

Parallel Heidelberg Catechism



The Heidelberg Catechism

For Young and Old

A parallel version for Church and Home devotion

Published by the Reformed Churches in South Africa for use in home, catechism classes and school for more advanced children.

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Preface

Since the first Heidelberg Catechism was published in 1563, it was the second most used book in the Reformed Churches (next to the Bible). It was written for the education of children, leading them to understand the reformed dogma in almost all aspects.

The language used in the catechism is a bit difficult for young children to understand. In the early 1930's there was a decision in the Reformed Churches in South Africa to publish a more understandable catechism for children as young as 8 years old. The "Red Book" (Shorter Catechism with a red cover) was followed by a "Blue Book", focused on Children between 10 and 13 years of age. These publications were only available in Afrikaans.

Early in the 21st century the need for an English version became necessary. The CJBF (Calvin Jubileum Book Fund) of the RCSA (Reformed Churches in South Africa) appointed Dalène Frey and Christine Terblans to translate and edit the translation. It is available primarily for the use in church schooling.

Why this publication? In many homes there are children of different ages and insight. When the catechism is read parallel, all children of all ages should understand. The second reason is that there are many adults whose second language is English, and for many reasons they attend English services and church schooling.

There are omissions, where certain concepts are quite difficult to understand. I am convinced that these omissions will not weaken the foundation necessary to build the faith of the children.

I had the privilege to work through many translations of the catechism in English, Afrikaans and Dutch. The references to Scripture is the result of comparing these translations as well as the work by Zacharias Ursinus "*Het Schatboek der verklaringen over de Heidelbergse Catechismus*".

It is my sincere wish that this publication will lead the Lord's children into the truths of the reformed theology.

Hennie van Wyk

Bloemhof, 2016

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LORD'S DAY 1 - Comforted

1 Question: What is your only comfort in life and death?

Answer: That I am not my own¹, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death², to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ³. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood⁴, and has set me free from all the power of the devil⁵. He also preserves me⁶ in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head⁷; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation⁸. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life⁹ and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him¹⁰.

1 1 Corinthians 6:19.

2 Romans 14:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10.

3 1 Corinthians 3:23; Titus 2:14.

4 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 2:12.

5 John 8:34-36; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 2:14.

6 John 6:39; John 10:27-30; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 Peter 1:5.

7 Matthew 10:30; Luke 21:18.

8 Romans 8:28.

9 Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14.

10 Romans 8:14; 1 John 3:3.

2 Question: What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Answer: Three realities¹: First, how great my sins and misery are²; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery³; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance⁴.

1 Matthew 11:28-30; Ephesians 5:8.

2 Matthew 9:12; John 9:41; Romans 3:10; 1 John 1:9-10.

3 Luke 24:46-47; John 17:3; Acts 4:12; Acts 10:43; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:3-7.

4 Psalms 50:14-15; Psalms 116:12-13; Matthew 5:16; Romans 6:12-13; Ephesians 5:10; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 2:12.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is your only comfort?</p> <p>A. My only comfort is that I belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, my Saviour, both in body and soul.</p> <p>Q. Why do you belong the Lord Jesus Christ?</p> <p>A. I belong to the Lord because He paid with His blood for all my sins and saved me from the power of the devil.</p> <p>Q. Do you also belong to the Father and the Holy Spirit?</p> <p>A. Yes, I belong to Jesus Christ and therefore I belong to the Father and the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Q. What is your only comfort?</p> <p>A. My only comfort is that I belong not to myself but to the Lord Jesus Christ, my faithful Redeemer, both in body and soul.</p> <p>Q. Why do you say that you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ?</p> <p>A. I belong to the Lord because He paid with His blood for all my sins and in so doing saved me from the power of the devil.</p> <p>Q. What does Jesus Christ do for you?</p> <p>A. Jesus safeguards me, assures me of the life eternal and makes me willing to live for Him.</p>
<p>Q. What do you need to know in order to be comforted in life and death?</p> <p>A. In order to live and die in comfort I need to know three things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i how big my sin and misery is, ii how the Lord saved me, iii how I should thank the Lord for my Salvation. 	<p>Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die joyfully in this comfort?</p> <p>A. In order to live and die in comfort I need to know three things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i how big my sin and misery is, ii how I can be saved, iii how I should thank the Lord for my salvation.

LORD'S DAY 2 – Know your despair

3	<p><u>Question:</u> From where do you know your sins and misery? <u>Answer:</u> From the law of God¹. 1 Romans 3:20</p>
4	<p><u>Question:</u> What does God's law require of us? <u>Answer:</u> Christ teaches us this in a summary in Matthew 22: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments¹." 1 Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-40; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27.</p>
5	<p><u>Question:</u> Can you keep all this perfectly? <u>Answer:</u> No¹, I am inclined by nature to hate God and my neighbour². 1 Romans 3:10; Romans 3:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8; 1 John 1:10. 2 Genesis 6:5; Genesis 8:21; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:23; Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:3; Titus 3:3.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. How do you know that you have sin and misery?</p> <p>A. God's law teaches me that I have sin and misery.</p>	<p>Q How do you know that you have sin and misery?</p> <p>V I know my sin and misery from God's law.</p>
<p>Q. What does God's law demand from us?</p> <p>A. God's law demands that we should love Him above anything else and we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves.</p>	<p>Q What does God's law demand from us?</p> <p>A God's law demands that we should love Him above anything else and we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves.</p>
<p>Q. Can you do everything that God demands in His law?</p> <p>A. With my own strength I cannot do what God demands in His law.</p>	<p>Q Can you do everything that God demands in His law?</p> <p>A With my own strength I cannot do what God demands in His law, as I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.</p>

LORD'S DAY 3- The origin of your despair

6	<p><u>Question:</u> Did God, then, create man so wicked and perverse? <u>Answer:</u> No, on the contrary, God created man good¹ and in His image², that is, in true righteousness and holiness, so that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love Him, and live with Him in eternal blessedness to praise and glorify Him³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 1:31.2 Genesis 1:26-27.3 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10.
7	<p><u>Question:</u> From where, then, did man's depraved nature come? <u>Answer:</u> From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise¹, for there our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; Romans 5:18-19.2 Genesis 5:3; Psalms 51:5.
8	<p><u>Question:</u> But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined to all evil? <u>Answer:</u> Yes¹, unless we are regenerated by the Spirit of God².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 6:5; Genesis 8:21; Job 14:4; Job 15:14; Job 15:16; Job 15:35; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:6; Titus 3:3.2 John 3:3; John 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 3:5.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Was man then created sinful and disobedient by God?</p> <p>A. No, man was created good and in the image of God.</p>	<p>Q. Was man then created sinful and disobedient by God?</p> <p>A. No, man was created good and in the image of God so that he could rightly know God, love Him and serve Him.</p>
<p>Q. Where did man's immoral nature come from?</p> <p>A. Our immoral nature is the result of the fall and disobedience of Adam and Eve, our first parents, in paradise.</p>	<p>Q. Where did man's immoral nature come from?</p> <p>A. Our immoral nature is the result of the fall and disobedience of Adam and Eve, our first parents, in paradise.</p>
<p>Q. Are we so ruined that we can do nothing good?</p> <p>A. Yes, in ourselves we are so ruined that we can do nothing good if we are not reborn through the Spirit of God.</p> <p>Q. What does it mean to be reborn?</p> <p>A. To be reborn means that the Holy Spirit brings us back to life from a sinful death.</p>	<p>Q. Are we so ruined that we can do nothing good?</p> <p>A. We can do nothing good if we are not reborn through the Spirit of God, which means we must be brought back to life from a sinful death by the Holy Spirit.</p>

LORD'S DAY 4 – God demands obedience

9	<p><u>Question:</u> But does not God do man an injustice by requiring in His law what man cannot do?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No¹, for God so created man that he was able to do it². But man, at the instigation of the devil, in deliberate disobedience³ robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 1:26-27; Ephesians 4:24.2 Genesis 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:13-14.3 Genesis 3:4-6; Romans 5:12.
10	<p><u>Question:</u> Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Certainly not. He is terribly displeased¹ with our original sin as well as our actual sins. Therefore He will punish them by a just judgment both now and eternally², as He has declared: " Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." ³</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12.2 Exodus 20:5; Exodus 34:7; Psalms 5:4-6; Psalms 50:21; Nahum 1:2; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; Hebrews 9:27.3 Deuteronomy 27:26; Galatians 3:10.
11	<p><u>Question:</u> But is God not also merciful?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> God is indeed merciful¹, but He is also just². His justice requires that sin committed against the most high majesty of God also be punished with the most severe, that is, with everlasting, punishment of body and soul.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Exodus 34:6-7; Exodus 20:6.2 Exodus 20:5; Exodus 23:7; Exodus 34:7; Psalms 5:4-6; Psalms 7:11; Nahum 1:2-3.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q Isn't God unfair if He demands in His law that which man cannot do?</p> <p>A God is not unfair, because He created man able to obey the law.</p>	<p>Q Isn't God unreasonable if He demands in His law that which man cannot do?</p> <p>A God is not unreasonable, because He created man able to obey the law. However, man cheated himself of this gift through his disobedience.</p>
<p>Q. Will God let this disobedience go unpunished?</p> <p>A. God wants to punish this disobedience now and forever.</p> <p>Q. How does God want to punish this disobedience now and forever?</p> <p>A. God wants to punish this disobedience forever in hell.</p>	<p>Q Does God let this disobedience and rejection go unpunished?</p> <p>A God is greatly displeased with our original sin as well as our actual sin and punishes this disobedience with just judgment now and forever.</p>
<p>Q. But isn't God merciful as well?</p> <p>A. God is merciful, but also just.</p>	<p>Q But isn't God merciful as well?</p> <p>A God is merciful but also just; therefore the sin against the almighty majesty of God must also be punished, body and soul, with the most severe punishment, which is everlasting.</p>

LORD'S DAY 5 – You need a saviour

12	<p><u>Question:</u> Since, according to God's righteous judgment we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how can we escape this punishment and be again received into favour?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> God demands that His justice be satisfied¹. Therefore we must make full payment, either by ourselves or through another².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 2:7; Exodus 20:5; Exodus 23:7; Ezekiel 18:4; Luke 16:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:6.2 Matthew 5:26; Romans 8:3-4.
13	<p><u>Question:</u> Can we by ourselves make this payment?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Certainly not. On the contrary, we daily increase our debt¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Job 4:18-19; Job 9:2; Job 15:15-16; Psalms 130:3; Matthew 6:12; Matthew 16:26; Matthew 18:25.
14	<p><u>Question:</u> Can any mere creature pay for us?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No. In the first place, God will not punish another creature for the sin which man has committed¹. Furthermore, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and deliver others from it².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 3:17; Ezekiel 18:4.2 Psalms 130:3; Nahum 1:6.
15	<p><u>Question:</u> What kind of mediator and deliverer must we seek?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> One who is a true¹ and righteous² man, and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is at the same time true God³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 1 Corinthians 15:21.2 Hebrews 7:26.3 Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:5; Jeremiah 23:6; Luke 11:22; Romans 8:3-4.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. How can we escape God's punishment and be received in favour by God?</p> <p>A. We can only be set free from God's punishment if our sins are paid for in full.</p> <p>Q. Why must our sins be paid for?</p> <p>A. Our sins must be paid for because God is just.</p> <p>Q. Who must pay for our sins?</p> <p>A. Our sins must be paid for by ourselves or someone else.</p>	<p>Q. Is there any means through which we can escape God's punishment and be received in favour by God again?</p> <p>A. We can only be set free from God's punishment if our sins are paid for in full, either by ourselves or by someone else.</p>
<p>Q. Can we pay for our sins by ourselves?</p> <p>A. We cannot pay for our sins. Every day we add to our debt.</p>	<p>Q. Can we pay for our sins by ourselves?</p> <p>A. We cannot pay for our sins, as we add to our debt every day.</p>
<p>Q. Can another creature pay our debt for us?</p> <p>A. God does not want to punish another creature for our sins and no other creature is able to pay the price.</p>	<p>Q. Does another creature exist that can pay our debt for us?</p> <p>A. God does not want to punish another creature for our sins and no other creature is able to pay the price.</p>
<p>Q. Who, then, can pay for our sins?</p> <p>A. Only He who is truly human and also truly God can pay for our sins.</p>	<p>Q. What should the Mediator that we seek look like?</p> <p>A. Our Mediator and Savior must be truly human, a righteous man and also truly God.</p>

LORD'S DAY 6 – There is only one Saviour

16	<p><u>Question:</u> Why must He be a true and righteous man?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> He must be a true man because the justice of God requires that the same human nature which has sinned should pay for sin¹. He must be a righteous man because one who himself is a sinner cannot pay for others².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Isaiah 53:4-5; Jeremiah 33:15; Ezekiel 18:4; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 5:18; 1 Corinthians 15:21; Hebrews 2:14-16.2 Psalms 49:8; Hebrews 7:26-27; 1 Peter 3:18.
17	<p><u>Question:</u> Why must He at the same time be true God?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> He must be true God so that by the power of His divine nature¹ He might bear in His human nature² the burden of God's wrath³, and might obtain for us and restore to us righteousness and life⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Isaiah 9:5; Isaiah 63:3; Romans 1:4; Hebrews 1:3.2 Isaiah 53:4; Isaiah 53:11.3 Deuteronomy 4:24; Psalms 130:3; Nahum 1:6.4 Isaiah 53:5; Isaiah 53:11; Isaiah 54:8; John 3:16; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 3:18.
18	<p><u>Question:</u> But who is that Mediator who at the same time is true God¹ and a true² and righteous man³?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:6; Malachi 3:1; Romans 8:3; Romans 9:5; Galatians 4:4; 1 John 5:20.2 Luke 1:42; Luke 2:6-7; Romans 1:3; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Hebrews 2:16-17; Hebrews 4:15.3 Isaiah 53:9; Isaiah 53:11; Jeremiah 23:5; Luke 1:35; John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 1:19; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 Peter 3:18. <p><u>Answer:</u> Our Lord Jesus Christ⁴, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption⁵.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4 Matthew 1:23; Luke 2:11; John 1:1; John 1:14; John 1:18; John 14:6; Romans 9:5; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:9.5 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Why must our Savior be God at the same time?</p> <p>A. Only a human who is also truly God can bear the dreadful punishment.</p>	<p>Q Why must our Mediator be human at the same time?</p> <p>A Our Mediator must be truly human because the human nature that sinned must bear the punishment.</p> <p>Q Why must our Mediator be a righteous human?</p> <p>A Our Mediator must be a righteous human because a human who sins cannot bear the punishment for another.</p>
<p>Q. Why must our Saviour be human at the same time?</p> <p>A. Our Saviour must be truly human because it was a human who sinned and a human must bear the punishment.</p>	<p>17 Q Why must our Mediator also be truly God?</p> <p>A Our Mediator must be truly God in order to bear the anger of God towards our sins. Through his Godly nature He can bear the punishment in His human nature.</p>
<p>Q. Who is truly human and at the same time truly God?</p> <p>A. Our Lord Jesus Christ is at the same time both truly human and truly God.</p>	<p>Q Who is this Mediator who is truly human and at the same time truly God?</p> <p>A This Mediator is our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>

Question: From where do you know this?

