

Catechism for Young Children

An Introduction to the Shorter Catechism

1. **Who made you?**
God.
2. **What else did God make?**
God made all things.
3. **Why did God make you and all things?**
For his own glory.
4. **How can you glorify God?**
By loving him
and doing what he commands.
5. **Why ought you to glorify God?**
Because he made me
and takes care of me.
6. **Are there more gods than one?**
There is only one God.
7. **In how many persons
does this one God exist?**
In three persons.
8. **What are they?**
The Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.
9. **What is God?**
God is a Spirit,
and has not a body like men.
10. **Where is God?**
God is everywhere.
11. **Can you see God?**
No; I cannot see God,
but he always sees me.
12. **Does God know all things?**
Yes; nothing can be hid from God.
13. **Can God do all things?**
Yes; God can do all his holy will.
14. **Where do you learn
how to love and obey God?**
In the Bible alone.
15. **Who wrote the Bible?**
Holy men who were taught
by the Holy Spirit.
16. **Have you a soul as well as a body?**
Yes; I have a soul that can never
die.
17. **How do you know that you have a soul?**
Because the Bible tells me so.
18. **What is Sin?**
Sin is any want of conformity to,
or transgression of the law of God.
19. **What is meant by want of conformity?**
Not being
or doing what God requires.
20. **What is meant by transgression?**
Doing what God forbids.
21. **What does every sin deserve?**
The wrath and curse of God.
22. **What is a change of heart called?**
Regeneration.
23. **Who can change a sinner's heart?**
The Holy Spirit alone.
24. **With whom did God the Father
make the covenant of grace?**
With Christ, his eternal Son.
25. **Whom did Christ represent
in the covenant of grace?**
His elect people.

- 26. What did Christ undertake in the covenant of grace?**
To keep the whole law
for his people,
and to suffer the punishment
due for their sins.
- 27. Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever commit the least sin?**
No, he was holy
and without sin.
- 28. How could the Son of God suffer?**
Christ, the Son of God,
became man that he might obey
and suffer in our nature.
- 29. What is meant by the Atonement?**
Christ's satisfying divine justice,
by his sufferings and death,
in the place of sinners.
- 30. What is justification?**
It is God's forgiving sinners,
and treating them as if
they had never sinned.
- 31. What is sanctification?**
It is God's making sinners holy
in heart and conduct.
- 32. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?**
For those whom the Father
had given him.
- 33. Who will be saved?**
Only those who repent of sin,
believe in Christ,
and lead holy lives.
- 34. What is it to repent?**
To be sorry for sin,
and to hate and forsake it
because it is displeasing to God.
- 35. What is it to believe or have faith in Christ?**
To trust in Christ alone
for salvation.
- 36. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?**
No; I can do nothing good without
the help of God's Holy Spirit.
- 37. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?**
God has told us that we must pray
to him for the Holy Spirit.
- 38. How were people saved before the coming of Christ?**
By believing in a Saviour to come.
- 39. How did they show their faith?**
By offering sacrifices
on God's altar.
- 40. What did these sacrifices represent?**
Christ, the Lamb of God,
who was to die for sinners.
- 41. What official roles does Christ have?**
Christ has three official roles.
- 42. What are they?**
The role of a prophet,
of a priest, and of a king.
- 43. How is Christ a prophet?**
Because he teaches us
the will of God.
- 44. How is Christ a priest?**
Because he died for our sins
and pleads with God for us.
- 45. How is Christ a king?**
Because he rules over us
and defends us.

- 46. Why do you need Christ as a prophet?**
Because I am ignorant.
- 47. Why do you need Christ as a priest?**
Because I am guilty.
- 48. Why do you need Christ as a king?**
Because I am weak and helpless.
- 49. What is prayer?**
Prayer is asking God for things which he has promised to give.
- 50. In whose name should we pray?**
Only in the name of Christ.
- 51. How many sacraments are there?**
Two.
- 52. What are they?**
Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 53. Who appointed these sacraments?**
The Lord Jesus Christ.
- 54. Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?**
To distinguish his disciples from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.
- 55. In whose name are we baptized?**
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- 56. To what does your baptism bind you?**
To be a true follower of Christ.
- 57. What is the Lord's Supper?**
The eating of bread and drinking of the cup in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.
- 58. What does the bread represent?**
The body of Christ, broken for our sins.
- 59. What does the cup represent?**
The blood of Christ, poured out for our salvation.
- 60. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?**
Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Christ for salvation, and love their fellow men.
- 61. Did Christ remain in the tomb after his crucifixion?**
No; he rose from the tomb on the third day after his death.
- 62. Where is Christ now?**
In heaven, interceding for sinners.
- 63. Will he come again?**
Yes; at the last day Christ will come to judge the world.
- 64. What becomes of men at death?**
The body returns to dust, and the soul goes into the world of spirits.
- 65. Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?**
Yes; "The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised."
- 66. What will become of the wicked in the day of judgment?**
They shall be cast into hell.
- 67. What is hell?**
A place of dreadful and endless torment.
- 68. What will become of the righteous?**
They shall be taken to heaven.
- 69. What is heaven?**
A glorious and happy place, where the righteous shall be forever with the Lord.