

Spurgeon's

Questions and Answers

for Families

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for Families
with commentary

This work is compiled from writings and sermons of Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Spurgeon felt free to edit the Baptist and Westminster Shorter Catechisms for language and theological clarity. In keeping with Spurgeon's own intention to make his work accessible to modern readers, Spurgeon's language has been freely modernized and updated.

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For Young Men

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself
with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.*

Daniel 1:8.

Much of our future lives depend upon our earliest days. I like a remark of Mr. Ruskin's when he said, "People often say we should excuse the thoughtlessness of youth . . . No, it should never be excused. I would rather hear of thoughtless old age, when a man has done his work; but what excuse can be found for a thoughtless youth? The time for thought is at the beginning of life, and there is no period that so demands and , or so much necessitates, thoughtfulness as our early days." I would that all young men would think so. They say that they must sow their "wild oats." No, no; my dear young friend, think before you sow such seed as that, and remember what the reaping will be. See whether there is not better corn to be found than wild oats, and try to sow that. Then think how you will sow it, and when you will sow it; for, if you do not think about the sowing, "What will the harvest be?" If there is any time when the farmer should think, it is surely in the early stages of the ploughing and the sowing. If he does not think then, it will be of small avail for him to think afterwards.

Daniel was a young man, and he did think. It was his glory that he so thought that he came to a purpose, and he purposed, not with a kind of superficial "I will," but he "purposed in his heart", and gave his whole self to a certain definite purpose which he deliberately formed. He was a young man, he was also a captive; and that rendered it the more remarkable that he should come to such a decision. He had been stolen away from his father's house, and carried into a foreign land; and you know what men say, "When you are in Rome, you must do as Rome does." But here was a young man in Babylon, who would not do what Babylon did; a youth in a king's court, who would not eat what the king ate, or drink what the king drank; a captive, whose very name had been changed in order to make him forget his country and his God, for the change in name was meant to be significant of a change in religion. But, though they might change Daniel's name, they could not change his nature, nor would he give up anything that he believed to be right. Captive as he was, he had a right royal soul; and he was as free in Babylon as he had been at Jerusalem, and he determined to keep himself so, for he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."

Oh, that we had a multitude of young men who knew how to put their feet down! We have a great number, now who are watching to see where to put their foot down, and they will try to put it down, not where it is most Solid ground, but where it is most turfy, and easy, and soft to the feet. May God give us back the old grit that used to be in old-fashioned Christians, to whom custom was nothing, but God's Word was everything; to whom it mattered not whether it

brought loss or gain, but they did the right, and followed the right, cost what it might!

Now, it was because Daniel, while yet a youth, a captive, a student, was so decided in what he did, that his after-life became so bright. He would never have been called “a man greatly beloved” if he had not been made by grace a youth greatly decided; neither would he have continued to the reign of Cyrus, as we read just now, if he had not stood firm in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. You shall read the evening of life in the morning of life, and you shall decide what your evening is to be by what your morning is. God help you, who are beginning life; for, if God begins with you, and you begin with God, your life will be one of happy usefulness, which will have a truly blessed end!

I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times, and therefore I have compiled this little manual from the Westminster Assembly’s and Baptist Catechisms, for the use of my own church and congregation. Those who use it in their families or classes must labor to explain the sense; but the words should be carefully learned by heart, for they will be understood better as years pass.

‘Dare to be a Daniel!
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known!’

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Part I. The Scriptures

Question 1: **What is the chief end of man?**

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God,^a and to enjoy him for ever.^b

a. Ps. 86:9; Isa. 60:21; Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 6:20; 10:31; Rev. 4:11

b. Ps. 16:5-11; 144:15; Isa. 12:2; Luke 2:10; Phil. 4:4; Rev. 21:3-4

Question 2: **What has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?**

Answer: The holy scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God,^a and the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.^b

a. Matt. 19:4-5 with Gen. 2:24; Luke 24:27, 44; I Cor. 2:13; 14:37; II Pet.1:20-21; 3:2, 15-16

b. Deut. 4:2; Ps. 19:7-11; Isa. 18:20; John 15:11; 20:30-31; Acts 17:11; II Tim. 3:15-17; I John 1:4