Answer: From the holy gospel, which God Himself first revealed in Paradise¹. Later, He had it proclaimed by the patriarchs² and prophets³, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law⁴. Finally, He had it fulfilled through His only Son⁵.

19

1 Genesis 3:15.

2 Genesis 12:3; Genesis 22:18; Genesis 26:4; Genesis 49:10.

3 Isaiah 42:1-4; Isaiah 43:25; Isaiah 49:5-6; Isaiah 49:22; Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Jeremiah 31:32-33; Jeremiah 32:39-41; Micah 7:18-20; John 5:46; Acts 3:22-24; Acts 10:43; Romans 1:2; Hebrews 1:1.

4 Colossians 2:7; Hebrews 10:1; Hebrews 10:7.

5 Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:24; Galatians 4:4-5; Colossians 2:17.

<p>Q. How do you know that the Lord Jesus Christ is at the same time both truly human and truly God?</p> <p>A. The Bible teaches me that Jesus Christ is at the same time both truly human and truly God.</p>	<p>Q How do you know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Mediator?</p> <p>A The Holy Gospel, that is the entire Word of God, teaches me that Jesus Christ is the Mediator.</p>
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LORD'S DAY 7 – You must truly believe

20	<p><u>Question:</u> Are all men, then, saved by Christ just as they perished through Adam?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No¹. Only those are saved who by a true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all His benefits².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 7:14; Matthew 22:14.2 Psalms 2:12; Isaiah 53:11; Mark 16:16; John 1:12-13; John 3:16; John 3:18; John 3:36; Romans 3:22; Romans 11:20; Hebrews 4:2-3; Hebrews 5:9; Hebrews 10:39; Hebrews 11:6.
21	<p><u>Question:</u> What is true faith?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> True faith is a sure knowledge whereby I accept as true all that God has revealed to us in His Word¹. At the same time it is a firm confidence² that not only to others, but also to me³, God has granted forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation⁴, out of mere grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits⁵. This faith the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the gospel⁶.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 1 Samuel 2:3; Job 36:3-4; Psalms 119:66; Proverbs 2:1-9; Proverbs 8:10; 2 Corinthians 2:14;.2 Psalms 9:11; Romans 4:18-21; Romans 10:10; Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:7; James 1:6.3 Acts 10:44; Acts 16:14; Romans 1:16; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 1:21.4 Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 2:16; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:10; Hebrews 10:38.5 Luke 1:77-78; Acts 10:43; Romans 3:24; Romans 5:19; Ephesians 2:8.6 Matthew 16:17; John 3:5; John 6:29; Acts 16:14; 2 Corinthians 4:13; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 2:8; Philipians 1:19.
22	<p><u>Question:</u> What, then, must a Christian believe?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> All that is promised us in the gospel¹, which the articles of our catholic and undoubted Christian faith teach us in a summary.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:15; John 20:31.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	Are all people saved by Christ?	Q	Are all people saved by Christ as they are damned through Adam?
A.	No, Christ only saves those people who truly believe in Him.	A	Christ only saves those people who are joined to Him through true faith and who accepts His favor.
Q.	What is true faith?	Q	What is true faith?
A.	True faith is sure knowledge and a firm trust.	A	True faith is a sure knowledge through which I accept all that is written in the Bible as true, and it is a firm trust that the Holy Spirit works in my heart by the Holy Gospel, that God has forgiven all of my sins for the sake of Christ.
Q.	What is a sure knowledge?		
A.	A sure knowledge is to know that all that is written in the Bible is true.		
Q.	What is a firm trust?		
A.	A firm trust is to be sure that Christ is my Savior.		
Q.	What must a Christian believe?	Q	What must a Christian believe?
A.	A Christian must believe everything that is written in the Bible and that which the 12 Articles teach us.	A	A Christian must believe everything that is promised in the Gospel and which is summarized in the 12 Articles.

Question: What are these articles?

Answer:

23

1. I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
3. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
4. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He endured the suffering of hell*.
5. On the third day He arose from the dead;
6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
7. from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
8. I believe in the Holy Spirit;
9. I believe a holy catholic Christian church, the communion of saints;
10. the forgiveness of sins;
11. the resurrection of the body;
12. and the life everlasting.

*Literally: He descended into hell

LORD'S DAY 8 – What do we confess about God

24	<p><u>Question:</u> How are these articles divided?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Into three parts: the first is about God the Father and our creation; the second about God the Son and our redemption; the third about God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.</p>
25	<p><u>Question:</u> Since there is only one God, why do you speak of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? ¹</p> <p>1 Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 45:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Ephesians 4:4-6.</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because God has so revealed Himself in His Word² that these three distinct persons are the one, true, eternal God.</p> <p>2 Genesis 1:2-3; Psalms 33:6; Isaiah 6:1; Isaiah 6:3; Isaiah 48:16; Isaiah 6:1; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Luke 4:18; John 14:26; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:18; Titus 3:5-6; 1 John 5:7-8.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What are these articles about?</p> <p>A. These articles are about God the Father that created us; God the Son that saved us; and God the Holy Spirit that makes us holy.</p>	<p>Q How are these articles divided?</p> <p>A These articles are divided into three parts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i The first part deals with God the Father and our creation. ii The second part deals with God the Son and our salvation. iii The third part deals with God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.
<p>Q. Why do you call God Father, Son and Holy Spirit?</p> <p>A. The Bible teaches us that the one God is revealed to us in three separate persons.</p>	<p>Q Why do you speak of three Persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, when there is only one God?</p> <p>A God reveals Himself to us, in His Word, as three separate Persons.</p>

LORD'S DAY 9 – God the Father

Question: What do you believe when you say: *I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?*

Answer: That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and all that is in them¹, and who still upholds and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence², is, for the sake of Christ His Son, my God and my Father³. In Him I trust so completely as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul⁴, and will also turn to my good whatever adversity He sends me in this life of sorrow⁵. He is able to do so as almighty God⁶, and willing also as a faithful Father⁷.

26

1 Genesis 1:1; Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:11; Job 33:4; Job 38, 39; Psalms 33:6; Isaiah 40:26; Isaiah 45:7; Acts 4:24; Acts 14:15.

2 Psalms 104:27-30; Psalms 115:3; Matthew 10:29-30; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 1:3.

3 John 1:12; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5-7; Ephesians 1:5.

4 Psalms 55:22; Matthew 6:25-26; Luke 12:22-24.

5 Romans 8:28.

6 Isaiah 46:4; Romans 8:37-39; Romans 10:12.

7 Matthew 6:32-33; Matthew 7:9-11.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What do you believe about God the Father?</p> <p>A. God the Father created heaven and earth and everything in it and He still takes care of it.</p> <p>Q. Why do you call Him the Father?</p> <p>A. God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and is therefore my Father as well.</p>	<p>Q. What do you believe with the following words: I believe in God the Father almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth?</p> <p>A. The Father of our Lord Jesus, who created heaven and earth and everything in it, and still takes care of it, is my God and Father for the sake of His Son.</p>

LORD'S DAY 10 – God the Father provides

27

Question: What do you understand by the providence of God?

Answer: God's providence is His almighty and ever present power¹, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures², and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years³, food and drink, health and sickness⁴, riches and poverty⁵, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand⁶.

1 Isaiah 29:15-16; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Ezekiel 8:12; Acts 17:25-28.

2 Hebrews 1:3.

3 Jeremiah 5:24; Acts 14:17.

4 John 9:3.

5 Proverbs 22:2.

6 Proverbs 16:33; Matthew 10:29.

28

Question: What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

Answer: We can be patient in adversity¹, thankful in prosperity², and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father³ that no creature shall separate us from His love⁴; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move⁵.

1 Job 1:21-22; Psalms 39:10; Romans 5:3; James 1:3.

2 Deuteronomy 8:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

3 Psalms 55:23; Romans 5:4.

4 Romans 8:38-39.

5 Job 1:12; Job 2:6; Proverbs 21:1; Acts 17:25-28.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	What does the providence of God mean?	Q	What does the providence of God mean?
A.	The providence of God means that He reigns over everything in creation and that he takes care of it.	A	The providence of God is His almighty and omnipresent power through which He reigns over and takes care of everything in creation.
Q.	What do you benefit by knowing that God reigns over and takes care of everything in creation?	Q	What do you benefit by knowing that God reigns over and takes care of everything in creation?
A.	From God's providence I learn that I should be patient when things are bad, that I should be thankful when things go well and that I should always trust in the Lord.	A	We should always trust in the Lord and be patient when things are bad and thankful when things go well.

LORD'S DAY 11 – Jesus: Saviour

29	<p><u>Question:</u> Why is the Son of God called Jesus, that is, Saviour?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because He saves us from all our sins¹, and because salvation is not to be sought or found in anyone else².</p> <p>1 Matthew 1:21; Hebrews 7:25.</p> <p>2 Isaiah 43:11; John 15:4-5; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 5:11-12.</p>
30	<p><u>Question:</u> Do those believe in the only Saviour Jesus who seek their salvation and well-being from saints, in themselves, or anywhere else?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No. Though they boast of Him in words, they in fact deny the only Saviour Jesus¹. For one of two things must be true: either Jesus is not a complete Saviour, or those who by true faith accept this Saviour must find in Him all that is necessary for their salvation².</p> <p>1 1 Corinthians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Galatians 5:4.</p> <p>2 Isaiah 9:6; Colossians 1:19-20; Colossians 2:10; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 1:7.</p>

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	What does the name <i>Jesus</i> mean?	Q	Why is the Son of God called <i>Jesus</i> , that is Saviour?
A.	Jesus means Saviour.	A	The Son of God is called Jesus because He saves us from our sins and redeems us.
Q.	Why is the Son of God called Jesus?		
A.	He is called Jesus because he saves us from our sins.		
Q.	Is it possible for someone else to take away our sins?	Q	Is there no other Saviour?
A.	No, the Lord Jesus is our only saviour.	A	The Lord Jesus is our only Saviour.

LORD'S DAY 12 – Jesus: Anointed

31

Question: Why is He called Christ, that is, Anointed?

Answer: Because He has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit¹, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher², who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption³; our only High Priest⁴, who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us⁵, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father⁶; and our eternal King, who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us⁷.

1 Psalms 45:7; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; Hebrews 1:9.

2 Deuteronomy 18:15; Isaiah 55:4; Acts 26:22; Acts 7:37.

3 John 1:18; John 15:15; Acts 3:22.

4 Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 7:21.

5 Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 9:28; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 10:14.

6 Romans 5:9-10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 9:24; 1 John 2:1.

7 Psalms 2:6; Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:5; Matthew 28:18; Luke 1:33; John 10:28; Revelation 12:10-11.

32

Question: Why are you called a Christian?¹

1 Acts 11:26.

Answer: Because I am a member of Christ by faith² and thus share in His anointing³, so that I may as prophet confess His Name⁴, as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him⁵, and as king fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life⁶, and hereafter reign with Him eternally over all creatures⁷.

2 1 Corinthians 6:15.

3 Acts 2:17; 1 John 2:27.

4 Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10.

5 Romans 12:1; 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6; Revelation 5:8; Revelation 5:10.

6 Romans 6:12-13; Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 6:11; 1 Timothy 1:18-19; 1 Peter 2:11.

7 Matthew 25:34; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 22:5.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does the name <i>Christ</i> mean?</p> <p>A. Christ means Anointed.</p> <p>Q. Why do we call the Son of God Christ?</p> <p>A. He is called Christ, because God has anointed Him with the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Q. What is the purpose of His anointment?</p> <p>A. He was anointed to be our Prophet, High Priest and King.</p>	<p>Q. Christ means Anointed. Why do we call the Son of God <i>Christ</i>?</p> <p>A. We call the Son of God Christ because God has anointed Him with the Holy Spirit to be our highest Prophet, our only High Priest and our eternal King.</p>
<p>Q. Why are you called a <i>Christian</i>?</p> <p>A. I am called a Christian because I belong to Christ and therefore I am a prophet, priest and king.</p>	<p>Q. Why are you called a <i>Christian</i>?</p> <p>A. I am called a Christian because I belong to Christ and I am a member of Christ through faith, therefore I am, through the work of the Holy Spirit, also prophet, priest and king.</p>

LORD'S DAY 13 – Jesus: Our Lord

33	<p><u>Question:</u> Why is He called God's only begotten Son, since we also are children of God?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God¹. We, however, are children of God by adoption, through grace, for Christ's sake².</p> <p>1 John 1:14; John 1:18; John 3:16; Romans 8:32; Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 John 4:9.</p> <p>2 John 1:12-13; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:5-6.</p>
34	<p><u>Question:</u> Why do you call Him our Lord?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because He has ransomed us, body and soul, from all our sins, not with silver or gold but with His precious blood, and has freed us from all the power of the devil to make us His own possession¹.</p> <p>1 John 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Corinthians 7:23; 1 Timothy 2:6; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Peter 2:9.</p>

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	Why is Christ called God's only begotten Son?	Q	Why is Christ called <i>God's only begotten Son</i> ?
A.	He is God's only natural born Son.	A	He is called God's only begotten Son as He alone is the eternal, natural Son of God, while we are adopted as children of God through Jesus Christ.
Q.	Are you also a child of God?		
A.	Yes, I am an adopted child of God through Jesus Christ.		
Q.	What does the name Lord mean?		
A.	The name Lord means owner.		
Q.	Why do you call Christ our Lord?	Q	Why do you call Christ <i>our Lord</i> ?
A.	Christ is our Lord because He set us free with His blood, making us His possessions.	A	Christ is our Lord because He set our body and soul free from sin with His precious blood, making us His possessions.

