



HOME DISCIPLESHIP CATECHISM

Third Edition



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Introduction

This catechism is to be used by parents as they disciple their kids. The goal is for parents to teach their kids the core doctrines of the Bible as they work to memorize the answers of the catechism.

What is catechism? For many people, the word “catechism” brings to mind Roman Catholicism. However, Protestants have been using catechism to teach children and adults for hundreds of years. Catechism is a teaching method using questions and answers to teach a body of knowledge. Voddie Baucham writes, “Ultimately, catechism is a means of teaching Christian doctrine in a concise, repetitive manner.”¹ In the words of the leader of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther, “In the catechism, we have a very exact, direct, and short way to the whole Christian religion.” Zacharias Ursinus, the primary author of the Heidelberg Catechism writes,

“The system of catechizing... includes short, simple, and plain exposition and rehearsal of the Christian doctrine, deduced from the writings of the apostles and prophets, and arranged in the form of questions and answers, adapted to the capacity and comprehension of the ignorant and unlearned; or it is a brief summary of the doctrine of the prophets and apostles, communicated orally to such as are unlearned, which they again are required to repeat.”²

What age do you begin catechizing your kids? As soon as you think they are ready. That could be age two, three, or four. You will notice that a part of each answer is underlined. This is a shorter answer that can be used for younger children. You will also notice that each question has Bible references which are made available so that you can show your kids the Biblical basis for each answer.

About the Author

Andy Manning earned a Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the pastor of Church Acadiana, a church he started with his wife in Lafayette, LA in 2005. He and his wife, Lydia, live in Youngsville, LA, where she homeschools their six children.

¹ Voddie Baucham Jr., *Family Shepherds*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011), p. 64.

² *Ibid.*

1. What is the Holy Bible?

- The Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7-11

2. Why can we trust the Bible?

- God is the author of the Bible, and He does not lie.
- Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; Isaiah 53

3. Who is God?

- God is the creator and ruler of the universe. There is one God in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Genesis 1:1; Psalm 9:7-8; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

4. Where did we come from?

- God created people, both male and female, in His own image to glorify Him. But because of the fall we are inclined to sin.
- Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 3:10-18, 23

5. How can we glorify God?

- By loving Him and obeying His commands.
- Mark 12:28-31; John 14:15

6. What are the first four of the Ten Commandments?

- Do not have other gods besides Me. Do not make an idol for yourself. Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- Exodus 20

7. What are the last six of the Ten Commandments?

- Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not give false testimony. Do not covet.

8. What is the Great Commandment?

- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.
- Mark 12:28-31

9. What is sin?

- Sin is any failure to obey God’s commandments, either by commission or omission.
- Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

10. What is the punishment for sin?

- The punishment for sin is Hell, the place of eternal torment.
- Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Matthew 8:11-12; Mark 9:43-44

11. Is there any way to be saved from the punishment for sin?

- Yes. We must repent of our sins and have faith in Jesus Christ.
- John 3:16; Titus 2:14

12. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

- Faith in Jesus Christ is relying on Him alone for salvation.
- Romans 4:4-5; Galatians 5:4-6

13. What is repentance?

- Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus Christ in obedience.
- Mark 1:15; Titus 2:11-14

14. Must we do good works in order to be saved?

- No. Salvation is by grace through faith.
- Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-7

15. What is the purpose of good works?

- We do good works out of love for God, to love our neighbor, and for our own joy.
- Titus 2:11-14; James 2:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17

16. Why should God let you into heaven?

- Because I trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.
- Romans 5:1-2; Romans 8:1

17. What is regeneration?

- When God saves us, He gives us a new heart with the desire and power to please Him.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:4-7

18. What is justification?

- When God saves us, He declares us legally righteous in His sight.
- Romans 3:26; Romans 4:25

19. What is sanctification?

- When God saves us, the Holy Spirit begins the lifelong process of growing us more and more like Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; 1 Peter 1:14-16

20. What is glorification?

- When Jesus Christ comes back He will give us new, eternal bodies completely free from sin.
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20-21

21. Can we lose our salvation?

- No. Since we are not saved by good works, we cannot lose our salvation by failing to be good.
- John 6:37-40; John 8:31; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:1