Question 3: **What do the Scriptures principally teach?**

Answer: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God,^a and what duty God requires of man.^b

a. Gen. 1:1; John 5:39; 20:31; Rom. 10:17; II Tim. 1:13, 3:15

b. Deut. 10:12-13; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 119:105; Mic. 6:8; II Tim. 3:16-17

Part II. God

Question 4: **What is God?**

Answer: God is a Spirit,^a infinite,^b eternal,^c and unchangeable^d in his being,^e wisdom,^f power,^g holiness,^h justice,ⁱ goodness,^j and truth.^k

- a. Deut. 4:15-19; Luke 24:39; John 1:18; 4:24; Acts 17:29
- b. I Kings 8:27; Ps. 139:7-10; 145:3; 147:5; Jer. 23:24; Rom. 11:33-36
- c. Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:12, 24-27; Rev. 1:4,8
- d. Ps. 33:11; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; Jas. 1:17
- e. Ex. 3:14; Ps. 115:2-3; I Tim. 1:17; 6:15-16
- f. Ps. 104:24; Rom. 11:33-34; Heb. 4:13; I John 3:20
- g. Gen. 17:1; Ps. 62:11; Jer. 32:17; Mat. 19:26; Rev. 1:8
- h. Heb. 1:13; I Pet. 1:15-16; I John 3:3, 5; Rev. 15:4
- i. Gen. 18:25; Ex. 34:6-7; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 96:13; Rom. 3:5, 26
- j. Ps. 103:5; 107:8; Matt. 19:17; Rom. 2:4
- k. Ex. 34:6; Deut. 32:4; Ps. 86:15; 117:2; Heb. 6:18

Question 5: **Are there more Gods than one?**

Answer: There is but one only,^a the living and true God.^b

- a. Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6; 45:21-22; I Cor. 8:4-6
- b. Jer. 10:10; John 17:3; I Thess. 1:9; I John 5:20

Question 6. **How many persons are there in the Godhead?**

Answer: There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;^a and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.^b

- a. Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I Pet. 1:2
- b. Ps. 45:6; John 1:1; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Jude 24-25

Question 7. **What are the decrees of God?**

Answer: The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, by which, for his own glory, he has ordained whatsoever comes to pass.^a

- a. Ps. 33:11; Isa. 14:24; Acts 2:23; Eph. 1:11-12

Question 8. **How does God execute his decrees?**

Answer: God executes his decrees in the works of creation and providence.^a

- a. Ps. 148:8; Isa. 40:26; Dan. 4:35; Acts 4:24-28; Rev. 4:11

Question 9. **What is the work of creation?**

Answer: The work of creation is, God's making all things from nothing, by the word of his

power,^a in the space of six days, and all very good.^b

a. Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6, 9; Heb. 11:3

b. Gen. 1:31

Question 10. What are God's works of providence?

Answer: The works of providence are, God's holy,^a wise,^b and powerful^c preserving^d and governing^e all his creatures and all their actions.^f

a. Ps. 145:17

b. Ps. 104:24

c. Heb. 1:3

d. Neh. 9:6

e. Eph. 1:19-22

f. Ps. 36:6; Prov. 16:33; Matt. 10:30

Part III. Man

Question 11. **How did God create man?**

Answer: God created man male and female, in his own image,^a in knowledge,^b righteousness, and holiness,^c with dominion over the creatures.^d

- a. Gen. 1:27
- b. Col. 3:10
- c. Eph. 4:24
- d. Gen. 1:28; see Ps. 8

Question 12. **What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the state in which he was created?**

Answer: When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.^a

- a. Gen. 2:16-17; Jas. 2:10

Question 13. **Did our first parents continue in the state in which they were created?**

Answer: Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state in which they were created, by sinning against God.^a

- a. Gen. 3:6-8, 13; II Cor. 11:3

Question 14. **What is sin?**

Answer: Sin is any lack of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.^a

- a. Lev. 5:17; Jas. 4:17; I John 3:4

Question 15. **Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?**

Answer: The covenant being made with Adam,^a not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in his first transgression.^b

- a. Gen. 2:16-17; Jas. 2:10
- b. Rom. 5:12-21; ICor. 15:22

Question 16. **Into what state did the fall bring mankind?**

Answer: The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.^a

- a. Gen. 3:16-19, 23; Rom. 3:16; 5:12; Eph. 2:1

Question 17. What is the sinfulness of that state into which man fell?