LORD'S DAY 14 – Jesus: Truly God

35	<p><u>Question:</u> What do you confess when you say: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> The eternal Son of God, who is¹ and remains true and eternal God², took upon Himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary³, through the working of the Holy Spirit⁴. Thus He is also the true seed of David⁵, and like His brothers in every respect⁶, yet without sin⁷.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 John 1:1; John 17:3; Romans 1:3; Colossians 1:15; 1 John 5:20.2 Romans 9:5.3 Luke 1:31; Luke 1:42-43; Galatians 4:4.4 Matthew 1:18; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35.5 2 Samuel 7:12; Psalms 132:11; Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:30; Romans 1:3.6 Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Hebrews 2:17.7 Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:26-27.
36	<p><u>Question:</u> What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> He is our Mediator¹, and with His innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Hebrews 2:16-18; Hebrews 7:26-27.2 Psalms 32:1; Isaiah 53:11; Romans 8:3-4; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Galatians 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Peter 3:18.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does it mean when we say that our Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from the virgin Mary?</p> <p>A. Through the working of the Holy Spirit Jesus was born from His mother Mary.</p>	<p>Q. What does it mean when we say that our Lord Jesus Christ was <i>conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from the virgin Mary?</i></p> <p>A. The eternal Son of God, through the working of the Holy Spirit, was born from His mother, the virgin Mary, taking unto Himself the true human nature, which He received from her flesh and blood.</p> <p>Q. Why must He be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from the Virgin Mary?</p> <p>A. He had to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born from the Virgin Mary because He had to be a descendant of David, equal to His brothers in everything, except sin.</p>
<p>Q. What do you benefit from knowing that Jesus was born without sin?</p> <p>A. Because Jesus was born without sin, before God He covers the sin into which I was born.</p>	<p>Q. What do you benefit from knowing that Jesus was born without sin?</p> <p>A. Because Jesus was born without sin before God, He covers the sin into which I was born.</p>

LORD'S DAY 15 – Jesus: The suffering

37	<p><u>Question:</u> What do you confess when you say that He suffered?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> During all the time He lived on earth, but especially at the end, Christ bore in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race¹. Thus, by His suffering, as the only atoning sacrifice², He has redeemed our body and soul from everlasting damnation³, and obtained for us the grace of God, righteousness, and eternal life⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Isaiah 53:4; Isaiah 53:12; 1 Timothy 2:6; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Peter 3:18.2 Isaiah 53:10; Romans 3:25; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 9:28; Hebrews 10:14; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10.3 Galatians 3:13; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19.4 John 3:16; John 6:51; Romans 3:25; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:19.
38	<p><u>Question:</u> Why did He suffer under Pontius Pilate as judge?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Though innocent, Christ was condemned by an earthly judge¹, and so He freed us from the severe judgment of God that was to fall on us².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 27:24; Luke 23:14-15; John 18:38; John 19:4; John 19:11.2 Psalms 69:4; Isaiah 53:4-5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13.
39	<p><u>Question:</u> Does it have a special meaning that Christ was crucified and did not die in a different way?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Yes. Thereby I am assured that He took upon Himself the curse¹ which lay on me, for a crucified one was cursed by God².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Galatians 3:13.2 Deuteronomy 21:23.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	What does it mean when we say that Christ <i>suffered</i> ?	Q	What does it mean when we say that Christ <i>suffered</i> ?
A.	It means that He suffered extreme pain and anguish when He took God's punishment for all our sins on Himself.	A	Christ suffered, body and soul, during His whole lifetime on earth, especially at the end when He bore the wrath of God against the sin of man.
Q.	When did He suffer?		
A.	Christ suffered during His whole lifetime on earth, especially at the end.		
Q.	Why was it important for Christ <i>to be crucified</i> ?	Q	Why was it important for Christ to <i>suffer under Pontius Pilate</i> ?
A.	Christ had to be crucified as God cursed crucifixion.	A	He, the innocent, was condemned by the earthly judge, in order for us, the guilty to be freed from God's judgment.
Q.	How do we benefit from Christ's crucifixion?	Q	Why did Jesus have to be <i>crucified</i> ?
A.	Through His crucifixion Christ took our curse upon Himself.	A	He had to be crucified because God had cursed death by crucifixion; therefore I am now certain that He had taken the curse, which was mine, onto Himself.

LORD'S DAY 16 – Jesus: His life for yours

40	<p><u>Question:</u> Why was it necessary for Christ to humble Himself even unto death?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because of the justice and truth of God¹ satisfaction for our sins could be made in no other way than by the death of the 4.1on of God².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 2:17.2 Romans 8:3-4; Philipians 2:6-8; Hebrews 2:9; Hebrews 2:14-15.
41	<p><u>Question:</u> Why was he buried?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> His burial testified that He had really died¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 27:59-60; Luke 23:53; John 19:38; Acts 13:29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
42	<p><u>Question:</u> Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Our death is not a payment for our sins¹, but it puts an end to sin and is an entrance into eternal life².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Psalms 49:7; Mark 8:37.2 John 5:24; Romans 7:24; Philipians 1:23.
43	<p><u>Question:</u> What further benefit do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Through Christ's death our old nature is crucified, put to death, and buried with Him¹, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer reign in us², but that we may offer ourselves to Him as a sacrifice of thankfulness³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Romans 6:6.2 Romans 6:8-12.3 Romans 12:1.
44	<p><u>Question:</u> Why is there added: <i>He endured the suffering of hell - literally: He descended into hell?</i></p> <p><u>Answer:</u> In my greatest sorrows and temptations I may be assured and comforted that my Lord Jesus Christ, by His unspeakable anguish, pain, terror, and agony, which He endured throughout all His sufferings¹ but especially on the cross, has delivered me from the anguish and torment of hell².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Isaiah 53:5.2 Psalms 18:5-6; Psalms 116:3; Matthew 26:38; Matthew 27:46; Hebrews 5:7.

Primary		Secondary	
Q. Why did Christ have to die? A. Christ's death is the only way that our sins could be paid for.	Q Why did Christ have to be humiliated Himself to the extent of <i>dying</i> ? A Christ had to humble Himself to the extent of dying as God's justice demanded that the debt of our sins could not be paid for in any other way other than the death of His Son.		
Q. Why was Christ buried? A. Christ was buried in order for us to know that he really died.	Q Why was Christ <i>buried</i> ? A Christ was buried in order for us to know that he really died.		
Q. Why must we die as well? A. It is the entrance to the life everlasting.	Q If Christ paid for our sins, why must we die as well? A Our death is not payment for our sins, it is the death of our sins and the entrance to the life everlasting.		
Q. What benefit does the crucifixion of Christ hold for us? A. Our sins were crucified with Christ. Our sins no longer have control over us. We are able to be obedient to Him.	Q What benefit does the crucifixion of Christ hold for us? A Our sins were crucified with Christ. Our sins no longer have control over us. We are able to be obedient to Him.		
Q. What does it mean that Christ endured the suffering of hell - literally: He descended into hell A. That we may be assured that Christ suffered in our place by bearing our hellish punishment, especially on the cross.	44 Q Why was it added that Christ endured the suffering of hell - literally: He descended into hell? A Christ suffered unspeakable anguish, pain, terror and agony in our place by bearing our hellish punishment, especially on the cross, in order to set me free from this punishment.		

LORD'S DAY 17 – Jesus: The Conquerer

45

Question: How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

Answer: First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, so that He could make us share in the righteousness which He had obtained for us by His death¹. Second, by His power we too are raised up to a new life². Third, Christ's resurrection is to us a sure pledge of our glorious resurrection³.

1 Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:16-18; 1 Peter 1:3.

2 Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:4-6; Colossians 3:1-3.

3 Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?	Q	How does Christ's <i>resurrection</i> benefit us?
A.	Through His resurrection Christ has overcome death.	A	Christ's resurrection has the following meaning for us:
Q.	In what way is your life changed by Christ's resurrection?	i	He overcame death to justify us before God
A.	Through Christ's resurrection I receive the strength to lead a new life.	ii	Through Christ's resurrection I receive the strength to lead a new life.
Q.	What does Christ's resurrection prove to you?	iii	Christ's resurrection is proof to me that one day I will also gloriously rise from the dead.
A.	Christ's resurrection is proof to me that one day I will also gloriously rise from the dead.		

LORD'S DAY 18 – Jesus: Ascender of the throne

46	<p><u>Question:</u> What do you confess when you say, He ascended into heaven? ¹</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> That Christ, before the eyes of His disciples, was taken up from the earth into heaven², and that He is there for our benefit³ until He comes again to judge the living and the dead.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9.2 Romans 8:34; Ephesians 4:10; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 9:24.3 Matthew 24:30; Acts 1:11.
47	<p><u>Question:</u> Is Christ, then, not with us until the end of the world, as He has promised us?¹</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Christ is true man and true God. With respect to His human nature He is no longer on earth², but with respect to His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit He is never absent from us³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 28:20.2 Matthew 26:11; John 16:28; John 17:11; Acts 3:21; Hebrews 8:4.3 Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-18.
48	<p><u>Question:</u> But are the two natures in Christ not separated from each other if His human nature is not present wherever His divinity is?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Not at all, for His divinity has no limits and is present everywhere¹. So it must follow that His divinity is indeed beyond the human nature which He has taken on and nevertheless is within this human nature and remains personally united with it².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Jeremiah 23:24; Acts 7:49.2 Matthew 28:6; John 3:13; John 11:15; Colossians 2:9.
49	<p><u>Question:</u> How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> First, He is our Advocate in heaven before His Father¹. Second, we have our flesh in heaven as a sure pledge that He, our Head, will also take us, His members, up to Himself². Third, He sends us His Spirit as a counter-pledge³, by whose power we seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God, and not the things that are on earth⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1.2 John 14:2; John 17:24; Ephesians 2:6.3 John 14:16; John 16:7; Acts 2:33; 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:5.4 Colossians 3:1; Philippians 3:20.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	What does it mean when you say that <i>He ascended to Heaven</i> ?	Q	What does it mean when you say that <i>He ascended to heaven</i> ?
A.	Christ has gone to Heaven for our benefit until He returns to judge all of mankind.	A	It means that Christ ascended to heaven in plain sight of His disciples and that He is there for our benefit, until He returns to judge over all of mankind, both the living and those who have already died.
Q.	Christ promised to be with us forever. How is it possible if He is in Heaven?	Q	Christ promised to be with us until the end of the world. How is this possible if He is in heaven?
A.	Christ is always with us as He is also God.	A	As a human being Christ is no longer on earth, but He is always with us in His majesty and grace as He is God.
Q.	What benefit does Christ's ascension into Heaven have for us?	Q	What benefit does Christ's ascension into heaven have for us?
A.	Christ prays for us in heaven to the Father, and will take us to Him.	A	Christ's ascent into heaven means:
Q.	Did Christ leave us behind as orphans?	i	Christ prays for us in heaven
A.	Christ did not leave us as orphans, He sent His Holy Spirit to always be with us and comfort us.	ii	We have our body in heaven, as a promise that He will take us to Him,
		iii	He sent His Holy Spirit to always be with us and comfort us.

LORD'S DAY 19 – Jesus: The Judge

50	<p><u>Question:</u> Why is it added, And sits at the right hand of God?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Christ ascended into heaven to manifest Himself there as Head of His Church¹, through whom the Father governs all things².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:18.2 Matthew 28:18; John 5:22.
51	<p><u>Question:</u> How does the glory of Christ, our Head, benefit us?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> First, by His Holy Spirit He pours out heavenly gifts upon us, His members¹. Second, by His power He defends and preserves us against all enemies².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Acts 2:33; Ephesians 4:8.2 Psalms 2:9; Psalms 110:1-2; John 10:28; Ephesians 4:8.
52	<p><u>Question:</u> What comfort is it to you that Christ will come to judge the living and the dead?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> In all my sorrow and persecution I lift up my head and eagerly await as judge from heaven the very same person¹ who before has submitted Himself to the judgment of God for my sake, and has removed all the curse from me. He will cast all His and my enemies into everlasting condemnation², but He will take me and all His chosen ones to Himself into heavenly joy and glory³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Luke 21:28; Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Titus 2:13.2 Matthew 25:41; 2 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9.3 Matthew 25:34; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; 2 Thessalonians 1:10.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	What does it mean when we say that Christ sits at the right hand of God?	Q	What does it mean when we say that <i>Christ sits at the right hand of God?</i>
A.	The fact that Christ sits at the right hand of God means that the Father made Him the Head of His Church, to rule and reign over everything.	A	By sitting at the right hand of God, Christ indicates that He is the Head of His Church through whom God rules and reigns over everything.
Q.	What will Christ do when He returns to the earth?	Q	What benefit does it have for us that the Lord Jesus <i>will return and judge over the living and the dead?</i>
A.	With His return, Christ will punish those who do not believe for eternity, but He will take me and the other chosen ones with Him.	A	With His return, Christ will punish those who do not believe for eternity, but He will take me and the other chosen ones with Him to eternal joy and glory.

LORD'S DAY 20 – God the Holy Spirit

53

Question: What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?

Answer: First, He is, together with the Father and the Son, true and eternal God¹. Second, He is also given to me², to make me by true faith share in Christ and all His benefits³, to comfort me⁴, and to remain with me forever⁵.

- 1 Genesis 1:2; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:19
- 2 Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Galatians 3:14; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13.
- 3 John 16:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Galatians 3:14; 1 Peter 1:2.
- 4 John 15:26; Acts 9:31.
- 5 John 14:16-17; 1 Peter 4:14.

Primary		Secondary	
Q.	Who is the Holy Spirit?	Q	What do you believe about the Holy Spirit?
A.	The Holy Spirit is true and eternal God together with the Father and the Son.	A	
Q.	Why was the Holy Spirit given to you?	i	The Holy Spirit is true and eternal God together with the Father and the Son.
A.	The Holy Spirit was given to me so that I can believe in Christ, to comfort me and to be with me always.	ii	The Holy Spirit was given to me so that I can have a true belief in Christ, and to have through this part in His blessings; and
		iii	to comfort me and to be with me always.

