

# NEW COVENANT CHURCH CATECHISM

## Introductory Matters

### **Q1. Who is the first and best of beings?**

A. God is the first and best of beings. (Isa. 44:6; Ps. 8:1, 97:9)

### **Q2. What is the chief end of man?**

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. (1 Cor. 10:31; Ps. 73:25-26)

### **Q3. How do we know there is a God?**

A. Man's internal conscience and the works of God in creation plainly declare that there is a God. But only His Word and Spirit effectually reveal Him to us for our salvation. (Rom. 1:18-20; Ps. 19:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Cor. 1:21-24, 2:9-10)

### **Q4. What is the Word of God?**

A. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by divine inspiration and are the Word of God. They are the only perfect rule of faith and practice. (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Isa. 8:20)

### **Q5. How do we know that the Bible is the Word of God?**

A. The Bible proves itself to be God's Word by the heavenly nature of its doctrine, the unity of its parts, and its power to convert sinners and to build up saints. But only the Spirit of God can fully persuade us that the Bible is the Word of God, by giving our hearts eyes to see the truth in Scriptures. (1 Cor. 2:6-7, 13; Ps. 119:18, 129; Acts 10:43, 18:28, 26:22; Heb 4:12; Ps. 19:7-9; Rom. 15:4; John 16:13-14; 1 John 2:20-27; 2 Cor. 3:14-17)

### **Q6. Should all use the Scriptures?**

A. All people are not only permitted, but commanded and urged to read, hear, and understand the Scriptures. (John 5:39; Luke 16:29; Acts 8:28-30, 17:11)

### **Q7. What do the Scriptures mainly teach?**

A. The Scriptures mainly teach what duties God requires of man, and what man is to believe about God; namely, the good news of God sending His Son Jesus Christ to save sinners through his death, burial, and resurrection. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 20:31; Acts 24:14; 1 Cor. 10:11; Eccles. 12:13; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Luke 24:13-49; 1 Tim. 1:15)

## **Person & Work of God the Father**

### **Q8. Who is God?**

A. God is a Spirit – infinite and eternal – and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, perfection, glory, holiness, justice, goodness and truth. God is the creator and sustainer of everyone and everything. (John 4:24; Ps. 90:2, 147:5; James 1:17; Rev. 4:8; Ps. 89:14; Exod. 34:6-7; 1 Tim. 1:17)

### **Q9. Are there more 'gods' than one?**

A. There is only one God, the living and true God. (Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10)

### **Q10. How many persons are there in the Godhead?**

A. There are three persons in the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the (Holy) Spirit. These three are one God, the same in essence and substance, and equal in power and glory. (1 Cor. 8:6; John 10:30, 14:9; Acts 5:3-4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)

### **Q11. What are the decrees of God?**

A. The decrees of God are all things that He has predestined to happen, out of His most holy, wise, and powerful governing all creation. Nothing happens except through Him and by His will, including man's actions. God's decrees serve His eternal purpose of making His eternal glory known, mainly through displaying the glorious gospel of His Son. (Eph. 1:3-14; Rom. 11:36; Dan. 4:34-35; Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 6:26; Acts 14:17; Ps. 103:19, 115:3)

### **Q12. How did God create everything?**

A. God made all things out of nothing, by His Word and power. God created all things in this universe in the space of six days, and He created all things as "very good". (Gen. 1:1-31; Heb. 11:3; Exod. 20:11)

### **Q13. How did God create man?**

A. God created man both male (Adam, from the dust of the earth) and female (Eve, from the rib of Adam), in His own image. He created man with knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, and with dominion over all creatures on the earth. (Gen. 1:27-28; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24)

### **Q14. What relationship did God have with man when He created them?**

A. When God created man, He made a covenant with him that he should live and enjoy all the benefits of creation, but that he would die if he abandoned the obedience that comes from faith. God commanded him not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and thus to have a child-like dependence upon God for all things. (Gen. 2:16-17; Gal. 3:12; Rom. 5:12)

## **State & Fall of Adam**

### **Q15. Did man continue in the perfect state he had with God after creation?**

A. No, man desired to be like God, abandoned the obedience of faith, ate of the forbidden tree, sinned against God, and fell from the innocence in which they were created. (Gen. 3:6; Eccles. 7:29; Rom. 5:12)