Answer: The sinfulness into which man fell consists of the guilt of Adam's first sin,^a the lack of original righteousness,^b and the corruption of his whole nature,^c (commonly called original sin), together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.^d

- a. Rom. 5:12, 19
- b. Rom. 3:10; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24
- c. Ps. 51:5; John 3:6; Rom. 3:18; 8:7-8; Eph. 2:3
- d. Gen. 6:5; Ps. 53:1-3; Matt. 15:19; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; Gal. 5:19-21; Jas. 1:14-15

Question 18. What is the misery into which man fell?

Answer: All mankind by their fall lost communion with God,^a are under his wrath^b and curse,^c and therefore deserving of all miseries in this life,^d of death^e itself, and of the pains of hell for ever.^f

- a. Gen. 3:8, 24; John 8:34, 42, 44; Eph. 2:12; 4:18
- b. John 3:36; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 2:3; 5:6
- c. Gal. 3:10; Rev. 22:3
- d. Gen. 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Ecc. 2:22-23; Rom. 8:18-23
- e. Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 5:12; 6:23
- f. Matt. 25:41, 46; II Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:9-11

Question 19. Did God leave all mankind to perish in sin and misery?

Answer: God having, out of his mere good pleasure from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life,^a did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of sin and misery, and to bring them into salvation by a Redeemer.^b

- a. Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:4-5; II Thess. 2:13-14
- b. Gen. 3:15; 17:7; Ex. 19:5-6; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 20:28; I Cor. 11:25; Heb. 9:15

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

--John 10:27-30

There are two things in this text for our meditation. First, the description given of the Lord's people. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Secondly, there is a privilege secured to them, namely, their everlasting, unquestionable safety. "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."

Our Savior did not hesitate to preach the deeper doctrines of the gospel to the most miscellaneous assembly. When he began to preach where he was brought up, they all gathered with admiration about him, until he preached the doctrine of election; and then, straightway, they were so maddened that they would have destroyed him. They could not bear to hear of the widows of Israel passed by, and the woman of Sarepta chosen; nor of a heathen leper healed, while the many lepers of their own race were left to die.

Election seems to heat the blood and fire the wrath of many. Not that they care to be chosen of

God themselves; but, like the dog in the manger, they would keep other people out of the privilege. Not even to prevent these displays of bad temper did our Lord keep back the discriminating truths of the Word. Here, when addressing the Jews, he did not hesitate to speak, even to a rude rabble, concerning that glorious doctrine. He says, "Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you." He does not lower the standard of doctrine; but he holds his ground, and carries the war into the enemy's camp.

The notion that certain truths are not fit to be preached to a general assembly, but are to be kept for the special gathering of the saints, is, I believe, horribly mischievous. Christ has not commanded us to keep a part of our teaching *sub rosa*; reserved from the common folk, and set aside for the priests alone. He is for openly proclaiming all truth. "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops."

There is no truth that we need be ashamed of, and there is no truth that will do any harm. We grant you that every truth can be twisted; but even this would be a less evil than the concealment of it. Whatever the doctrine may be, ungodly men can pervert it according to their own lusts; and if we have to stop preaching a doctrine because of the possibility of perverting it, we shall never preach anything at all, for every truth may be perverted, and made to be the mother of infinite mischief.

Our Savior did not teach his disciples to keep certain things for the instructed few who were able to receive them; but he bade us publish all the great truths, since they are necessary for conviction, for conversion, for edification, for sanctification, and for the perfecting of the people of God. Even to his brutish opponents he exhibited but little reserve. He flashed in the faces of his adversaries this grand, but humbling truth, "Ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep." Your unbelief is just an evidence that you were not chosen, that you have not been called by the Spirit of God, and that you are still in your sins.