LORD'S DAY 21 – The work of the Holy Spirit: The Church

54	<p><u>Question:</u> What do you believe concerning the holy catholic Christian church?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> I believe that the Son of God¹, out of the whole human race², from the beginning of the world to its end³, gathers, defends, and preserves for Himself⁴, by His Spirit and Word⁵, in the unity of the true faith⁶, a church chosen to everlasting life⁷. And I believe that I am⁸ and forever shall remain a living member of it⁹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 John 10:11; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-13; Ephesians 5:26.2 Genesis 26:4; Isaiah 49:6; Romans 10:10-11; Revelation 5:9.3 Psalms 71:17-18; Isaiah 59:21; 1 Corinthians 11:26.4 Psalms 129:1-5; Matthew 16:18; John 10:28-30.5 Isaiah 59:21; Romans 1:16; Romans 10:14-17; Ephesians 5:26.6 John 17:20-21; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:3-5.7 Psalms 111:1; Acts 20:28; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:10-13; Hebrews 12:22-23; 1 Peter 2:9.8 Romans 8:10; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 John 3:14; 1 John 3:19-21.9 Psalms 23:6; John 10:28; Romans 8:35-39; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 2:19
55	<p><u>Question:</u> What do you understand by the communion of saints?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> First, that believers, all and everyone, as members of Christ have communion with Him and share in all His treasures and gifts¹. Second, that everyone is duty-bound to use his gifts readily and cheerfully for the benefit and well-being of the other members².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Romans 8:32; 1 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 1 John 1:3.2 1 Corinthians 12:21; 1 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Corinthians 13:5; Philippians 2:1-8.
56	<p><u>Question:</u> What do you believe concerning the forgiveness of sins?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> I believe that God, because of Christ's satisfaction, will no more remember my sins¹, nor my sinful nature, against which I have to struggle all my life², but He will graciously grant me the righteousness of Christ, that I may never come into condemnation³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Psalms 103:3; Psalms 103:10; Psalms 103:12; Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:19; Romans 7:23-25.2 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 1:7; 1 John 2:2.3 John 3:18; John 5:24.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is the holy catholic Christian church?</p> <p>A. The holy catholic Christian church is the meeting of everyone that truly believed in Christ.</p> <p>Q. Where does the church come from?</p> <p>A. The Son of God gathers all those chosen by the Holy Spirit and Word, together in His Church.</p> <p>Q. What does the Son of God do for His Church?</p> <p>A. The Son of God defends and preserves his Church from the beginning until the end of the world.</p> <p>Q. Do you also belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ?</p> <p>A. Yes, I believe that I belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever.</p>	<p>Q. What do you believe about holy catholic Christian church?</p> <p>A. The Son of God gathers all those chosen by the Holy Spirit and Word together in His church. I believe that I belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever.</p>
<p>Q. What is the communion of the saints?</p> <p>A. The communion of the saints means: that the believers must use the gifts they receive from Christ for the benefit of each other.</p>	<p>Q. What is the communion of the saints?</p> <p>A. The communion of the saints means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i all believers have a part in Lord Jesus and in all the treasures and gifts ii that the believers must use the gifts they receive from Christ for the benefit of each other, voluntarily and with joy.
<p>Q. What does the forgiveness of sins mean?</p> <p>A. The forgiveness of sins means: that I have no debt before God, because Christ paid in full for my sins.</p>	<p>Q. What do you believe regarding the <i>forgiveness of sins</i>?</p> <p>A. For the sake of Christ, God takes away all of my sin in order that He:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Will never think of it again ii Will never punish me for it

LORD'S DAY 22 - Believe you are saved

57	<p><u>Question:</u> What comfort does the resurrection of the body offer you?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Not only shall my soul after this life immediately be taken up to Christ, my Head¹, but also this my flesh, raised by the power of Christ, shall be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Luke 16:22; Luke 20:37-38; Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:21; Philippians 1:23.2 Job 19:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:53-54; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2.
58	<p><u>Question:</u> What comfort do you receive from the article about the life everlasting?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Since I now already feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy¹, I shall after this life possess perfect blessedness, such as no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived-- a blessedness in which to praise God forever².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 2 Corinthians 5:2-3.2 John 17:24; 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What comfort do you receive from the resurrection of the body?</p> <p>A. Christ will raise my body from the dead and reunite it with its soul.</p> <p>Q. When will Christ raise your body from the dead?</p> <p>A. Christ will raise my body from the dead with His second coming.</p>	<p>Q. What comfort do you receive from the <i>resurrection of the body</i>?</p> <p>A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. When I die, my soul goes to Christ immediately. ii. Christ will raise my body from the dead and reunite it with its soul. iii. Then my body will be like the glorified body of Christ.
<p>Q. How are you comforted by the belief in the life everlasting?</p> <p>A. In the life everlasting I will be completely blessed and I will worship God forever.</p> <p>Q. When do you start enjoying the happiness of the life everlasting?</p> <p>A. I already feel the happiness of the life everlasting in my heart because I believe in Christ.</p>	<p>Q. What does the belief in the life everlasting mean to you?</p> <p>A. To believe in the life eternal means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. In this life, I already have the concept of eternal joy in my heart. ii. After this life I will be completely blessed and I will praise and worship God forever.

LORD'S DAY 23 – True belief saves you

59	<p><u>Question:</u> But what does it help you now that you believe all this?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> In Christ I am righteous before God and heir to life everlasting¹.</p> <p>1 Habakkuk 2:4; John 3:36; Romans 1:17.</p>
60	<p><u>Question:</u> How are you righteous before God?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Only by true faith in Jesus Christ¹. Although my conscience accuses me that I have grievously sinned against all God's commandments, have never kept any of them², and am still inclined to all evil³, yet God, without any merit of my own⁴, out of mere grace⁵, imputes to me the perfect satisfaction⁶, righteousness, and holiness of Christ⁷. He grants these to me as if I had never had nor committed any sin, and as if I myself had accomplished all the obedience which Christ has rendered for me⁸, if only I accept this gift with a believing heart⁹.</p> <p>1 Romans 3:21-22; Romans 3:24; Romans 5:1-2; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:9.</p> <p>2 Romans 3:9.</p> <p>3 Romans 7:23.</p> <p>4 Deuteronomy 9:6; Ezekiel 36:22; Romans 4:4; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Titus 3:5.</p> <p>5 Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8.</p> <p>6 1 John 2:2.</p> <p>7 1 John 2:1.</p> <p>8 2 Corinthians 5:21.</p> <p>9 John 3:18; Romans 3:22.</p>
61	<p><u>Question:</u> Why do you say that you are righteous only by faith?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Not that I am acceptable to God on account of the worthiness of my faith, for only the satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ is my righteousness before God¹. I can receive this righteousness and make it mine my own by faith only².</p> <p>1 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Corinthians 2:2.</p> <p>2 1 John 5:10.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What worth does believing everything that is said in the Twelve Articles have for you?</p> <p>A. By believing everything that is said in the Twelve Articles, I become righteous before God through Christ.</p>	<p>Q. What worth does believing everything that is said in the Twelve Articles have for you?</p> <p>A. By believing everything that is said in the Twelve Articles I become righteous before God through Christ, and I become an heir to the life eternal.</p>
<p>Q. What does it mean to be righteous?</p> <p>A. To be righteous means that God has declared me innocent.</p> <p>Q. How can you be innocent while you still sin?</p> <p>A. I am innocent before God because Christ, in whom I believe has paid my debt.</p>	<p>Q. How do you become righteous before God?</p> <p>A. My sins are forgiven only through a true belief in Jesus Christ, as if I never had sin.</p>
<p>Q. Can you receive this righteousness through faith?</p> <p>A. No, Christ earned my righteousness before God and I accept it through my faith.</p>	<p>Q. Why do you state that you can only become righteous through a true belief?</p> <p>A. My faith does not make me righteous, Christ earned my righteousness before God and I accept it through my faith.</p>

LORD'S DAY 24 - True belief is visible in the faithful

62	<p><u>Question:</u> But why can our good works not be our righteousness before God, or at least a part of it?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because the righteousness which can stand before God's judgment must be absolutely perfect and in complete agreement with the law of God¹, whereas even our best works in this life are all imperfect and defiled with sin².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Deuteronomy 27:26; Galatians 3:10.2 Isaiah 64:6.
63	<p><u>Question:</u> But do our good works earn nothing, even though God promises to reward them in this life and the next?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Luke 17:10.
64	<p><u>Question:</u> Does this teaching not make people careless and wicked?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No. It is impossible that those grafted into Christ by true faith should not bring forth fruits of thankfulness¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 7:18; John 15:5.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Can our good deeds make us righteous?</p> <p>A. No, because all our deeds are filled with sin, not even our best deeds can make us righteous.</p>	<p>Q. Why can't our good deeds make us righteous?</p> <p>A. Only perfect deeds can not earn something before God, because all our deeds are filled with sin, not even our best deeds can make us righteous.</p>
<p>Q. But doesn't God reward us for our good deeds?</p> <p>A. The reward is not earned by good deeds but received by God's grace alone.</p> <p>Q. If our good deeds earn us nothing, won't we stop doing them?</p> <p>A. No. Someone that believes in Christ cannot, due to his gratitude, stop doing good deeds.</p>	<p>Q. But doesn't God reward us for our good deeds?</p> <p>A. God does reward good deeds, but the reward is not earned by good deeds but received by God's grace alone.</p>
<p>Q. Why do the faithful continue to do good deeds?</p> <p>A. The faithful continue with good deeds because a good tree bears good fruit.</p>	<p>Q. Does this teaching not make people careless and wicked?</p> <p>A. This teaching does not make people careless and wicked because someone who has been joined to Christ through a true faith will bear good fruit as a result of his gratitude.</p>

LORD'S DAY 25 - God strengthens true faith visibly: Sacraments

65	<p><u>Question:</u> Since then faith alone makes us share in Christ and all His benefits, where does this faith come from?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> From the Holy Spirit, who works it in our hearts¹ by the preaching of the gospel, and strengthens it by the use of the sacraments².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 John 3:5; Ephesians 2:8; Ephesians 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Philippians 1:29.2 Matthew 28:19; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 1:17-18; 1 Peter 1:22-23.
66	<p><u>Question:</u> What are the sacraments?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> The sacraments are holy, visible signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by their use He might the more fully declare and seal to us the promise of the gospel. And this is the promise: that God graciously grants us forgiveness of sins and everlasting life because of the one sacrifice of Christ accomplished on the cross¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 17:11; Leviticus 6:25; Deuteronomy 30:6; Isaiah 6:6-7; Isaiah 54:9; Ezekiel 20:12; Romans 4:11; Hebrews 9:7-9; Hebrews 9:24.
67	<p><u>Question:</u> Are both the Word and the sacraments then intended to focus our faith on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only ground of our salvation?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Yes, indeed. The Holy Spirit teaches us in the gospel and assures us by the sacraments that our entire salvation rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27.
68	<p><u>Question:</u> How many sacraments has Christ instituted in the new covenant?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Where does your faith in God come from? A. We are given faith by the Holy Spirit. Q. How are we given faith by the Holy Spirit? A. The Holy Spirit gives us faith through the preaching of the Gospel. Q. How does the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith? A. The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith through the sacraments.</p>	<p>Q Since we can only have part in Christ and His blessings through true faith, where does your faith in God come from? A We are given faith by the Holy Spirit. Q How does the Holy Spirit work faith in our hearts? A The Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts through the preaching of the Gospel. Q How does the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith? A The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith through the sacraments.</p>
<p>Q. What are the sacraments? A. The sacraments are holy, visible signs and seals, instituted by God.</p>	<p>Q What are the sacraments? A The sacraments are holy, visible signs and seals, instituted by God, in order for us to understand the promise of the Gospel as well as to make us sure of it.</p>
<p>Q. How many sacraments are there? A. Two: i The Holy Baptism and ii The Holy Supper</p>	<p>Q Which sacraments did Christ institute? A Christ instituted two sacraments, the Holy Baptism and The Holy Supper.</p>

LORD'S DAY 26 – God strengthens true faith visibly: The Holy Baptism (1)

69	<p><u>Question:</u> How does holy baptism signify and seal to you that the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross benefits you?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing¹ and with it gave the promise² that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body³, so certainly His blood and Spirit wash away the impurity of my soul, that is, all my sins.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 28:19.2 Matthew 3:11; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; John 1:33; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4.3 Luke 3:3; Mark 1:4; 1 Peter 3:21.
70	<p><u>Question:</u> What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> To be washed with Christ's blood means to receive forgiveness of sins from God, through grace, because of Christ's blood, poured out for us in His sacrifice on the cross¹. To be washed with His Spirit means to be renewed by the Holy Spirit and sanctified to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and lead a holy and blameless life².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Ezekiel 36:25; Zechariah 13:1; Hebrews 12:24; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 7:14.2 Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 1:33; John 3:5; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 2:11-12.
71	<p><u>Question:</u> Where has Christ promised that He will wash us with His blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> In the institution of baptism, where He says: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit¹. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned². This promise is repeated where Scripture calls baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 28:19.2 Mark 16:16.3 Acts 22:16; Titus 3:5.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What meaning does the Holy Baptism have?</p> <p>A. The Holy Baptism means that I have been cleansed from all my sins by the blood and spirit of Christ.</p>	<p>Q How does the Baptism teach and assure you that Christ's sacrifice on the cross saved you from your sin?</p> <p>A Just as I am cleansed with water during baptism, I have been cleansed with the blood and spirit of Christ from all my sins.</p>
<p>Q. What does it mean to be cleansed by the blood and spirit of Christ?</p> <p>A. Christ's blood cleanses us of our sins and His Holy Spirit renews us to live more and more with Christ.</p>	<p>Q What does it mean be cleansed by the blood of Christ?</p> <p>A To be cleansed by Christ's blood means that all of my sins have been forgiven, because Jesus paid for them with His blood.</p> <p>Q What does it mean to be cleansed by the Spirit of Christ?</p> <p>A. To be cleansed by the Spirit of Christ means that through the Holy Spirit we are sanctified to be members of Christ.</p>
<p>Q. How did Christ institute the Baptism?</p> <p>A. In Matthew 28:19 He said: "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you"</p>	<p>Q Where in the Bible do we read how Christ instituted the Baptism?</p> <p>A In Matthew 28:19 He said: "Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you"</p>

LORD'S DAY 27 – God strengthens true faith visibly: The Holy Baptism (2)

72	<p><u>Question:</u> Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No¹, only the blood of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 3:11; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Peter 3:21.2 1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 John 1:7.
73	<p><u>Question:</u> Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> God speaks in this way for a good reason. He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ remove our sins just as water takes away dirt from the body¹. But, even more important, He wants to assure us by this divine pledge and sign that we are as truly cleansed from our sins spiritually as we are bodily washed with water².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 1 Corinthians 6:11; Revelation 1:5; Revelation 7:14.2 Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27.
74	<p><u>Question:</u> Should infants, too, be baptized?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Yes. Infants as well as adults belong to God's covenant and congregation¹. Through Christ's blood the redemption from sin and the Holy Spirit, who works faith, are promised to them no less than to adults². Therefore, by baptism, as sign of the covenant, they must be grafted into the Christian church and distinguished from the children of unbelievers³. This was done in the old covenant by circumcision⁴, in place of which baptism was instituted in the new covenant⁵.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 17:7.2 Psalms 22:10; Isaiah 44:1-3; Matthew 19:14; Luke 1:15; Acts 2:39.3 Acts 10:47.4 Genesis 17:14.5 Colossians 2:11-13.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Does the baptism water cleanse us from sin?</p> <p>A. No. Not the baptism water, only the blood of Christ and His Holy Spirit can cleanse away our sins.</p>	<p>Q Does the baptism water cleanse us from sin?</p> <p>A The baptism water does not wash away our sins, only the blood of Christ and His Holy Spirit can cleanse away our sins.</p>
<p>Q. Why must infants also be baptised?</p> <p>A. Infants must be baptised as they also belong to the Lord and His Church.</p>	<p>Q Why must infants also be baptised?</p> <p>A Infants must be baptised as they, together with the adults, belong to the covenant of God and the church of Christ.</p>

LORD'S DAY 28 – God strengthens true faith visibly: The Lord's Supper (1)

75

Question: How does the Lord's Supper signify and seal to you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

Answer: In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup in remembrance of Him. With this command He gave these promises¹: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup given to me, so surely was His body offered for me and His blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the minister and taste with my mouth the bread and the cup of the Lord as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely does He Himself nourish and refresh my soul to everlasting life with His crucified body and shed blood.