### **Q16. What is sin?**

A. Sin is any lack of conformity unto, or breaking of, the law of God. Sin is disobedience to the revealed will of God which teaches that we are to act in perfect holiness from a heart of faith to the glory of God. Sin results in physical death and spiritual death eternally. (1 John 3:4; Rom. 5:13; 1 Pet. 1:16; Matt. 5:48; 1 Cor. 10:31)

### **Q17. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first sin?**

A. By disobeying God and eating the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, all those who would descend from Adam sinned in Adam, and fell with him in his first transgression. (Gen. 3:6-13; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Rom. 5:12-19)

### **Q18. What state was mankind brought into as a result of the fall?**

A. The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery, where the natural man is blind to God, inclined towards evil, and incapable of doing good or keeping God's law. Man is now also born in sin and guilt because of the corruption of his whole nature from the fall ('original sin'). (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:18-19; Isa. 53:6, 64:6; Rom. 3:10; Eph. 2:1; Ps. 51:5; Matt. 15:19)

### **Q19. What is the misery of this state that man fell into?**

A. By the fall, all mankind have lost communion with God, are under His wrath and curse, have to undergo all the miseries of this life and its death, and are destined to suffer the pains of hell forever in conscience torment. (Gen. 3:8-24; Eph. 2:3; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41-46; Ps. 9:17)

## **Person & Work of God the Son**

### **Q20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in this state of sin and misery?**

A. No. God, out of His good pleasure and mercy, chose a people in eternity past to receive everlasting life ('the elect'). God chose to enter into a covenant of grace with these people in order to deliver them out of their state of sin and misery and to bring them into a state of salvation, by a Redeemer. (Eph. 1:3-4; 2 Thess. 2:13; Rom. 5:21; Acts 13:8; Jer. 31:33)

**Q21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?**

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the eternal Son of God. Jesus Christ became a man, and so was and is and will continue to be truly God and truly man, in two distinct natures yet as one person. (Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5, 3:16; John 1:14; Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9)

**Q22. How did Christ become a man while being the Son of God?**

A. Christ, the eternal Son of God, became a man while remaining truly God. He did this by taking on a true physical body and human nature, and being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Christ was then born but without guilt or sin, so that in every way he was like his brothers except he was without sin. (Matt. 26:38; Luke 2:52; John 12:27; Luke 1:31-35; Heb. 2:14, 4:15, 7:26)

**Q23. Why did God's Redeemer have to be truly God?**

A. So that because of his divine nature, his obedience to God and suffering for man's sin would be perfect and effective, and available to man. Furthermore, he could only fully bear God's righteous anger and wrath against sin if he is truly God, since no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin and release others from it. (Ezek. 18:4, 20; Heb. 2:14-18; Ps. 49:7-9, 130:3)

**Q24. Why did God's Redeemer have to be truly man?**

A. He had to perfectly obey the whole law of God and suffer the punishment for human sin on behalf of sinners, which he could only do if he is made like them in human nature. Furthermore, he must be man in order to sympathize with man's weaknesses, in order to help them in their time of need. (Rom. 5:12-15; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:14-16, 7:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:18)

**Q25. What functions does Christ have as our Redeemer?**

A. Christ, as our Redeemer, has the functions of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king; both in his states of humility and exaltation. (Acts 3:22; Heb. 5:6; Ps. 2:6)

**Q26. How does Christ function as a prophet?**

A. Christ functions as a prophet by representing God to us and revealing the will of God for our salvation, by His Word and Spirit. (John 1:18, 14:26, 15:15)

**Q27. How does Christ function as a priest?**

A. Christ functions as a priest by his one-time sacrifice of himself in order to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God. Christ died willingly in the place of his people in order to deliver them from the power and penalty of sin and bring them back to God. By his substitutionary atoning death, Christ took all the sins of his people on himself and paid for them, and he covered his people

with the robe of his perfect righteousness. Thus, he alone redeems us from hell and gains for us forgiveness of sin, righteousness, and everlasting life and joy with God. As a priest, he also continually prays for his people at the right hand of God. (1 Pet. 2:24; Heb. 9:28; Eph. 5:2; Heb. 2:17; 7:25; Rom. 8:34)

**Q28. How does Christ function as a king?**

A. Christ functions as a king by making us his people, ruling and defending us, and restraining and conquering all his and our enemies. (Ps. 110:3; Matt. 2:6; 1 Cor. 15:25)