("The Security of Believers; or sheep who shall never perish" December 29th, 1889)

Part IV. The Son of God

Question 20. **Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?**

Answer: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,^a who, being the eternal Son of God,^b became man^c and so was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.^d

- a. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Tim. 2:5-6
- b. Ps. 2:7; Matt. 3:17; 17:5; John 1:18
- c. Isa. 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4
- d. Acts 1:11; Heb. 7:24-25

Question 21. **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,^a being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her^b yet without sin.^c

- a. Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14, 17
- b. Luke 1:27, 31, 35
- c. II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15; 7:26; I John 3:5

Question 22. **What roles does Christ fulfill as our Redeemer?**

Answer: Christ our Redeemer fulfills the roles of a prophet,^a of a priest,^b and of a king,^c both in his state of humiliation and exaltation.

- a. Deut. 18:18; Acts 2:33; 3:22-23; Heb. 1:1-2
- b. Heb. 4:14-15; 5:5-6
- c. Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; I Cor. 15:25

Question 23. **How does Christ fulfill the role of a prophet?**

Answer: Christ fulfills the role of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word^a and Spirit,^b the will of God for our salvation.^c

- a. Luke 4:18-19, 21; Acts 1:1-2; Heb. 2:3
- b. John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; IPet. 1:11
- c. John 4:41-42; 20:30-31

Question 24. **How does Christ fulfill the role of a priest?**

Answer: Christ fulfills the role of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice,^a and reconcile us to God ;^b and in making continual intercession for us.^c

- a. Isa. 53; Acts 8:32-35; Heb. 9:26-28; 10:12
- b. Rom. 5:10-11; II Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:21-22
- c. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24

Question 25. How does Christ fulfill the role of a king?

Answer: Christ fulfills the role of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us,^a and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.^b

- a. Ps. 110:3; Matt. 28:18-20; John 17:2; Col. 1:13
- b. Ps. 2:6-9; 110:1-2; Matt. 12:28; ICor. 15:24-26; Col. 2:15

Question 26. What was Christ's humiliation?

Answer: Christ's humiliation was his being born (and that in a low condition),^a and being made under the law;^b his undergoing the miseries of this life,^c the wrath of God,^d and the cursed death of the cross;^e his being buried and continuing under the power of death for a time.^f

- a. Luke 2:7; II Cor. 8:9; Gal. 4:4
- b. Gal. 4:4
- c. Isa. 53:3; Luke 9:58; John 4:6; 11:35; Heb. 2:18
- d. Ps. 22:1 (Matt. 27:46); Isa. 53:10; I John 2:2
- e. Gal. 3:13; Phil. 2:8
- f. Matt. 12:40; I Cor. 15:3-4

Question 27. What is Christ's exaltation?

Answer: Christ's exaltation was his rising again from the dead on the third day,^a his ascending up into heaven^b and sitting at the right hand^c of God the Father; and his coming to judge the world at the last day.^d

- a. I Cor. 15:4
- b. Ps. 68:18; Acts 1:11; Eph. 4:8
- c. Ps. 110:1; Acts 2:33-34; Heb. 1:3
- d. Matt. 16:27; Acts 17:31

Part V. Salvation

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

-- 1 Timothy 1:15

This text contains the gospel in brief, and yet I may say that it contains the gospel in full. If you get condensed notes of a sermon or a speech, you often miss the very soul and marrow of it; but here you get all the condensation possible, as if the great truths of the gospel were pressed together by a hydraulic ram, and yet there is not a particle of it left out. It is one of the "little Bibles", as Luther used to call them; the gospel in a verse, the essence of the whole Bible is here. (Spurgeon from "The Whole Gospel in a Single Verse" Febuary 28th, 1889)