1 Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; 1 Corinthians 12:13.

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Question: What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink His shed blood?

Answer: First, to accept with a believing heart all the suffering and the death of Christ, and so receive forgiveness of sins and life eternal¹. Second, to be united more and more to His sacred body through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us². Therefore, although Christ is in heaven³ and we are on earth, yet we are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bones⁴, and we forever live and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul⁵.

1 John 6:35; John 6:40; John 6:47-54.

2 John 6:55-56.

3 Acts 1:9-11; Acts 3:21; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Colossians 3:1.

4 1 Corinthians 6:15; Ephesians 3:16; Ephesians 5:29-30; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13.

5 John 6:57; John 15:1-6; Ephesians 4:15-16.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. How does the Lord's Supper teach us that Christ died for us?</p> <p>A. Christ said we should remember his death when we eat the bread and drink the wine.</p> <p>Q. What meaning does the bread and the wine hold in the Lord's Supper?</p> <p>A. The bread represents Christ's body that was broken and the represents His blood that was shed.</p> <p>Q. What assurance does the bread and wine give us?</p> <p>A. The bread and wine assures us that the body of Christ was broken and His blood was shed for us.</p>	<p>Q. What does the bread and wine at the Lord's Supper signify?</p> <p>A. The bread represents Christ's body that was broken and the wine represents His blood that was shed for our sins on the cross.</p> <p>Q. What assurance does the Lord's Supper give us?</p> <p>A. Just as the bread and wine nourishes and revives my body, my soul will be nourished and revived by Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit with His body and blood.</p>
	<p>Q. What meaning does it hold for you to eat the broken body and drink the spilt blood of Christ?</p> <p>A. During the Lord's Supper, the Lord strengthens us by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Making us righteous through His blood; and ii Sanctifying us through His Spirit.

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Question: Where has Christ promised that He will nourish and refresh believers with His body and blood as surely as they eat of this broken bread and drink of this cup?

Answer: In the institution of the Lord's supper¹: The Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes². This promise is repeated by Paul where he says: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread³.

1 Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20.

2 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

3 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17.

<p>Q. When did Christ promise salvation through His body and blood?</p> <p>A. With the institution of the Lord's Supper, Christ promised salvation through His body and blood.</p>	<p>Q Where did Christ promise all of these things to us?</p> <p>A With the institution of the Lord's Supper, Christ promised salvation through His body and blood. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26: "For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me'. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, 'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me. This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes'."</p>
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LORD'S DAY 29 – God strengthens true faith visibly: The Lord's Supper (2)

78	<p><u>Question:</u> Are then the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No¹. Just as the water of baptism is not changed into the blood of Christ and is not the washing away of sins itself but is simply God's sign and pledge², so also the bread in the Lord's supper does not become the body of Christ itself, although it is called Christ's body³ in keeping with the nature and usage of sacraments⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 26:29.2 Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5.3 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:26.4 Genesis 17:10-11; Exodus 12:11; Exodus 12:13; Exodus 13:9; 1 Corinthians 10:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21.
79	<p><u>Question:</u> Why then does Christ call the bread His body and the cup His blood, or the new covenant in His blood, and why does Paul speak of a participation in the body and blood of Christ?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Christ speaks in this way for a good reason: He wants to teach us by His supper that as bread and wine sustain us in this temporal life, so His crucified body and shed blood are true food and drink for our souls to eternal life¹. But, even more important, He wants to assure us by this visible sign and pledge, first, that through the working of the Holy Spirit we share in His true body and blood as surely as we receive with our mouth these holy signs in remembrance of Him, and, second, that all His suffering and obedience are as certainly ours as if we personally had suffered and paid for our sins².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 John 6:51; John 6:53-55.2 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Does the bread and wine turn into the true body and blood of Christ?</p> <p>A. No, the wine and bread are only signs and pledges of the body and blood of Christ.</p>	<p>Q. Does the bread and wine turn into the true body and blood of Christ?</p> <p>A. The wine and bread does not change into the true body and blood of Christ. They are only signs and pledges that our souls, in our faith in Him, are fed and revived by His crucified body and blood.</p>
<p>Q. Why then does Christ call the bread His body and the wine His blood?</p> <p>A. Christ means that the bread and wine represents His body and His blood.</p>	<p>Q. Why then does Christ call the bread His body and the wine His blood?</p> <p>A. Christ wants to teach us that, just as bread and wine nourishes and revives our bodies, in the same way His body and blood, through the working of the Holy Spirit, nourishes and revives our souls.</p>

LORD'S DAY 30 – God strengthens true faith visibly: The Lord's Supper (3)

80

Question: What difference is there between the Lord's supper and the papal mass?

Answer: The Lord's supper testifies to us, first, that we have complete forgiveness of all our sins through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ, which He Himself accomplished on the cross once for all;¹ and, second, that through the Holy Spirit we are grafted into Christ², who with His true body is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father³, and this is where He wants to be worshipped⁴. But the mass teaches, first, that the living and the dead do not have forgiveness of sins through the suffering of Christ unless He is still offered for them daily by the priests; and, second, that Christ is bodily present in the form of bread and wine, and there is to be worshipped. Therefore the mass is basically nothing but a denial of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ, and an accursed idolatry⁵.

- 1 Matthew 26:28; Luke 22:19-20; John 19:30; Hebrews 7:26-27; Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 9:24-28; Hebrews 10:10; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 10:14.
- 2 1 Corinthians 6:17; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.
- 3 John 20:17; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 8:1
- 4 Acts 7:55; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:10.
- 5 Hebrews 9:26; Hebrews 10:12; Hebrews 10:14.

81

Question: Who are to come to the table of the Lord?

Answer: Those who are truly displeased with themselves because of their sins and yet trust that these are forgiven them and that their remaining weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ, and who also desire more and more to strengthen their faith and amend their life. But hypocrites and those who do not repent eat and drink judgment upon themselves¹.

- 1 1 Corinthians 10:19-22; 1 Corinthians 11:28.

Primary	Secondary
	<p>Q What does the Roman Mass teach?</p> <p>A The Mass teaches that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i The bread and wine change into the true body and blood of Christ. ii Christ must be worshipped in bread and wine. iii Man only receives forgiveness for his sins if Christ is offered for them daily by the priests. <p>Q What does the Lord's Supper teach us about this misconception of the Roman Mass?</p> <p>A The Lord's Supper teaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i We receive forgiveness for our sins through the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross. ii Christ is not present at the Lord's Supper in bodily form, but we are united with Him through His Holy Spirit. iii Christ must be worshipped where He is at the right hand of His Father in heaven.
<p>Q. For who was the Lord's Supper instituted?</p> <p>A. The Lord's Supper was instituted only for those who truly believe.</p>	<p>Q For who was the Lord's Supper instituted?</p> <p>A The Lord's Supper was instituted for people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i have sincere remorse for their sins, ii believe and trust that their sins have been forgiven for the sake of Christ, iii want to truly lead a better life of thanksgiving. <p>Q May hypocrites and the unrepented have a part in the Lord's Supper?</p> <p>A Hypocrites and the unrepented may not take part in the Lord's Supper, as they will eat and drink a judgment on themselves.</p>

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Question: Are those also to be admitted to the Lord's supper who by their confession and life show that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

Answer: No, for then the covenant of God would be profaned and His wrath kindled against the whole congregation¹.

- 1 Psalms 50:16; Isaiah 1:11; Isaiah 66:3; Jeremiah 7:21; 1 Corinthians 11:20; 1 Corinthians 11:34.

<p>Q. Are ungodly and unbelieving people allowed to partake in Lord's Supper?</p> <p>A. No, unbelieving and ungodly people are to be excluded from the Lord's Supper.</p> <p>Q. How are the unbelieving and ungodly people excluded?</p> <p>A. The church must exclude the unbelieving and ungodly people through the keys of the kingdom of heaven.</p>	<p>Q. What happens when people who behave like ungodly and unbelieving people are allowed to take part in the Lord's Supper?</p> <p>A. When unbelieving and ungodly people are allowed to take part in the Lord's Supper, the covenant of God is desecrated and His wrath is called down on the entire congregation.</p> <p>Q. How should the church act against members that behave, in teaching and in life, as unbelieving and ungodly people?</p> <p>A. The church is, according to the directions of Christ, duty bound to exclude the unbelieving and ungodly people through the keys of the kingdom of heaven, until they show amendment in their lives.</p>
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**LORD'S DAY 31- God strengthens true faith visibly:
Church Discipline**

83	<p><u>Question:</u> What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven? <u>Answer:</u> The preaching of the holy gospel and church discipline. By these two the kingdom of heaven is opened to believers and closed to unbelievers¹. 1 Matthew 16:18-19; Matthew 18:15-18.</p>
84	<p><u>Question:</u> How is the kingdom of heaven opened and closed by the preaching of the gospel? <u>Answer:</u> According to the command of Christ, the kingdom of heaven is opened when it is proclaimed and publicly testified to each and every believer that God has really forgiven all their sins for the sake of Christ's merits, as often as they by true faith accept the promise of the gospel. The kingdom of heaven is closed when it is proclaimed and testified to all unbelievers and hypocrites that the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them as long as they do not repent. According to this testimony of the gospel, God will judge both in this life and in the life to come¹. 1 Matthew 16:19; John 20:21-23.</p>
85	<p><u>Question:</u> How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by church discipline? <u>Answer:</u> According to the command of Christ, people who call themselves Christians but show themselves to be unchristian in doctrine or life are first repeatedly admonished in a brotherly manner. If they do not give up their errors or wickedness, they are reported to the church, that is, to the elders. If they do not heed also their admonitions, they are forbidden the use of the sacraments, and they are excluded by the elders from the Christian congregation, and by God Himself from the kingdom of Christ. They are again received as members of Christ and of the church when they promise and show real amendment¹. 1 Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; 2 John 10-11.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What are the key of the kingdom of heaven?</p> <p>A. They are the keys with which the kingdom of heaven is opened and closed.</p> <p>Q. How many keys are there?</p> <p>A. There are two keys to the kingdom of heaven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The preaching of the gospel; and ii. church discipline. 	<p>Q. What are the keys of the kingdom of heaven?</p> <p>A. They are the keys with which the kingdom of heaven is opened and closed. There are two keys to the kingdom of heaven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The preaching of the gospel; and ii. church discipline or exclusion from the congregation.
<p>Q. How is the kingdom of heaven opened through the preaching of the gospel?</p> <p>A. By preaching the gospel the kingdom of heaven is opened for those who truly believe.</p> <p>Q. How is the kingdom of heaven closed through the preaching of the gospel?</p> <p>A. By preaching the kingdom of gospel the kingdom of heaven is closed for those who do not repent and remain unbelieving.</p>	<p>Q. How is the kingdom of heaven opened through the preaching of the gospel?</p> <p>A. It is proclaimed to those who truly believe in the promise of the Gospel that their sins are forgiven for the sake of Christ; in contrast to this it is proclaimed to the unbelieving that the wrath of God will remain on them for as long as the refuse to repent.</p>
<p>Q. How is the kingdom of heaven closed by church discipline?</p> <p>A. The kingdom of heaven is closed by church discipline when members who knowingly keep on sinning are withheld from the Holy Sacraments.</p> <p>Q. What does it mean when someone is withheld from the Holy Sacraments?</p> <p>A. For someone who is withheld from the Holy Sacraments, the kingdom of heaven is closed by the Lord himself, unless that person repents.</p> <p>Q. How is the kingdom of heaven unlocked by church discipline?</p> <p>A. The kingdom of heaven is unlocked by church discipline when the member repents and is once again accepted as a member of Christ in the church.</p>	<p>Q. How is the kingdom of heaven opened and closed by church discipline?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The members who do not behave like Christians are admonished. ii. Members who do not heed the admonishment, and continue to sin are withheld from the Holy Sacraments. iii. When they repent they are once again accepted into the church of Christ.