**Q29. What does Christ's state of humility include?**

A. Christ's state of humility includes his being born as a man under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, suffering the wrath of God in his cursed death on the cross, buried in a rich man's tomb, and his remaining under the power of death for a short time. (Luke 2:7, 22:44; Gal. 4:4; Isa. 53:3; Matt. 27:46; Phil. 2:8; Matt. 12:40; Mark 15:45-46)

**Q30. What does Christ's state of exaltation include?**

A. Christ's state of exaltation includes his rising from the dead and overcoming death on the third day after his death on the cross, ascending up into heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and his coming to judge the world at the last day. (1 Cor. 15:4; Acts 1:11; Mark 16:19; Acts 17:31)

**Person & Work of God the Spirit**

**Q31. How do we receive the salvation purchased by Christ?**

A. We receive the salvation purchased by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit applying it to our hearts. The Spirit does this by giving us faith and uniting us to Christ, so that Christ's death becomes our death to sin, Christ's resurrection becomes our resurrection unto new life, and Christ's righteousness becomes our righteousness before God. (John 3:5,6; Titus 3:5-6; Eph. 2:8, 3:17)

**Q32. What happens when the Holy Spirit applies Christ's salvation to our hearts?**

A. The Spirit shows us our sin and misery, enlightens our minds in the knowledge of Christ, changes our desires for sin to a desire for God, shows us the beauty and salvation of Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the gospel, and empowers us to embrace him. (2 Tim. 1:9; John 16:8-11; Acts 2:37, 26:18; Ezek. 36:26; John 6:44-45; 1 Cor. 12:3)

**Q33. In this life, what are the benefits of having Christ's salvation applied to our hearts?**

A. In this life, those who have Christ's salvation applied to their hearts by the

Spirit experience justification, adoption, and sanctification. There are also other benefits that result from these. (Rom. 8:30; Gal. 3:26; 1 Cor. 1:30, 6:11; Rom. 8:31-32; Eph. 1:5)

**Q34. What is justification?**

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, where He forgives all our sins and declares us as righteous in His sight. This is only possible through God washing away our sins through the cross and giving us the righteousness of Christ, which we receive by faith alone. (Rom. 3:24, 5:19; Eph. 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9; Gal. 2:16)

**Q35. What is adoption?**

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, where God changes us from being sons of the devil to sons of God. We then have a right to all the privileges of being a child of God. (1 John 3:1; John 1:12; Rom. 8:16-17)

**Q36. What is sanctification?**

A. Sanctification is a work of God's free grace, where the Holy Spirit changes our hearts and nature so that we become more like Christ, who is the image of God. Over time, we are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness. (2 Thess. 2:13; Eph. 4:23-24; Rom. 6:11)

**Q37. What are the benefits in this life which result from justification, adoption, and sanctification?**

A. The benefits in this life which result from justification, adoption, and sanctification include: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, fellowship with Christ, joy in the Holy Spirit, growth in grace, and perseverance in the faith forever. (Rom. 5:1-5; 14:17; Prov. 4:18; 1 Pet. 1:5; 1 John 5:13)

**Q38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?**

A. At death, the souls of believers (which are united to Christ) are made perfect in holiness and immediately go into the glorious presence of God. The bodies of believers, which are also still united to Christ, remain in their graves until the day of resurrection. (Heb. 12:23; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1 Thess. 4:14; Isa. 57:2; Job 19:26)

**Q39. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the day of resurrection?**

A. At the day of resurrection, the bodies of believers are raised up and united with their souls in glory. They will be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment of all their sin, and be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God for all eternity in the new heavens and new earth. (Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Cor. 15:42-43; Matt. 10:32; 1 John 3:2; 1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 21)

**Q40. What will happen to the wicked at their death?**

A. At their death, the souls of the wicked ('unbelievers') will be cast into the fiery torments of hades, and their bodies will lie in their graves until the resurrection and judgement of the great day. (Luke 16:22-24; Ps. 49:14)

**Q41. What will be done to the wicked on the day of judgement?**

A. On the day of judgement, the bodies of the wicked will be raised out of their graves and united to their souls, and will be justly sentenced to suffer unspeakable fiery torments in hell with the devil and his angels forever. (Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 25:41)