Question 28. **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.^a

a. Titus 3:4-7

Question 29. **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,^a and, thereby, uniting us to Christ in our effective calling.^b

a. Rom. 10:17; ICor. 2:12-16; Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29

b. John 15:5; ICor. 1:9; Eph. 3:17

Question 30. **What is effective calling?**

Answer: Effective calling is the work of God's Spirit, in which, by convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,^a and renewing our wills,^b he persuades and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ,^c freely offered to us in the gospel.^d

a. Acts 26:18; ICor. 2:10, 12; II Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:17-18

b. Deut. 30:6; Ezk. 36:26-27; John 3:5; Titus 3:5

c. John 6:44-45; Acts 16:14

d. Isa. 45:22; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17

Question 31. **What benefits do those who are effectively called partake of in this life?**

Answer: Those who are effectively called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.^a

a. Rom. 8:30; ICor. 1:30; 6:11; Eph. 1:5

Question 32. **What is justification?**

Answer: Justification is an act of God's free grace,^a in which he pardons all our sins,^b accepts us as righteous in his sight,^c only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us,^d and received by faith alone.^e

- a. Rom. 3:24
- b. Rom. 4:6-8; IICor. 5:19
- c. IICor. 5:21
- d. Rom. 4:6, 11; 5:19
- e. Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9

Question 33. What is adoption?

Answer: Adoption is an act of God's free grace,^a whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.^b

- a. I John 3:1
- b. John 1:12; Rom. 8:17

Question 34. What is sanctification?

Answer: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace,^a by which we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God,^b and are enabled more and more to die to sin, and live to righteousness.^c

- a. Ezk. 36:27; Phil. 2:13; II Thess. 2:13
- b. II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:23-24; I Thess. 5:23
- c. Ezek. 36:25-27; Rom. 6:4, 6, 12-14; II Cor. 7:1; IPet. 2:24

Question 35. What benefits in this life accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

Answer: The benefits accompanying or flowing from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are: assurance of God's love,^a peace of conscience,^b joy in the Holy Spirit,^c increase of grace,^d and perseverance in grace to the end.^e

- a. Rom. 5:5
- b. Rom. 5:1
- c. Rom. 14:17
- d. II Pet. 3:18
- e. Phil. 1:6; I Pet. 1:5

Question 36. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

Answer: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness a, and do immediately pass into glory;^b and their bodies, being still united to Christ,^c do rest in their graves till the resurrection d.

- a. Heb. 12:23
- b. Luke 23:43; II Cor. 5:6, 8; Phil. 1:23
- c. I Thess. 4:14
- d. Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15

Question 37. What benefits will believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection believers shall be raised up in glory,^a openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment,^b and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God^c for all eternity.^d

- a. I Cor. 15:42-43
- b. Matt. 25:33-34, 46
- c. Rom. 8:29; I John 3:2
- d. Ps. 16:11; I Thess. 4:17

Question 38. What shall be done to the wicked at their death?

Answer: The souls of the wicked shall at their death be cast into the torments of hell,^a and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection, and judgment of the great day.^b

- a. Luke 16:22-24
- b. Psalm 49:14

Question 39. 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 for ever.^a

- a. Daniel 12:2; John 5:28,29; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 25:41

Part VI. Christian Behavior

Question 40. **What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?**

Answer: The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience, is the moral law, which is summarized in the ten commandments.^a

a. Deuteronomy 10:4; Matthew 19:17

Question 41. **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 strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbour as ourselves.^a

a. Matt. 22:37-40

Question 42. **What is the first commandment?**

Answer: The first commandment is:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.^a

a. Ex. 20:3; Deut. 5:7

Question 43. **What is required in the first commandment?**

Answer: The first commandment requires us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.^a

a. I Chron. 28:9; Isa. 45:20-25; Matt. 4:10

Question 44. **What is the second commandment?**

Answer: 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 thy self 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. a

a. Ex. 20:4-6; Deut. 5:8-10

Question 45. **What is required in the second commandment?**

Answer: The second commandment requires the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all the religious worship and ordinances that God has appointed in his Word.^a

a. Deut. 12:32; Matt. 28:20

Question 46. **What is forbidden in the second commandment?**

Answer: The second commandment forbids the worshipping of God by images,^a or any other way not appointed in his Word.^b

a. Deut. 4:15-19; Rom. 1:22-23

b. Lev. 10:1-2; Jer. 19:4-5; Col. 2:18-23

Question 47. What is the third commandment?