LORD'S DAY 32 – Salvation translates into actions: The way you live

86	<p><u>Question:</u> Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace alone through Christ, without any merit of our own, why must we yet do good works?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because Christ, having redeemed us by His blood, also renews us by His Holy Spirit to be His image¹, so that with our whole life we may show ourselves thankful to God for His benefits, and He may be praised by us². Further, that we ourselves may be assured of our faith by its fruits³, and that by our godly walk of life we may win our neighbours for Christ⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Romans 6:13; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Peter 2:9.2 Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12.3 Matthew 7:17; Galatians 5:6; Galatians 5:22; 2 Peter 1:10.4 Romans 14:19; 1 Peter 3:1-2.
87	<p><u>Question:</u> Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent walk of life?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> By no means. Scripture says that no unchaste person, idolater, adulterer, thief, greedy person, drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like shall inherit the kingdom of God¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:5-6; 1 John 3:14

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. If we are delivered from our sins by grace alone through Christ, must we still do good works?</p> <p>A. With our good works we must show our thankfulness toward God for all His grace.</p> <p>Q. How do we manage to be thankful?</p> <p>A. The Holy Spirit turns us into new people, enabling us to be thankful.</p> <p>Q. What benefit does it have to do good works?</p> <p>A. The good works that we do give us confirmation of the fact that we are believers.</p> <p>Q. What benefit do our good works have for other people?</p> <p>A. Other people can be drawn to Christ through our good works.</p>	<p>Q. If we are delivered from our sins by grace through Christ alone, why must we still do good works?</p> <p>A. We must do good works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i because, through His Spirit He renews us so that we can show our gratitude to God. ii because the authenticity of our faith is confirmed through the good deeds that we do. iii because through our Christian way of life we draw other people towards Christ.
<p>Q. Can those, who do not turn from their ungrateful and shameful life, be saved?</p> <p>A. No, the ungodly people who do not repent will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.</p>	<p>Q. Can those who do not turn from their ungrateful and shameful lives be saved?</p> <p>A. People who do not repent but carry on with their ungodly way of life, will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. The Bible says that no one who is immoral, or who worship idols, or are adulterers, or who steal, or are greedy or drunkards, or who slander others, will possess the kingdom of God.</p>

LORD'S DAY 33- Salvation translates into actions: Repentance

88	<p><u>Question:</u> What is the true repentance or conversion of man? <u>Answer:</u> It is the dying of the old nature and the coming to life of the new¹. 1 Romans 6:1-2; Romans 6:4-6; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:5-6; Colossians 3:8-10.</p>
89	<p><u>Question:</u> What is the dying of the old nature? <u>Answer:</u> It is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have offended God by our sin, and more and more to hate it and flee from it¹. 1 Hosea 6:1 ; Joel 2:13; Romans 8:13.</p>
90	<p><u>Question:</u> What is the coming to life of the new nature? <u>Answer:</u> It is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ¹, and a love and delight to live according to the will of God in all good works². 1 Isaiah 57:15; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 14:17. 2 Romans 6:10-11; Galatians 2:20.</p>
91	<p><u>Question:</u> But what are good works? <u>Answer:</u> Only those which are done out of true faith¹, in accordance with the law of God², and to His glory³, and not those based on our own opinion or on precepts of men⁴. 1 Romans 14:23. 2 Leviticus 18:4; 1 Samuel 15:22; Ephesians 2:10. 3 1 Corinthians 10:31. 4 Isaiah 29:13-14; Ezekiel 20:18-19; Matthew 15:7-9.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. How many components make up the true repentance of man?</p> <p>A. True repentance has two components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the dying of the old disobedient nature, and ii. the rebirth of the new obedient nature of man. 	<p>Q. How many components make up the true repentance of man?</p> <p>A. True repentance has two components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the dying of the old disobedient nature, and ii. the rebirth of the new obedient nature of man.
<p>Q. What is the dying of the old disobedient nature of man?</p> <p>A. The dying of the old disobedient nature of man is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow over our sins.</p>	<p>Q. What is the dying of the old disobedient nature of man?</p> <p>A. The dying of the old disobedient nature of man is to grieve with heartfelt sorrow that we have hurt God with our sins to the point where we hate sin even more and flee away from it.</p>
<p>Q. What is the rebirth of the new obedient nature of man?</p> <p>A. The rebirth of the new obedient nature of man is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ, and a heartfelt desire to do good works.</p>	<p>Q. What is the rebirth of the new obedient nature of man?</p> <p>A. The rebirth of the new obedient nature of man is a heartfelt joy in God through Christ, and a heartfelt desire to do good works and life according to the will of God.</p>
<p>Q. What are good works?</p> <p>A. Good works are what we do</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. from a true faith, ii. done according to the law of God, iii. done to His glory alone. 	<p>Q. What are good works?</p> <p>A. Good works are what we do that are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. from a true faith, ii. done according to the law of God, iii. done to His glory alone.

Question: What is the law of the LORD?

Answer: God spoke all these words, saying:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a 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; you shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.
3. You shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His Name in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your manservant, or your maidservant, or your cattle, or the sojourner who is within your gates; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.
5. Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
6. You shall not kill.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbour's.

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LORD'S DAY 34 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: One true God

<p>93</p>	<p><u>Question:</u> How are these commandments divided? <u>Answer:</u> Into two parts. The first teaches us how to live in relation to God; the second, what duties we owe our neighbour¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Exodus 31:18; Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 4:13; Deuteronomy 10:3-4. 2 Matthew 22:37-40.
<p>94</p>	<p><u>Question:</u> What does the LORD require in the first commandment? <u>Answer:</u> That for the sake of my very salvation I avoid and flee all idolatry¹, witchcraft, superstition², and prayer to saints or to other creatures³. Further, that I rightly come to know the only true God⁴, trust in Him alone⁵, submit to Him with all humility⁶ and patience⁷, expect all good from Him only⁸, and love⁹, fear,¹⁰ and honour Him¹¹ with all my heart. In short, that I forsake all creatures rather than do the least thing against His will¹².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 1 Corinthians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 10:7; 1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 John 5:21. 2 Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:9-12. 3 Matthew 4:10; Revelation 19:10; Revelation 22:8-9. 4 John 17:3. 5 Jeremiah 17:5; Jeremiah 17:7. 6 1 Peter 5:5. 7 Romans 5:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:14; Colossians 1:11; Hebrews 10:36. 8 Psalms 104:27-28; Isaiah 45:7; James 1:17. 9 Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37. 10 Deuteronomy 6:2; Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 9:10; Matthew 10:28. 11 Deuteronomy 10:20; Matthew 4:10. 12 Matthew 5:29-30; Matthew 10:37-39; Acts 5:29.
<p>95</p>	<p><u>Question:</u> What is idolatry? <u>Answer:</u> Idolatry is having or inventing something in which to put our trust instead of, or in addition to, the only true God who has revealed Himself in His Word¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 1 Chronicles 16:26; Isaiah 44:15-17; John 5:22; Galatians 4:8; Ephesians 2:12; Ephesians 5:5; Philippians 3:19; 1 John 2:23; 2 John: 9.

<p>Q. How are these commandments divided?</p> <p>A. The ten commandments are divided in two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the first teaches how to live in relation to God; ii. the second what duties we owe our neighbours. 	<p>Q. How are these commandments divided?</p> <p>A. The ten commandments are divided into two parts, the first teaches how to live in relation to God and the second what duties we owe our neighbours.</p>
<p>Q. What does God forbid in the first commandment?</p> <p>A. I must avoid and flee from all idolatry, witchcraft, superstition.</p> <p>Q. What does God require from us in the first commandment?</p> <p>A. God commands me to come to know Him as the only true God, to trust in Him alone, to love Him and to honour and fear Him.</p>	<p>Q. What does God require from us in the first commandment?</p> <p>A. I must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. avoid and flee from all idolatry, witchcraft, superstition; ii. get to know the true God correctly; iii. trust in Him alone.
<p>Q. What is idolatry?</p> <p>A. Idolatry is having something other than the one true God in which we place our trust.</p>	<p>Q. What is idolatry?</p> <p>A. Idolatry is having something other than the one true God in which we place our trust.</p>

LORD'S DAY 35 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Serve the true God in the right way

96	<p><u>Question:</u> What does God require in the second commandment? <u>Answer:</u> We are not to make an image of God in any way¹, nor to worship Him in any other manner than He has commanded in His Word².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Deuteronomy 4:15-16; Isaiah 40:18-19; Isaiah 40:25; Acts 17:29; Romans 1:22-25.2 Deuteronomy 12:29-32; 1 Samuel 15:23; Matthew 15:9.
97	<p><u>Question:</u> May we then not make any image at all? <u>Answer:</u> God cannot and may not be visibly portrayed in any way¹. Creatures may be portrayed, but God forbids us to make or have any images of them in order to worship them or to serve God through them².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Isaiah 40:25.2 Exodus 23:24; Exodus 34:13-17; Numbers 33:52; Deuteronomy 12:3-4.
98	<p><u>Question:</u> But may images not be tolerated in the churches as "books for the laity"? <u>Answer:</u> No, for we should not be wiser than God. He wants His people to be taught not by means of dumb images¹ but by the living preaching of His Word².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Jeremiah 10:8; Habakkuk 2:18-19.2 Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does God demand in the second commandment?</p> <p>A. God demands from me to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. never create an image of Him, ii. never worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word. 	<p>Q. What does God demand in the second commandment?</p> <p>A. God demands from me to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. never create an image of Him, ii. never worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word.
<p>Q. Are we then prohibited to make any image at all?</p> <p>A. We are allowed to make images of creation, but not for the purpose of worship or to serve God through them.</p>	<p>Q. Are we then prohibited to make any image at all?</p> <p>A. We are allowed to make images of creation, but not for the purpose of worship or to serve God through them.</p>

LORD'S DAY 36 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect the True God

99	<p><u>Question:</u> What is required in the third commandment?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> We are not to blaspheme or to abuse the Name of God by cursing¹, perjury², or unnecessary oaths³, nor to share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders⁴. In short, we must use the holy Name of God only with fear and reverence⁵, so that we may rightly confess Him⁶, call upon Him⁷, and praise Him in all our words and works⁸.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Leviticus 24:15-16.2 Leviticus 19:12.3 Matthew 5:37; James 5:12.4 Leviticus 5:1; Proverbs 29:24.5 Isaiah 45:23; Jeremiah 4:2.6 Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:9-10.7 Psalms 50:15; 1 Timothy 2:8.8 Romans 2:24; Colossians 3:17; 1 Timothy 6:1.
100	<p><u>Question:</u> Is the blaspheming of God's Name by swearing and cursing such a grievous sin that God is angry also with those who do not prevent and forbid it as much as they can?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Certainly¹, for no sin is greater or provokes God's wrath more than the blaspheming of His Name. That is why He commanded it to be punished with death².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Leviticus 5:1; Proverbs 29:24.2 Leviticus 24:16.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does the third commandment require from us?</p> <p>A. The third commandment requires that we do not swear or use the Lord's Name to curse.</p> <p>Q. Why should we not curse or swear falsely or meaninglessly?</p> <p>A. By cursing or swearing falsely or meaninglessly we abuse the Name of the Lord.</p> <p>Q. How should we use the holy Name of the Lord.</p> <p>A. We should always use His Name with fear and respect.</p>	<p>Q. What does the third commandment require from us?</p> <p>A. The third commandment requires that we do not swear or use the Lord's Name to curse because by cursing or swearing falsely or meaninglessly we abuse the Name of the Lord. We should always use His Name with fear and respect.</p>
<p>Q. Is it a great sin to abuse the Name of God?</p> <p>A. There is no greater sin than abusing the Name of God, that is why He commanded that it should be punished with death.</p>	<p>Q. Is it a great sin to abuse the Name of God?</p> <p>A. There is no greater sin than abusing the Name of God, that is why He commanded that it should be punished with death.</p>

LORD'S DAY 37 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect in your speech

101	<p><u>Question:</u> But may we swear an oath by the Name of God in a godly manner?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Yes, when the government demands it of its subjects, or when necessity requires it, in order to maintain and promote fidelity and truth, to God's glory and for our neighbour's good. Such oath-taking is based on God's Word¹ and was therefore rightly used by saints in the Old and the New Testament².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Deuteronomy 6:13; Deuteronomy 10:20; Hebrews 6:16.2 Genesis 21:24; Genesis 31:53; Joshua 9:15; 1 Samuel 24:22; 2 Samuel 3:35; 1 Kings 1:29-30; Romans 1:9; Romans 9:1; 2 Corinthians 1:23.
102	<p><u>Question:</u> May we also swear by saints or other creatures?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No. A lawful oath is a calling upon God, who alone knows the heart, to bear witness to the truth, and to punish me if I swear falsely¹. No creature is worthy of such honour².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Romans 9:1; 2 Corinthians 1:23.2 Matthew 5:34-36; James 5:12.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. May we swear an oath by using the Name of God in a religious manner?</p> <p>A. We may swear an oath when government demands it or when necessity requires it.</p> <p>Q. What is the purpose of an oath?</p> <p>A. With an oath a person promises to be trustworthy and that he will tell the truth.</p> <p>Q. What should the nature of an oath be?</p> <p>A. An oath should be to God's glory and of benefit for our neighbour.</p>	<p>Q. May we swear an oath by using the Name of God in a religious manner?</p> <p>A. We may swear an oath when government demands it or when necessity requires it and truth and faithfulness is confirmed by it.</p> <p>Q. What should the nature of an oath be?</p> <p>A. An oath should be to God's glory and of benefit for our neighbour.</p>
<p>Q. May we also swear by saints or other creatures?</p> <p>A. No, we may only swear an oath in the Name of God.</p>	<p>Q. May we also swear by saints or other creatures?</p> <p>A. We may only swear an oath in the Name of God.</p>

LORD'S DAY 38 – Salvation translates into actions: The law: Your service to the Lord

103

Question: What does God require in the fourth commandment?

Answer: First, that the ministry of the gospel and the schools be maintained¹ and that, especially on the day of rest, I diligently attend the church of God² to hear God's Word³, to use the sacraments⁴, to call publicly upon the LORD⁵, and to give Christian offerings for the poor⁶. Second, that all the days of my life I rest from my evil works, let the LORD work in me through His Holy Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal sabbath⁷.

1 1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:2; 2 Timothy 3:14-15; Titus 1:5.

2 Leviticus 23:2-3; Psalms 40:9-10; Psalms 68:26; Psalms 122:1; Acts 2:42.

3 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Corinthians 14:3; 1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 Timothy 4:13; Revelation 1:3.

4 Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:33.

5 1 Corinthians 14:16; 1 Timothy 2:1-4.