**Role & Meaning of God's Law**

**Q42. What is the duty which God requires of man?**

A. The duty which God requires of man is to perfectly obey His moral Law through faith. (Mic. 6:8; Eccles. 12:13; Ps. 119:4; Luke 10:26-28; Gal. 5:6; 1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Thess. 2:11; Rom. 1:5, 2:14-15, 5:13-14, 15:18, 16:26)

**Q43. What is the summary of the moral Law?**

A. The summary is the Ten Commandments; namely, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Deut. 10:4; Matt. 19:17, 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-33)

**Q44. What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?**

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." It teaches us that because God is our Lord, God, and Redeemer, His commandments are for our good. However, He does not want us to depend on ourselves to keep them, but to trust His grace and power to enable us to. (Deut 10:13-16, 11:1, 30:6; Exod. 20:2)

**Q45. What is the first commandment?**

A. The first commandment is: "You shall have no other gods before me." It requires us to know and acknowledge God as the only true God, and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly; especially loving Christ supremely, as the true Son of God. It forbids either not worshiping God as the true and only God, or giving the worship and glory that God deserves to anything else. (Exod. 20:1-3; Jos. 24:15; 1 Chron. 28:9; Deut. 26:17; Ps. 29:2; Matt. 4:10, 10:34-39; John 14:15-24; Rom. 1:20-25)

**Q46. What is the second commandment?**

A. The second commandment is: "You shall not make for yourself a carved

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 on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments." It requires us to keep all religious worship pure and in line with what His Word demands. It forbids any form of worship based on images, or that draws the heart away from His glory instead of toward Him. (Exod. 20:4-6; Deut. 32:46; Matt. 15:9, 28:20; Deut. 12:32; Rom. 1:22,23; Col. 2:18)

#### **Q47. What is the third commandment?**

A. The third commandment is: "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." It requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, words, and works. It forbids all abusing of any thing through which God makes Himself known. (Exod. 20:7; Ps. 29:2, 111:9; Deut. 28:58-59, 32:1-4; Matt. 6:9, Eccles. 5:1; Job 36:24; Mal. 1:6-7; Rev. 15:3-4)

#### **Q48. What is the fourth commandment?**

A. The fourth commandment is: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, 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 on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." The command requires setting aside time(s) during the week where we focus exclusively on public and private worship and enjoyment of God, especially in the gathered assemblies of other believers. We rest in worship like this to acknowledge that the LORD is God, and He is the one who sustains the world and brings our needs to us – our work is not the decisive factor. Additionally, the command teaches us that every day should be a day of resting in Christ and relying on his works rather than ours. The command forbids setting aside no time during the week for worship, and neglecting gathered worship with other believers. (Exod. 20:8-11; Lev. 23:3; Isa. 58:13-14, 66:23; Matt. 12:11-12; Ezek. 22:26, 23:38; Jer. 17:21; Neh. 13:15-17; Acts 20:7)

#### **Q49. What is the fifth commandment?**

A. The fifth commandment is: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you." The command requires us to honor, love, and be loyal to our father and mother and all those in authority over us. We must obey and submit to them in the Lord, including when they correct and punish us for through them God chooses

to rule us. We must also be patient with their failings. Obedience to the command is promised to bring long life and prosperity, as far as it shall serve God's glory and their own good. (Exod. 20:12; Lev. 19:32; 1 Pet. 2:17; Rom. 13:1; Eph. 5:21-, 6:1-9; Col. 3:19-22; Rom. 12:10)

**Q50. What is the sixth commandment?**

A. The sixth commandment is: "You shall not murder." The command requires all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life and the life of others. It forbids the taking away our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, including whatever acts tend to this loss. By forbidding murder, God teaches us that He hates the root of murder: envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness. (Exod. 20:13; Gen. 4:10-11; 9:6; Matt. 5:21-26; Eph. 5:29,30; Ps. 82:3,4; Prov. 24:11,12)

**Q51. What is the seventh commandment?**

A. The seventh commandment is: "You shall not commit adultery." The command requires sexual purity in our heart, speech, and behavior – for our sake and others. It forbids all sexually impure thoughts, words, and actions. (Exod. 20:14; 1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2; 2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 5:28-32; 1 Pet. 3:2)