Answer: 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.^a

a. Ex. 20:7; Deut. 5:11

Question 48. What is required in the third commandment?

Answer: The third commandment requires the holy and reverend use of God's names, titles,^a attributes,^b ordinances,^c Word,^d and works.^e

a. Deut. 10:20; Ps. 29:2; Matt. 6:9

b. I Chron. 29:10-13; Rev. 15:3-4

c. Acts 2:42; I Cor. 11:27-28

d. Ps. 138:2; Rev. 22:18-19

e. Ps. 107:21-22; Rev. 4:11

Question 49. What is the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment is:

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, 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, 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.^a

a. Ex. 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15

Question 50. What is required in the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment requires keeping holy to God the set times he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.^a

a. Ex. 31:13, 16-17

Question 51. How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

Answer: The sabbath is to be sanctified by holy resting, even from worldly employments and recreations which are lawful on other days,^a and spending the time in public and private worship,^b and duties of necessity and mercy.^c Christ alone is Lord of the conscience.^d

a. Ex. 20:10; Neh. 13:15-22; Isa. 58:13-14

b. Ex. 20:8; Lev. 23:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7

c. Matt. 12:1-13

d. Matt. 12:8; Rom. 14:4-10, 23

Question 52. What is the fifth commandment?

Answer: 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.^a

a. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16

Question 53. What is required in the fifth commandment?

Answer: The fifth commandment requires preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their various places and relations as superiors, inferiors, or equals.^a

a. Rom. 13:1, 7; Eph. 5:21-22, 24; 6:1, 4-5, 9; I Pet. 2:17

Question 54. What is the reason given for the fifth commandment?

Answer: The reason given for the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all those who keep this commandment.^a

a. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:2-3

Question 55. Which is the sixth commandment?

Answer: The sixth commandment is:

Thou shalt not kill.^a

a. Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17

Question 56. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

Answer: The sixth commandment forbids taking our own life or the life of our neighbour unjustly and what actions or sentiments tend thereunto.^a

a. Gen. 9:6; Matt. 5:22; I John 3:15

Question 57. What is the seventh commandment?

Answer: The seventh commandment is:

Thou shalt not commit adultery.^a

a. Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18

Question 58. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

Answer: The seventh commandment forbids all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.^a

a. Matt. 5:28; Eph. 5:3-4

Question 59. What is the eighth commandment?

Answer: The eighth commandment is:

Thou shalt not steal.^a

a. Ex. 20:15; Deut. 5:19

Question 60. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

Answer: The eighth commandment forbids whatever unjustly hinders, or may hinder, our own, or our neighbour's wealth or well-being.^a

a. Prov. 28:19ff; Eph. 4:28a; II Thess. 3:10; I Tim. 5:8

Question 61. What is the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment is:

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.^a

a. Ex. 20:16; Deut. 5:20

Question 62. What is required in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting truth between people, as well as our own and our neighbour's good name,^a especially in witness bearing.^b

a. Zech. 8:16; Acts 25:10; III John 12

b. Prov. 14:5, 25

Question 63. What is the tenth commandment?

Answer: 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.^a

a. Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21

Question 64. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

Answer: The tenth commandment forbids all discontentment with our own state a, envying or grieving the good of our neighbour, and all improper actions and affections to anything that is his.^b

a. I Cor. 10:10; Jas. 3:14-16

b. Gal. 5:26; Col. 3:5

Question 65. 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 breaks them in thought, word, and deed.^a

a. Gen. 8:21; Rom. 3:9ff, 23

Question 66. Are all transgressions of the law equally wicked?

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

a. Ezek. 8:6, 13, 15; Matt. 11:20-24; John 19:11

Question 67. What does every sin deserve?

