for March 22, 2015) What is required in the Third Commandment?
Answer: The Third Commandment *requires* the holy and reverent use of God's Name; Titles; Attributes; Ordinances; Words; and Works.
Scripture: Psalm 29:2; 111:9; 138:2; Deuteronomy 32:1-4; 28:58-59; Matthew 6:9; Ecclesiastes 5:1; Job 36:24; The Revelation 4:8; 15:3, 4.

Question 61: (for March 29, 2015) What is forbidden in the Third Commandment?
Answer: The Third Commandment *forbids* all profaning and abusing of anything whereby God makes Himself known.
Scripture: Exodus 20:7; Malachi 1:6, 7; Leviticus 20:3; 19:12; Matthew 5:34-37; Isaiah 52:5.

Question 62: (for April 5, 2015) What is the Reason annexed to the Third Commandment?
Answer: The Reason annexed to the Third Commandment is, that even though the breakers of this Commandment may escape punishment from men- yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape His Righteous Judgment.
Scripture: Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 28:58, 59; Malachi 2:2.

Question 63: (for April 12, 2015) Which is the Fourth Commandment?
Answer: 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 of the Lord your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the 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.
Scripture: Exodus 20:8-11.

Question 64: (for April 19, 2015) What is required in the Fourth Commandment?
Answer: The Fourth Commandment *requires* the keeping holy to God such set times as He has appointed in His Word, expressly one whole day in seven to be a holy Sabbath to Himself.
Scripture: Leviticus 19:30; Deuteronomy 5:12.

Question 65: (for April 26, 2015) Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?

Answer: From the creation of the world to the Resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week (the Lord's Day) ever since- that to continue to the end of the world

Scripture: Genesis 2:3; John 20:19; The Acts 20:7; 1Corinthians 16:1, 2; The Revelation 1:10.

Question 66: (for May 3, 2015) How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?

Answer: One day in seven should be especially devoted to corporate worship and other spiritual exercises that restore the soul's rest in God and zeal for His Name. It should provide physical refreshment and prepare one for a week of devoted service to Christ.

Scripture: Leviticus 23:3; Isaiah 58:13, 14; Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:27; Romans 14:5-6.

Question 67: (for May 10, 2015) What is forbidden in the Fourth Commandment?

Answer: The Fourth Commandment forbids dishonoring the Lord's Day by actions or thoughts that divert the soul from spiritual refreshment, or deprive the body of renewed energy or distract the mind from its special Sabbath focus on the Lord.

Scripture: Ezekiel 22:26; 23:38; Jeremiah 17:21; Nehemiah 13:15, 17; The Acts 20:7; Mark 2:23-28; Romans 14:5-6.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss activities you and your family engage on the Lord's Day and how the modern American culture looks at Sunday as just another day or primarily a "sports day".

Question 68: (for May 17, 2015) What are the reasons attached to the Fourth Commandment?

Answer: The reasons attached to the Fourth Commandment are, God's creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh and His blessing the Sabbath day.

Scripture: Exodus 20:9-11; 31:16&17; Genesis 2:2&3.

Question 69: (for May 24, 2015) Which is the Fifth Commandment?

Answer: The Fifth Commandment is, "**Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you.**"

Scripture: Exodus 20:12.

Question 70: (for May 31, 2015) What is required in the Fifth Commandment?

Answer: The Fifth Commandment *requires* that we preserve the honor and perform the duties which belong to everyone in their various roles as authorities, subordinates or equals.

Scripture: Leviticus 19:32; 1Peter 2:17; Romans 12:10; 13:1; Ephesians 5:21-22; 6:1, 5, 9; Colossians 3:19-22; 1Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:7, 17.

Question 71: (for March 3, 2013) What is forbidden in the Fifth Commandment?

Answer: The Fifth Commandment forbids neglecting or offending the honor and duty which belongs to everyone in their various places and relations.

Scripture: Proverbs 30:17; Romans 13:7, 8.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss “sassing”; “talking back”; or disrespect to parents and the issue of Government or Nursing Homes taking care of the older family members with your family

Question 72: (for June 7, 2015) What is the reason added to the Fifth Commandment?

Answer: The reason added to the Fifth Commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve God’s Glory and their own good), to all who keep this Commandment.

Scripture: Exodus 20:20; Ephesians 6:2, 3.

Question 73: (for June 14, 2015) What is the Sixth Commandment?

Answer: The Sixth Commandment is, “**You shall not murder**”

Scripture: Exodus 20:13.

Question 74: (for June 21, 2015) What is required in the Sixth Commandment?