6 Deuteronomy 15:11; 1 Corinthians 16:2.

7 Isaiah 66:23; Hebrews 4:9-10.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does God command in the fourth commandment?</p> <p>A. He commands me to ensure that the gospel is preached and that I should attend the service regularly on Sundays.</p> <p>Q. Why must we go to church?</p> <p>A. We must go to church to listen to the word of God, use the sacraments and to worship the Lord together with fellow Christians.</p> <p>Q. What more should we do at the service?</p> <p>A. We should bring offerings for the poor.</p> <p>Q. What else does the fourth commandment require from us?</p> <p>A. I must resist sin, every day of my life, and allow the Holy Spirit to work in me.</p>	<p>Q. What does God command in the fourth commandment?</p> <p>A. He commands me to ensure that the Gospel is preached. I should, especially on the day of rest, join with the congregation of God to hear the word of God, take part in the sacraments and call on the Lord in public and bestow alms on the poor.</p> <p>Q. What does the day of rest mean to you?</p> <p>A. I must resist sin every day of my life, and allow the Holy Spirit to work in me and in doing this start the eternal Sabbath in the present life.</p>

LORD'S DAY 39 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect for authority

104	<p><u>Question:</u> What does God require in the fifth commandment?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> That I show all honour, love, and faithfulness to my father and mother and to all those in authority over me, submit myself with due obedience to their good instruction and discipline¹, and also have patience with their weaknesses and shortcomings², since it is God's will to govern us by their hand³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Exodus 21:17; Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 4:1; Proverbs 15:20; Proverbs 20:20; Romans 13:1; Ephesians 5:22; Ephesians 6:1-2; Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:18; Colossians 3:20; Colossians 3:22.2 Proverbs 23:22; 1 Peter 2:18.3 Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:2-3; Ephesians 6:4; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:20.
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Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does God demand in the fifth commandment?</p> <p>A. He demands from us to honour, respect, and be faithful to our parents and to all those placed in authority over me.</p> <p>Q. What else does the fifth command demand from us?</p> <p>A. I must submit myself in obedience to my parents and all those placed in authority over me.</p> <p>Q. Why must I be patient with their weaknesses and shortcomings?</p> <p>A. I must be patient with them because God governs us through them.</p>	<p>Q. What does God demand in the fifth commandment?</p> <p>A. He demands from us to honour, love, respect and be faithful to our parents and to all those placed in authority over me. I must submit myself in obedience to the teachings and discipline of my parents and all those placed in authority over me. I must be patient with their weaknesses and shortcomings because it pleases God to govern us through them.</p>

LORD'S DAY 40 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect for life

105	<p><u>Question:</u> What does God require in the sixth commandment?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> I am not to dishonour, hate, injure, or kill my neighbour by thoughts, words, or gestures, and much less by deeds, whether personally or through another;¹ rather, I am to put away all desire of revenge². Moreover, I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself³. Therefore, also, the government bears the sword to prevent murder⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:21-22; Matthew 26:52.2 Matthew 5:25; Matthew 18:35; Romans 12:19; Ephesians 4:26.3 Matthew 4:7; Romans 13:14; Colossians 2:23.4 Genesis 9:6; Exodus 21:14; Romans 13:4.
106	<p><u>Question:</u> But does this commandment speak only of killing?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> By forbidding murder God teaches us that He hates the root of murder¹, such as envy, hatred², anger³, and desire of revenge, and that He regards all these as murder⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Psalms 37:8; Proverbs 14:30; Romans 1:29.2 1 John 2:11.3 Galatians 5:19-21; James 1:20.4 1 John 3:15.
107	<p><u>Question:</u> Is it enough, then, that we do not kill our neighbour in any such way?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No. When God condemns envy, hatred, and anger, He commands us to love our neighbour as ourselves¹, to show patience, peace, gentleness, mercy, and friendliness toward him², to protect him from harm as much as we can³, and to do good even to our enemies⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 7:12; Matthew 22:39; Romans 12:10.2 Matthew 5:5; Matthew 5:7; Luke 6:36; Romans 12:18; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 3:8.3 Exodus 23:5.4 Matthew 5:44-45; Romans 12:20.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does God require in the sixth commandment?</p> <p>A. God requires from me not to cause harm to my neighbour through any thought, word or action.</p> <p>Q. What does the sixth commandment have to say about my life?</p> <p>A. I may not put my own life in danger.</p> <p>Q. What should be done with murderers?</p> <p>A. The Government should punish the murderers with death.</p>	<p>Q. What does God require in the sixth commandment?</p> <p>A</p> <p>i God requires from me not to cause harm to my neighbour through any thought, word or action;</p> <p>ii and I may not deliberately put my own life in danger.</p>
	<p>Q. Does the sixth commandment forbid murder only?</p> <p>A. The sixth commandment also forbids those things that precede murder, such as hate, anger and revenge.</p>
<p>Q. Does the sixth commandment forbid murder only?</p> <p>A. No, the sixth commandment also forbids those things that precede murder, such as hate, anger and revenge.</p> <p>Q. What does God command in the sixth commandment?</p> <p>A. He commands me to love my neighbour as I love myself and also to do good towards my enemy.</p>	<p>Q. What does God command in the sixth commandment?</p> <p>A. He commands me to love my neighbour as I love myself, and also to do good towards my enemy.</p> <p>Q. What does the sixth commandment demand from the government?</p> <p>A. The government has to protect the lives of its subjects and punish murderers with death.</p>

LORD'S DAY 41 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect for your body

108	<p><u>Question:</u> What does the seventh commandment teach us?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> That all unchastity is cursed by God¹. We must therefore detest it from the heart² and live chaste and disciplined lives³, both within and outside of holy marriage⁴.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Leviticus 18:28.2 Malachi 2:16.3 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.4 1 Corinthians 7:7; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; Hebrews 13:4; Judas: 23.
109	<p><u>Question:</u> Does God in this commandment forbid nothing more than adultery and similar shameful sins?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Since we, body and soul, are temples of the Holy Spirit, it is God's will that we keep ourselves pure and holy. Therefore He forbids all unchaste acts, gestures, words¹, thoughts, desires², and whatever may entice us to unchastity³.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 1 Corinthians 6:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-4.2 Deuteronomy 22:20-29; Matthew 5:27-28.3 1 Corinthians 15:33; Ephesians 5:18.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does the seventh commandment teach us?</p> <p>A. God forbids all promiscuous behaviour.</p>	<p>Q What does the seventh commandment teach us?</p> <p>A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i God curses all promiscuous deeds, gestures, words, thoughts, cravings and behaviour that could tempt us towards promiscuity. ii Both the married and unmarried are expected to live pure and chaste lives.
<p>Q. Does God forbid only adultery and similar shameful sins?</p> <p>A. In the seventh commandment God forbids all unchaste behaviour, gestures, words, thoughts and desires.</p>	<p>Q Why must we lead a pure and chaste life?</p> <p>A Our body and soul is the temple of the Holy Spirit and God wants us to protect their sanctity.</p>

LORD'S DAY 42 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect for property

110	<p><u>Question:</u> What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> God forbids not only outright theft¹ and robbery² but also such wicked schemes³ and devices as false weights and measures, deceptive merchandising, counterfeit money, and usury⁴; we must not defraud our neighbour in any way, whether by force or by show of right⁵. In addition God forbids all greed⁶ and all abuse or squandering of His gifts⁷.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 1 Corinthians 6:10.2 Leviticus 19:13; 1 Corinthians 5:10.3 Luke 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:6.4 Deuteronomy 25:13-15; Proverbs 11:1; Proverbs 16:11; Ezekiel 45:9-10.5 Psalms 15:5; Luke 6:35.6 1 Corinthians 6:10.7 Proverbs 21:20; Proverbs 23:20-21.
111	<p><u>Question:</u> What does God require of you in this commandment?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> I must promote my neighbour's good wherever I can and may, deal with him as I would like others to deal with me¹, and work faithfully so that I may be able to give to those in need².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 7:12.2 Ephesians 4:28.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does God forbid in the eight commandment?</p> <p>A. God forbids theft, robbery and sinful plans to obtain the possessions of our neighbour.</p> <p>Q. What else does God forbid in the eighth commandment?</p> <p>A. God also forbids greed and the misuse and squandering of His gifts.</p>	<p>Q. What does God forbid in the eight commandment?</p> <p>A. God not only forbids theft and robbery, which the government punishes, but also all sinful plans to obtain the possessions of our neighbour. God also forbids greed and the misuse and squandering of His gifts.</p>
<p>Q. What does God command in the eight commandment?</p> <p>A. God commands me to promote my neighbours' good wherever I can and to do my work diligently so I may be able to help the poor.</p>	<p>Q. What does God command in the eight commandment?</p> <p>A. God commands me to promote my neighbours' good wherever I can and to do my work diligently so I may be able to help the poor.</p>

LORD'S DAY 43 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect for my neighbour

112

Question: What is required in the ninth commandment?

Answer: I must not give false testimony against anyone¹, twist no one's words², not gossip or slander³, nor condemn or join in condemning anyone rashly and unheard⁴. Rather, I must avoid all lying and deceit as the devil's own works⁵, under penalty of God's heavy wrath⁶. In court and everywhere else, I must love the truth, speak and confess it honestly⁷, and do what I can to defend and promote my neighbour's honour and reputation⁸.

1 Proverbs 19:5; Proverbs 19:9; Proverbs 21:28.

2 Psalms 15:3.

3 Psalms 50:19-20; Romans 1:30.

4 Matthew 7:1-2; Luke 6:37.

5 John 8:44.

6 Proverbs 12:22; Proverbs 13:5.

7 1 Corinthians 13:6; Ephesians 4:25.

8 1 Peter 4:8.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does God demand in the ninth commandment?</p> <p>A. God demands from me never to speak falsely of anyone.</p> <p>Q. What else does the ninth commandment demand from you?</p> <p>A. God demands that I avoid lying and dishonesty, but that I should always love the truth.</p>	<p>Q. What does God demand from us in the ninth commandment?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i God demands from me never to speak falsely of anyone, never to twist someone's words, never to speak ill or judge someone without a hearing. ii I should avoid lies and deceit, as the work of the devil. iii I should always speak the truth; and iv I should protect and promote the honour and good name of my neighbour.

LORD'S DAY 44 – Salvation translates into actions: The Law: Respect for God and Man

113	<p><u>Question:</u> What does the tenth commandment require of us?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any of God's commandments should ever arise in our heart. Rather, we should always hate all sin with all our heart, and delight in all righteousness¹.</p> <p>1 Romans 7:7</p>
114	<p><u>Question:</u> But can those converted to God keep these commandments perfectly?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> No. In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience¹. Nevertheless, with earnest purpose they do begin to live not only according to some but to all the commandments of God².</p> <p>1 Prediker 7:20; Romans 7:14-15; 1 Corinthians 13:9; 1 John 1:8; 1 John 1:10. 2 Psalms 1:2; Romans 7:22; 1 John 2:3.</p>
115	<p><u>Question:</u> If in this life no one can keep the ten commandments perfectly, why does God have them preached so strictly?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> First, that throughout our life we may more and more become aware of our sinful nature¹, and therefore seek more eagerly the forgiveness of sins and righteousness in Christ². Second, that we may be zealous for good deeds and constantly pray to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit, that He may more and more renew us after God's image, until after this life we reach the goal of perfection³.</p> <p>1 Psalms 32:5; Romans 3:20; 1 John 1:9. 2 Matthew 5:6; Romans 7:24-25. 3 1 Corinthians 9:24; Philipians 3:12-14.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What does the tenth commandment require from us?</p> <p>A. God demands from us never to have even the smallest desire to go against His commandments.</p> <p>Q. What then should we desire most?</p> <p>A. We should desire and delight in what is right and to always hate all sin.</p>	<p>Q. What does the tenth commandment require from us?</p> <p>A. God demands from us never to have even the smallest desire to go against His commandments. We should desire and delight in what is right and to always hate all sin.</p>
<p>Q. Are those who converted to God able to keep these commandments completely?</p> <p>A. No, even the holiest of people are only at the beginning of this obedience.</p>	<p>Q. Are those who converted to God able to keep these commandments completely?</p> <p>A. No; even the holiest of people are only at the beginning of this obedience; but they start, with a strong conviction, to live according to all of God's commandments.</p>
<p>Q. Why, then, are the ten commandments preached so strictly?</p> <p>A. The ten commandments are preached so strictly for us to become more and more aware of our sinful nature.</p> <p>Q. Is there another reason why God has the ten commandments preached so strictly?</p> <p>A. The Lord wants us to constantly pray to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Q. Why, then, are the ten commandments preached so strictly if no one in this life can uphold them?</p> <p>A. The ten commandments are preached so strictly for us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i become more and more aware of our sinful nature and for us to seek forgiveness for our sins; ii and to constantly pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit in order for us to be renewed, to resemble God's image more and more.

**LORD'S DAY 45 – Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: Worship the true God**

116	<p><u>Question:</u> Why is prayer necessary for Christians?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness which God requires of us¹. Moreover, God will give His grace and the Holy Spirit only to those who constantly and with heartfelt longing ask Him for these gifts and thank Him for them².</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Psalms 50:14-15.2 Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-10; Luke 11:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.
117	<p><u>Question:</u> What belongs to a prayer which pleases God and is heard by Him?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> First, we must from the heart call upon¹ the one true God only², who has revealed Himself in His Word, for all that He has commanded us to pray³. Second, we must thoroughly know our need and misery⁴, so that we may humble ourselves before God⁵. Third, we must rest on this firm foundation⁶ that, although we do not deserve it, God will certainly hear our prayer for the sake of Christ our Lord⁷, as He has promised us in His Word⁸.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Psalms 145:18; John 4:24.2 John 4:22-24; Revelation 19:10.3 Romans 8:26; James 1:5; 1 John 5:14.4 2 Chronicles 20:12; Psalms 143:2.5 Psalms 2:11; Psalms 34:18; Psalms 62:8; Isaiah 66:2.6 Romans 8:15-17; Romans 10:14; James 1:6.7 Daniel 9:17-19; John 14:13-14; John 15:16; John 16:23.8 Psalms 27:8; Psalms 143:1; Matthew 7:8.
118	<p><u>Question:</u> What has God commanded us to ask of Him?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> All the things we need for body and soul, as included in the prayer which Christ our Lord Himself taught us¹.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1 Matthew 6:33; James 1:17.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Why is it necessary for Christians to pray?</p> <p>A. Prayer is the most important part of the gratitude that God requires from us.</p> <p>Q. Name one more reason why Christians have to pray.</p> <p>A. A Christian has to pray, because God only gives His grace and Holy Spirit to those who constantly pray for it in gratitude.</p>	<p>Q Why is it necessary for Christians to pray?</p> <p>A</p> <p>i Prayer is the most important part of the gratitude that God requires from us.</p> <p>ii God only gives His grace and Holy Spirit to those who constantly thank Him and prays for it in gratitude.</p>
<p>Q. To whom should we pray?</p> <p>A. We should only pray to the one true God, as He reveals Himself in His Word.</p> <p>Q. How do we know that God will hear our prayers?</p> <p>A. God promised, in His Word, that He would hear our prayers for the sake of Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Q What should the content of a prayer answered by God be?</p> <p>A</p> <p>i We should only pray to the one true God, as He reveals Himself in His Word.</p> <p>ii We should completely know and understand our misery and need in order to humble us before Him.</p> <p>iii We should trust that, for the sake of Christ, He will hear our prayers even if we are not worthy thereof.</p>
<p>Q. What should we pray for?</p> <p>A. We should pray for everything that we need for body and soul, as Christ taught us.</p>	<p>Q What should we pray from God?</p> <p>A We should pray for everything that we need for body and soul, as Christ taught us in the Lord's prayer.</p>

Question: What is the Lord's prayer?