Answer: Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.^a

a. Matt. 25:41; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 5:6; Jas. 2:10

Question 68. How may we escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

Answer: To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting alone in his blood and righteousness. This faith is attended by repentance for the past and leads to holiness in the future.^b

a. John 3:16

b. Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Acts 2:38; I Cor. 11:24-25; Col. 3:16

Question 69. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,^a by which we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.^b

a. Eph. 2:8-9; cf. Rom. 4:16

b. John 20:30-31; Gal. 2:15-16; Phil. 3:3-11

Question 70. What is repentance to life?

Answer: Repentance to life is a saving grace,^a by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and understanding of the mercy of God in Christ,^b with grief and hatred of his sin, turns to God,^c with the full purpose of obedience.^d

a. Acts 11:18; II Tim. 2:25

b. Ps. 51:1-4; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7, 10; Acts 2:37

c. Jer. 31:18-19; Luke 1:16-17; I Thess. 1:9

d. II Chron. 7:14; Ps. 119:57-64; Matt. 3:8; II Cor. 7:10

Part VII. The Church

Question 71. What are the outward means by which the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

Answer: The outward means by which the Holy Spirit communicates to us the benefits of redemption are the Word, by which souls are begotten to spiritual life, Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Prayer and Meditation; by all which believers are further edified in their most holy faith.^a

a. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41,42; James 1:18; Acts 21:41, 42

Question 72. How is the Word made effective for salvation?

Answer: The Spirit of God makes the reading, and especially the preaching of the Word, an effective means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith to salvation.^a

a. Neh. 8:8-9; Acts 20:32; Rom. 10:14-17; II Tim. 3:15-17

Question 73. How is the Word to be read and heard that it may become effective for salvation?

Answer: In order for the Word to become effective for salvation, we must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer;^a receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.^b

a. Deut. 6:6ff; Ps. 119:18; I Pet. 2:1-2

b. Ps. 119:11; II Thess. 2:10; Heb. 4:2; Jas. 1:22-25

Question 74. How do Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful?

Answer: Baptism and the Lord's Supper become spiritually helpful, 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.^a

a. I Cor. 3:7; cf. I Cor. 1:12-17

Question 75. What is Baptism?

Answer: Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ,^a to be to the person baptized a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death, burial, and resurrection,^b of his being engrafted into him,^c of remission of sins, and of his giving up himself to God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.^e

a. Matthew 28:19

b. Romans 6:3; Colossians 2:12

c. Galatians 3:27

d. Mark 1:4; Acts 22:16

e. Romans 6:4,5

Question 76. Who should be Baptized?

Answer: All those who actually profess repentance towards God^a and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ should be baptized and none others.

a. Acts 2:38; Matthew 3:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12,36,37; 10:47,48

Question 77. Are the infants of professing believers to be baptized?

Answer: The infants of professing believers are not to be baptized, because there is neither command nor example in the Holy Scriptures for their baptism.^a

a. Exodus 23:13; Proverbs 30:6

Question 78. How is baptism correctly administered?

Answer: Baptism is correctly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the person in water,^a in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution, and the practice of the apostles,^b and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, according to the tradition of men.^c

a. Matthew 3:16; John 3:23

b. Matthew 28:19,20

c. John 4:1,2; Acts 8:38,39

Question 79. What is the duty of those who are correctly baptized?

Answer: It is the duty of those who are correctly baptized, to give up themselves to some particular and orderly Church of Jesus Christ,^a that they may blamelessly walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.^b

a. Acts 2:47; 9:26; 1 Peter 2:5

b. Luke 1:6

Question 80. What is the Lord's Supper?

Answer: The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ; in which, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to his appointment, his death is shown forth,^a and the worthy receivers are, not after a bodily or carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.^b

a. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

b. 1 Corinthians 10:16

Question 81. What is required for to receive the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner?

Answer: It is required of those who would partake the Lord's Supper in a worthy manner, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest coming unworthily they eat and drink judgment on themselves.^a

a. I Cor. 11:27-32

Question 82. What is meant by the words, “until he come,” which are used by the apostle Paul in reference to the Lord’s Supper?

Answer: They plainly teach us that our Lord Jesus Christ will come a second time; which is the joy and hope of all believers.a

a. Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16