Answer: The Sixth Commandment *requires* all lawful efforts to preserve our own life and the life of others.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:29, 30; Psalm 82:3, 4; Proverbs 24:11, 12; The Acts 16:28.

Question 75: (for June 28, 2015) What is forbidden in the Sixth Commandment?

Answer: The Sixth Commandment *forbids* the taking of our own life (suicide) or the life of our neighbor unjustly- *including* whatever acts tend to this loss.

Scripture: Genesis 4:10, 11; 9:6; Matthew 5:21-26.

Comment: This is an opportunity to discuss other relevant issues of our day such as war; capital punishment; abortion; euthanasia; and self-defense with your family

Question 76: (for July 5, 2015) Which is the Seventh Commandment?

Answer: The Seventh Commandment is, “**You shall not commit adultery**”

Scripture: Exodus 20:14.

Question 77: (For July 12, 2015) What is required in the Seventh Commandment?

Answer: The Seventh Commandment *requires* that we preserve our own and our neighbor’s chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 6:18; 7:2; 2Timothy 2:22; Matthew 5:28; 1Peter 3:2.

Question 78: (For July 19, 2015) What is forbidden in the Seventh Commandment?

Answer: The Seventh Commandment *forbids* all unchaste thoughts, words and actions.

Scripture: Matthew 5:28-32; Job 31:1; Ephesians 5:3, 4; Romans 13:13; Colossians 4:6.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss the issue of modesty in general along with pornography and develop practical ways to maintain sexual purity with your family

Question 79: (For July 26, 2015) Which is the Eighth Commandment?

Answer: The Eighth Commandment is, "**You shall not steal.**"

Scripture: Exodus 20:15.

Question 80: (For August 2, 2015) Which is required in the Eighth Commandment?

Answer: The Eighth Commandment *requires* that we pursue lawful and useful work to provide for our needs and for those genially unable to provide for themselves.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:28; Proverbs 27:23; Leviticus 25:35; Deuteronomy 15:10; 22:1-4.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss giving with your family

Question 81: (For August 9, 2015) What is forbidden in the Eighth Commandment?

Answer: The Eighth Commandment *forbids* whatever would unjustly withhold or diminish a person's possessions or attainments.

Scripture: Malachi 3:8; Ephesians 4:28; Romans 13:7.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss Social Contracts (ie Social Security; Medicare; Medicaid; Welfare, etc.) and taxation in general with your family

Question 82: (For August 16, 2015) Which is the Ninth Commandment?

Answer: The Ninth Commandment is, "**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**"

Scripture: Exodus 20:16.

Question 83: (For August 23, 2015) What is required in the Ninth Commandment?

Answer: The Ninth commandment *requires* that we maintain and promote truth between persons and that we preserve the good name of our neighbor and ourselves.

Scripture: Zechariah 8:16; The Acts 25:10; Ecclesiastes 7:1; 3 John 12; Proverbs 14:5, 25.

Question 84: (For August 30, 2015) What is forbidden in the Ninth Commandment?

Answer: The Ninth Commandment *forbids* whatever dishonors truth, or injures our own, or our neighbor's good name.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:25; Psalm 15:3; 2Corinthians 8:20, 21.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss the issue of gossip with your family

Question 85: (For September 6, 2015) What is the Tenth Commandment?

Answer: 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 belongs to your neighbor.**"

Scripture: Exodus 20:17.

Question 86: (For September 13, 2015) What is required in the Tenth Commandment?

Answer: The Tenth Commandment *requires* contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit towards our neighbor, and all that is his.

Scripture: Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6; Romans 12:15; 1Corinthians 13:4-7; Leviticus 19:18.

Question 87: (For September 20, 2015) What is forbidden in the Tenth Commandment?

Answer: The Tenth Commandment *forbids* all murmuring over our own condition and all envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate affections for anything that is his.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 10:10; James 5:9; Galatians 5:26; Colossians 3:5.

Comment: Here is a good opportunity to discuss the issue of money and material possessions and greed with your family

Question 88: (For September 27, 2015) Is any man able perfectly to keep the Commandments of God?

Answer: No mere man, since The Fall, is able in this life, perfectly to keep the Commandments of God, but daily falls short of inward and outward perfection.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 7:20; Genesis 6:5; 8:21; 1John 1:8; James 3:2, 8; Romans 3:23; 7:15; Philippians 3:12.

Question 89: (For October 4, 2015) What then is the purpose of the Law since The Fall?