22. Is Jesus Christ the only way to God?

- Yes. There is salvation in no one else.
- John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5

23. Who is Jesus Christ?

- Jesus Christ is the sinless, eternal Son of God, coequal with the Father, the only mediator between God and humanity.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-20; 1 Timothy 2:5

24. How do we know that Jesus rose from the grave?

- The first Christians died for their faith in the resurrection, and no one dies for a lie.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

25. Where is Christ now?

- After His resurrection, Jesus Christ ascended to the Father's right hand in heaven to prepare a place for us.
- Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-23; John 14:1-6; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10

26. What happens after death?

- Christians will live forever in Heaven with God, and unbelievers will exist forever in Hell.
- John 3:16; Mark 9:43-44; Romans 2:5-11; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:1-4; 22:1-5

27. When is Christ coming back?

- At an unknown time, Jesus Christ will come back as judge.
- Acts 1:6-7, 9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-11; Hebrews 9:27-28

28. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is God, coequal with the Father, living inside believers.
- John 15:26; John 16:7-8; John 16:13-14; Romans 8:8-11

29. What is the Apostle's Creed?

- The Apostle's Creed is an ancient summary of right belief: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the

Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

30. What is prayer?

- Prayer is talking to God in Jesus' name through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.
- Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; James 5:16-18

31. What is the Lord's Prayer?

- Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
- Matthew 6:9-13

32. What are the ordinances?

- Jesus Christ commanded the church to observe baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

33. What is Baptism?

- Baptism is the immersion of the new believer in water, symbolizing the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-4

34. What is the Lord's Supper?

- The Lord's Supper is a regularly observed memorial of the death of Jesus Christ for our sins.
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

35. What is the church?

- The church is a community of believers devoted to worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and evangelism.
- Ephesians 5:22-33; Romans 12:3-8; Acts 2:42-47; Matthew 28:19-20

36. Why do we participate in church?

- We participate in church so that God can care for us, and so that we can contribute to the church.
- Ephesians 4:16; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35

37. What is the Great Commission?

- The Great Commission is the central mission of every Christian and every church, to go and make disciples of all the nations.
- Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

38. What is the gospel?

- God created us for Himself, but our sins separate us from Him. Jesus Christ paid for our sins and rose again. We can be saved if we repent and have faith in Jesus Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 5:19; Romans 5:6-11; Colossians 1:21-22

39. How do we know that evolution is not true?

- God created everything in six days, according to its kind.
- Genesis 1-2:3

40. What is the cosmological argument for God's existence?

- Something cannot come from nothing.
- Genesis 1:1

41. What is the teleological argument for God's existence?

- Design is proof of a designer.
- Psalm 19:1

42. What is the Moral Law argument for God's existence?

- The moral law in our hearts proves the existence of a Moral Law Giver.
- Romans 1:18-20

43. What is our comfort in adversity?

- Nothing can happen to us unless God allows it, and He will use it for our good and His glory.
- 1 John 4:8; Romans 8:28; James 1:2-15

44. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- Galatians 5:22-23

45. How do we honor God with our bodies?

- We honor God with sexual purity, sobriety, healthy diet, and regular exercise.
- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Ephesians 5:18

46. How do we honor God with our money?

- Our money belongs to God. We should tithe, help the needy, and wisely manage and enjoy it.
- Psalm 24:1; Malachi 3:10-12; Matthew 6:19-24; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

47. Why is abortion wrong?

- Murder is wrong, and abortion is murder.
- Genesis 1:26-27; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16

48. What is sex?

- God made sex for marriage for the purpose of procreation, intimacy, and enjoyment.
- 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Matthew 6:27-30; Proverbs 5:15-23

49. What is marriage?

- Marriage is the union of one man and one woman for a lifetime.
- Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:1-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-11

50. What is God's command to parents?

- Children are a gift from the Lord, and parents should teach their kids to be fully devoted to Jesus Christ.
- Psalm 127:3-5; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1-4

51. What is the Christian's role in civil government?

- We should be civically engaged to ensure that the government protects the God-given rights of its citizens.
- Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17; 1 Timothy 2:1-3