Answer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors;

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

119

<p>Q. What is the prayer the Christ taught us?</p> <p>A. Christ taught us to pray in Matthew 6: (Good News Bible)</p> <p>'Our Father in heaven: May Your Holy name be honoured; May Your Kingdom come; May Your will be done on earth as It is in heaven. Give us today the food we need. Forgive us the wrongs that we have done, As we forgive the wrongs That others have done to us. Do not bring us to hard testing, But keep us safe from the Evil One. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.</p>	<p>Q. What is the content of the Lord's prayer?</p> <p>A. Christ taught us to pray the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6: (Good News Bible)</p> <p>'Our Father in heaven: May Your Holy name be honoured; May Your Kingdom come; May Your will be done on earth as It is in heaven. Give us today the food we need. Forgive us the wrongs that we have done, As we forgive the wrongs That others have done to us. Do not bring us to hard testing, But keep us safe from the Evil One. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.</p>
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**LORD'S DAY 46 – Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: Your father –Near and Far**

120	<p><u>Question:</u> Why has Christ commanded us to address God as Our Father? <u>Answer:</u> To awaken in us at the very beginning of our prayer that childlike reverence and trust toward God which should be basic to our prayer: God has become our Father through Christ and will much less deny us what we ask of Him in faith than our fathers would refuse us earthly things¹.</p> <p>1 Matthew 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13.</p>
121	<p><u>Question:</u> Why is there added, Who art in heaven? <u>Answer:</u> These words teach us not to think of God's heavenly majesty in an earthly manner¹, and to expect from His almighty power all things we need for body and soul².</p> <p>1 Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-25; Acts 17:27. 2 Romans 10:12.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. Why has Christ commanded us to call God our Father?</p> <p>A. Christ wants to teach us, at the beginning of our prayer, to feel a childlike awe and trust for God.</p> <p>Q. What does the Name “Our Father” mean?</p> <p>A. God became our Father for the sake of Christ, and therefore shall hear our prayer.</p>	<p>Q Why has Christ commanded us to call God our Father?</p> <p>A Christ wants to teach us at the beginning of our prayer to feel a childlike awe and trust for God. God became our Father for the sake of Christ, and therefore shall hear our prayers and give to us what we ask of Him in faith, much more readily than our fathers on earth would.</p>
<p>Q. Why is God called our Father “in heaven”?</p> <p>A. God is in heaven and we may not think of His heavenly majesty in an earthly way.</p> <p>Q. What should we expect from God’s almighty power?</p> <p>A. We should expect everything we need for our body and soul from God’s almighty power.</p>	<p>Q Why is God called our Father in heaven?</p> <p>A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i God is in heaven and we may not think of His heavenly majesty in an earthly way. ii We should expect everything we need, for our body and soul from God’s almighty power.

**LORD'S DAY 47 - Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: God is Holy**

122

Question: What is the first petition?

Answer: Hallowed be Thy Name. That is: Grant us first of all that we may rightly know Thee¹, and sanctify, glorify, and praise Thee in all Thy works, in which shine forth Thy almighty power, wisdom, goodness, righteousness, mercy, and truth². Grant us also that we may so direct our whole life-- our thoughts, words, and actions-- that Thy Name is not blasphemed because of us but always honoured and praised³.

1 Psalms 119:105; Jeremiah 9:24; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Matthew 16:17; John 17:3; James 1:5.

2 Exodus 34:6-7; Psalms 119:137-138; Psalms 145:8, 9; Jeremiah 31:3; Luke 1:46-47; Luke 1:68-69; Romans 11:33.

3 Psalms 71:8; Psalms 115:1; Matthew 5:16.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is the first plea?</p> <p>A. The first plea is: May Your Holy Name be honoured.</p> <p>Q. What does, “May Your Holy Name be honoured”, mean?</p> <p>A. Grant us that we may rightly know You and praise your Name.</p> <p>Q. How should my thoughts, words and actions be in order to sanctify God’s Name.</p> <p>A. I must live my life in such a way, that when other people see how I live, they will glorify and praise the Lord.</p>	<p>Q. What is the first plea?</p> <p>A. The first plea is: May Your Holy Name be honoured.</p> <p>Q. What does the first plea mean?</p> <p>A. Grant us that we may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i rightly know You and praise your Name. ii live our lives in such a way, that when other people see how we live, they will glorify and praise the name of the Lord.

**LORD'S DAY 48 - Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: God reigns**

123

Question: What is the second petition?

Answer: Thy kingdom come. That is: So rule us by Thy Word and Spirit that more and more we submit to Thee¹. Preserve and increase Thy church². Destroy the works of the devil, every power that raises itself against Thee, and every conspiracy against Thy holy Word³. Do all this until the fulness of Thy kingdom comes⁴, wherein Thou shalt be all in all⁵.

1 Psalms 119:5; Psalms 143:10; Matthew 6:33.

2 Psalms 51:18; Psalms 122:6-7.

3 Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8.

4 Romans 8:22-23; Revelation 22:20.

5 1 Corinthians 15:28.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is the second plea?</p> <p>A. The second plea is: May Your Kingdom come</p> <p>Q. What does the plea: "May Your Kingdom come", mean?</p> <p>A. May Your Kingdom come means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Make us obedient to your Word and Spirit. ii. Allow your church to grow. iii. Destroy the works of the devil. <p>Q. When will God allow his Kingdom in all fullness?</p> <p>A. God's kingdom will come in all its fullness with the second coming of Christ.</p>	<p>Q. What is the second plea?</p> <p>A. The second plea is: <i>May Your Kingdom come.</i></p> <p>Q. What does the second plea mean?</p> <p>A. May Your Kingdom come means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reign over us with Your Word and Spirit so that we may more and more submit to You. ii. Protect your church and allow her to grow. iii. Destroy the works of the devil, as well as his evil intentions against Your Word, until fulfillment of Your Kingdom has come. <p>Q. When will God allow his Kingdom to be fulfilled?</p> <p>A. God's kingdom is already come in fragments but will come in all its fullness with the second coming of Christ.</p>

**LORD'S DAY 49 - Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: God knows best**

124

Question: What is the third petition?

Answer: Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. That is: Grant that we and all men may deny our own will¹, and without any murmuring obey Thy will, for it alone is good². Grant also that everyone may carry out the duties of his office and calling as willingly and faithfully³ as the angels in heaven⁴.

1 Matthew 16:24; Titus 2:11-12.

2 Luke 22:42; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:10.

3 1 Corinthians 7:24.

4 Psalms 103:20-21.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is the third plea?</p> <p>A. The third plea is: May Your will be done</p> <p>Q. What does “May Your will be done”, mean?</p> <p>A. Grant us that we will do unto others, not what we want, but what You want.</p> <p>Q. When is God’s will done in our lives and work?</p> <p>A. God’s will is done in our lives and work when we carry out our duties as willing and as faithfully as the angels in heaven.</p>	<p>Q. What is the third plea?</p> <p>A. The third plea is: May Your will be done.</p> <p>Q. What does the third plea mean?</p> <p>A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i Grant us that we and all other people will do unto others, not what we want, but what You want. ii Make us as willing and as faithful as the angels in heaven to do our work and carry out our duties.

**LORD'S DAY 50 - Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: God takes care of you**

125

Question: What is the fourth petition?

Answer: Give us this day our daily bread. That is: Provide us with all our bodily needs¹ so that we may acknowledge that Thou art the only fountain of all good², and that our care and labour, and also Thy gifts, cannot do us any good without Thy blessing³. Grant therefore that we may withdraw our trust from all creatures, and place it only in Thee⁴.

1 Psalms 104:27-28; Psalms 145:15-16; Matthew 6:25-26.

2 Acts 14:17; Acts 17:27; James 1:17.

3 Deuteronomy 8:3; Psalms 37:3-6; Psalms 37:16; Psalms 127:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:58.

4 Psalms 55:22; Psalms 62:10; Psalms 146:3; Jeremiah 17:5; Jeremiah 17:7.

Primary	Secondary
Q. What is the fourth plea?	Q What is the fourth plea?
A. The fourth plea is: Give us today the food we need.	A The fourth plea is: Give us today the food we need.
Q. What does "Give us today the food we need", mean?	Q What does the fourth plea mean?
A. When we pray for the food we need today, we ask God to provide us with everything we need to take care of our bodies.	A When we pray for the food we need today, we ask God to provide us with everything we need to take care of our bodies.
Q. What do we admit with the plea: Give us today the food we need.	Q What do we admit with the plea: Give us today the food we need?
A. When we pray for our daily food, we admit that God bestows on us that, which is good for us.	A When we pray for our daily food, we admit that God bestows on us that which is good for us.
Q. Who should we trust in?	Q Who should we trust in?
A. We should only trust in God and not in any creature.	A We should only trust in God and not in any creature.

**LORD'S DAY 51 - Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: God forgives you**

126

Question: What is the fifth petition?

Answer: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. That is: For the sake of Christ's blood, do not impute to us, wretched sinners; any of our transgressions, nor the evil which still clings to us¹, as we also find this evidence of Thy grace in us that we are fully determined wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbor².

- 1 Psalms 51:3; Psalms 143:2; Romans 8:1; 1 John 2:1.
- 2 Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 18:35.

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is the fifth plea?</p> <p>A. The fifth plea is: Forgive us the wrongs that we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.</p> <p>Q. What does “Forgive us the wrongs that we have done”, mean?</p> <p>A. It means, ‘For the sake of Christ’s blood, forgive us all our sins’.</p> <p>Q. What does “As we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us”, mean.</p> <p>A. “As we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us” means that we really want to forgive those who have done wrong against us</p>	<p>Q. What is the fifth plea?</p> <p>A. The fifth plea is: Forgive us the wrongs that we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.</p> <p>Q. What does the words Forgive us the wrongs that we have done, mean?</p> <p>A. It means, For the sake of Christ’s blood, forgive us all our sins and do not hold our wrongdoings and evil against us.</p> <p>Q. What does As we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us, mean.</p> <p>A. As we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us means that we forgive those who have done wrong against us through the grace of God.</p>

**LORD'S DAY 52 - Salvation translates into actions:
Prayer: God protects you**

127	<p><u>Question:</u> What is the sixth petition? <u>Answer:</u> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. That is: In ourselves we are so weak that we cannot stand even for a moment¹. Moreover, our sworn enemies-- the devil², the world³, and our own flesh⁴-- do not cease to attack us. Wilt Thou, therefore, uphold and strengthen us by the power of Thy Holy Spirit, so that in this spiritual war we may not go down to defeat, but always firmly resist our enemies⁵, until we finally obtain the complete victory⁶.</p> <p>1 Psalms 103:14-16; John 15:5. 2 Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8. 3 John 15:19. 4 Romans 7:23; Galatians 5:17. 5 Matthew 26:41; Mark 13:33; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. 6 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23.</p>
128	<p><u>Question:</u> How do you conclude your prayer? <u>Answer:</u> For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. That is: All this we ask of Thee because, as our King, having power over all things, Thou art both willing and able to give us all that is good¹, and because not we but Thy holy Name should so receive all glory for ever².</p> <p>1 1 Chronicles 29:10-12; Romans 10:11-13; 2 Peter 2:9. 2 Psalms 115:1; Jeremiah 33:8-9; John 14:13.</p>
129	<p><u>Question:</u> What does the word Amen mean? <u>Answer:</u> Amen means: It is true and certain. For God has much more certainly heard my prayer than I feel in my heart that I desire this of Him¹.</p> <p>1 2 Corinthians 1:20; 2 Timothy 2:13.</p>

Primary	Secondary
<p>Q. What is the sixth plea?</p> <p>A. The sixth plea is: Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.</p> <p>Q. What does “Do not bring us to hard testing”, mean?</p> <p>A. “Do not bring us to hard testing”, means: let us, who are weak, not fall into sin.</p> <p>Q. Who wants us to fall into sin?</p> <p>A. Our three sworn enemies want us to fall into sin:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the devil; ii. the world; iii. our own sinful hearts. 	<p>Q. What is the sixth plea?</p> <p>A. The sixth plea is: Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.</p> <p>Q. What does the sixth plea mean?</p> <p>A. “Do not bring us to hard testing” means: let us, who are weak, not fall into sin but keep us standing in the struggle against our mortal enemies, the devil, the world and our own sinful hearts, through the power of the Holy Spirit .</p>
<p>Q. How do you end your prayer?</p> <p>A. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.</p> <p>Q. What does it mean when you end your prayer with these words?</p> <p>A. We end our prayer like this, because God, being our King, only wants to bestow on us that which is good.</p> <p>Q. Who should be eternally praised for all the good that we receive?</p> <p>A. For all the good that we receive we must praise, not ourselves, but God’s holy Name.</p>	<p>Q. How do you end your prayer?</p> <p>A. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.</p> <p>Q. What does it mean when you end your prayer with these words?</p> <p>A. We end our prayer like this because God, being our King, only wants to bestow on us that, which is good.</p> <p>Q. Who should be eternally praised for all the good that we receive?</p> <p>A. For all the good that we receive we must praise, not ourselves, but God’s holy Name.</p>
<p>Q. What does the word “Amen”, mean?</p> <p>A. The word “Amen”, means: it is true and certain that God will hear my prayer.</p>	<p>Q. What does the word <i>Amen</i> mean?</p> <p>A. The word <i>Amen</i> means: it is true and certain that God will hear my Prayer, more surely than I feel in my heart.</p>