Answer: The purpose of the Law, since The Fall, is to reveal the perfect Righteousness of God so that His people may know the path of faith that leads to Life, and that the ungodly may be convicted of their sin, restrained from evil, and brought to Christ for Salvation.

Scripture: Psalm 19:7-11; Romans 3:20, 31; 7:7; 8:13; 9:32; 12:2; Titus 2:12-14; Galatians 3:22, 24; 1Timothy 1:8; Luke 10:25-28.

Question 90: (For October 11, 2015) Are all transgressions of the Law equally heinous?

Answer: Some sins in themselves and by reason of several aggravations are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Scripture: Ezekiel 8:13; John 19:11; 1John 5:16.

Question 91: (For October 18, 2015) What does every sin deserve?

Answer: Every sin deserves God's Wrath and Curse, both in this life, and in that which is to come.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:6; Galatians 3:10; Proverbs 3:33; Psalm 11:6; The Revelation 21:8.

Question 92: (For October 25, 2015) What does God require of us, that we may escape His Wrath and Curse, due to us for sin?

Answer: To escape the Wrath and Curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of Redemption.

Scripture: The Acts 20:21; 16:30, 31; 17:30.

Question 93: (For November 1, 2015) What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon Him alone for Salvation, trusting Him to forgive our sins, and guide us to eternal joy, on the basis of His Divine Power and atoning Death.

Scripture: Hebrews 10:39; John 1:12; 6:35; Philippians 3:9; Galatians 2:15-16, 20; Matthew 14:31.

Question 94: (For November 8, 2015) What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the Mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief

and hatred of his sin, turn from it to God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Scripture: The Acts 2:37; Joel 2:13; Jeremiah 31:18, 19; 2Corinthians 7:10, 11; Romans 6:18.

Question 95: (For November 15, 2015) What are the outward and ordinary means

by which Christ communicates to us the Benefits of Redemption?

Answer: The outward and ordinary means by which Christ communicates to us the Benefits of Redemption are His Ordinances, especially the Word, Baptism, the Lord's Supper and Prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for Salvation.

Scripture: Romans 10:17; James 1:18; 1Corinthians 3:5; The Acts 14:1; 2:41, 42.

Question 96: (For November 22, 2015) How is the Word made effective for Salvation?

Answer: The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith unto Salvation.

Scripture: Psalm 19:7; 119:11, 18; 1Thessalonians 1:6; 1Peter 2:1, 2; Romans 1:16.

Question 97: (For November 29, 2015) How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effective for Salvation?

Answer: That the Word may become effective for Salvation we must attend to it with diligence, preparation and prayer, receive it in faith and love, lay it up in our hearts and practice it in our lives.

Scripture: Proverbs 8:34; 1Peter 2:1, 2; 1Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 2:1&3; 4:2, 2Thessalonians 2:10; Psalm 119:11; James 1:21, 25.

Question 98: (For December 6, 2015) How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effective means of Salvation?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper become effective means of Salvation, not from any virtue in them or in him that administers them, but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of His Spirit in those who by faith receive them.

Scripture: 1Peter 3:21; 1Corinthians 3:6, 7; 12:13.

Question 99: (For December 13, 2015) How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ from the other Ordinances of God?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ from the other Ordinances of God in that they were specially instituted by Christ to represent and apply to believers the benefits of the New Covenant by visible and outward signs.

Scripture: The Acts 22:16; Matthew 26:26-28; 28:19; Romans 6:4.

Question 100: (For December 20, 2015) What is Baptism?

Answer: Baptism is a holy Ordinance, in which immersion in the water in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, signifies our being joined to Christ and our sharing the benefits of the Covenant of Grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Scripture: Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; Galatians 3:27.

Question 101: (For December 27, 2015) To whom is Baptism to be administered?

Answer: Baptism is to be administered to all those who actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ; and to no other.

Scripture: The Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36; 10:47, 48; Matthew 3:6; Mark 16:16.

Question 102: (For January 3, 2016) Are the infants of professing believers to be baptized?

Answer: The infants of believers are not to be baptized; because there is neither command nor example in the Holy Scriptures, nor implication from them to baptize such. But baptism is made as an expression of faith.

Scripture: Colossians 2:12; 1Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:26, 27.

Question 103: (For January 10, 2016) How is Baptism rightly administered?

Answer: 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.

Scripture: Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; The Acts 8:38, 39.

Question 104: (For January 17, 2016) What is the duty of those who are rightly baptized?

Answer: It is the duty of those who are rightly baptized to give themselves to some visible and orderly Church of Jesus Christ, that they may walk in all the Commandments and Ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Scripture: The Acts 2:46, 47; 9:26; 1Peter 2:5; Hebrews 10:25; Romans 16:5.

Question 105: (For January 24, 2016) What is the visible Church?

Answer: The visible Church is the organized society of professing believers, in all ages and places, wherein the Gospel is truly preached and the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are administered in true faith and where Church Discipline is administered according to the Scriptures.

Scripture: The Acts 2:42; 20:7; 7:38; Ephesians 4:11, 12.

Question 106: (For January 31, 2016) What is the invisible Church?

Answer. The invisible Church is the whole number of the elect that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the Head.

Scripture: Ephesians 1:10; 1:22, 23; John 10:16; 11:52.

Question 107: (For February 7, 2016) What is the Lord's Supper?

Answer: The Lord's Supper is a holy Ordinance of the Church. By eating bread and drinking the cup according to Christ's appointment we show forth His Death. Those who eat and drink in a worthy manner partake of Christ's Body and Blood, not physically, but spiritually in that by faith they are nourished with the benefits He purchased, and grow in Grace.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 11:23-26; 10:16.

Question 108: (For February 14, 2016) What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

Answer: It is required of those who would worthily (that is, suitably) partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves--of their knowledge, that they discern the Lord's Body; their faith, that they feed upon Him; and their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Scripture: 1Corinthians 5:8; 11:27-31; 2Corinthians 13:5.

Question 109: (For February 21, 2016) What is Prayer?

Answer: Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God, for things agreeable to His Will, in the Name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of His Mercies. Prayer is one of the "means" that God has chosen to accomplish His Will in the earth.

Scripture: 1John 5:14; 1:9; Philippians 4:6; Psalm 10:17; 145:19; John 14:13, 14.

Question 110: (For February 28, 2016) What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?

Answer: The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer, but the special rule of direction is that prayer, which Christ taught His disciples, commonly called "The Lord's Prayer."

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-13; 2Timothy 3:16, 17.

Question 111: (For March 6, 2016) What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

Answer: The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "**Our Father, who is in heaven,**" teaches us to draw near to God, with holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us, and that we should pray with and for others.

Scripture: Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:13; Romans 8:15; The Acts 12:5; 1Timothy 2:1-3.

Question 112: (For March 13, 2016) What do we pray for in the first petition of the Lord's Prayer?

Answer: In the first petition, which is "**Hallowed be Your name,**" we pray that God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all of life, and that He would dispose all things to His Own Glory.

Scripture: Matthew 6:9; Psalm 67:1-3; Romans 11:36; Revelation 4:11; 1Corinthians 10:31.

Question 113: (For March 20, 2016) What do we pray for in the second petition of the Lord's Prayer?

Answer: In the second petition, which is, "**Your kingdom come,**" we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed, and that the Kingdom of Grace may be advanced; that ourselves and others be brought into it, and kept in it; and that the Kingdom of Glory may be hastened.

Scripture: Matthew 6:10; 9:37,38; Psalm 68:1-18; Romans 10:1; 2Thessalonians 3:1; The Revelation 22:20.

Question 114: (For March 27, 2016) What do we pray for in the third petition of the Lord's Prayer?

Answer: In the third petition, which is, "**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,**" we pray that God, by His Grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His Will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Scripture: Matthew 6:10; Psalm 103:20, 21; 25:4, 5; 119:26.

Question 115: (For April 3, 2016) What do we pray for in the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer?

Answer: In the fourth petition, which is, "**Give us this day our daily bread,**" we pray that of God's free gift, we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life and enjoy His blessing with them.

Scripture: Matthew 6:11; Proverbs 30:8, 9; 1Timothy 6:6-8; 4:4, 5.

Question 116: (For April 10, 2016) What do we pray for in the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer?

Answer: In the fifth petition, which is, "**And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,**" we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are rather encouraged to ask, because by His Grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

Scripture: Matthew 6:12; 18:35; Psalm 51:1, 3, 7; Mark 11:25.

Question 117: (For April 17, 2016) What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

Answer: In the sixth petition, which is, "**And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,**" we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Scripture: Matthew 6:13; 26:41; Psalm 19:13; 1Corinthians 10:13; John 17:15.

Question 118: (For April 24, 2016) What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

Answer: The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, "**For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen,**" teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him; and in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say AMEN.

Scripture: Matthew 6:13; Daniel 9:18, 19; 1Chronicles 29:11-13; 1Corinthians 14:16; Philippians 4:6; The Revelation 22:20.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.