**Q52. What is the eighth commandment?**

A. The eighth commandment is: "You shall not steal." The command requires that we pursue lawful and useful work to provide for our needs and for those unable to provide for themselves. It forbids stealing someone's property, any actions that may harm someone else's wealth or outward state, and having thoughts of jealousy or covetousness. (Exod. 20:15; Prov. 27:23; Lev. 25:35; Deut. 15:10; 22:14; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 23:20-21; Eph. 4:28)

**Q53. What is the ninth commandment?**

A. The ninth commandment is: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." The command requires maintaining and encouraging truth between one another, especially about someone's good name. It forbids any falsehood that violates someone's right to know the truth, or is aimed at harming someone's good name. (Exod. 20:16; Zech. 8:16; Acts 25:10; Eccles. 7:1; 3 John 12; Prov. 14:5; Eph. 4:25; Ps. 15:3; 2 Cor. 8:20-21)

**Q54. What is the tenth commandment?**

A. The tenth commandment is: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." The command requires full contentment with our own life circumstances, and feeling charitable towards others and their possessions. It forbids being jealous of someone else's goods, or grieving at their prosperity. (Exod. 20:17; Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Rom. 12:15; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; Lev. 19:18; Gal. 5:26)

**Q55. Is any man able to perfectly keep the commandments of God?**

A. Since the fall, no man in this life is able to perfectly keep the commandments of God. Instead, man daily breaks them in thought, word, and deed. Even the very best man can do in this life is imperfect and stained with sin. (Eccles. 7:20; Gen. 6:5; Gen. 8:21; 1 John 1:8; James 3:8; James 3:2; Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26; Isa. 64:6)

**Q56. What then is the purpose of the law since the fall?**

A. There are two main purposes of the law, since the fall. One is to reveal the perfect righteousness of God, so that His people may know how He wants them to live. Two is to convict the ungodly of their sin, so they will not rely on their works for salvation but will hate evil and come to Christ for salvation by faith. (Ps. 19:7-11; Rom. 3:20-31, 7:7; Gal. 3:22-24; 1 Tim. 1:8)

**Q57. What does every sin deserve?**

A. While God is merciful, He is also just. And His justice demands that every sin committed against His supreme majesty deserves the supreme penalty: God's eternal wrath and curse – namely the unimaginable pains of the fires of hell – both in this life and especially in the next life, for both body and soul. (Eph.5:6; Gal. 3:10; Prov. 3:33; Ps. 11:6; Rev. 21:8)

**Reception & Means of God's Grace Through Faith, Ordinances, and the Church**

**Q58. What does God require so that we may escape His wrath and curse, which we deserve?**

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God that we deserve because of our sin, God requires faith in Jesus Christ and repentance from sin. (Acts 16:30-31, 17:30, 20:21)

**Q59. What then is our only comfort in life and death?**

A. That we are not our own, but belong body and soul, both in life and in death, to our faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all our sins with his precious blood, and has set us free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves us in such a way that without the will of our heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from our heads. Indeed, all things must work together for our salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures us of eternal life and makes us heartily willing and ready to live for him. (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 8:15-16, 14:7-9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; John 6:39-40, 8:34-36, 10:27-30; Heb. 2:14-15; Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13-14)

**Q60. What is faith in Jesus Christ?**

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a gift from God, which we receive from the Holy

Spirit because of God's grace. Through it, we look to God alone for salvation, trusting Him to forgive our sins, and guide us to eternal joy. We are assured of this because of Jesus Christ's incarnation, perfect life, substitutionary atoning death on the cross, resurrection from the dead, and ascension to heaven. The gospel freely offers the person and work of Christ to make us right with God – as if we had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if we had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for us. (Heb. 10:39; John 1:12; Phil. 3-9; Gal. 2:15-16; The Apostle's Creed\*)

**Q61. What is repentance from sin?**

A. Repentance from sin is a result of receiving faith in Jesus Christ, and it too is a gift of God's grace. It means that a sinner is able to see how horrible and wicked his sin is, and how desirable and glorious and beautiful Jesus Christ is. Through the mercy of God in Christ, the sinner turns away from sin with sorrow and hatred, and turns towards God with love and obedience. (Acts 2:37; Joel 2:13; Jer. 31:18-19; 2 Cor. 7:10-11; Rom. 6:18)

**Q62. What are the normal outward ways that Christ communicates the benefits of salvation?**

A. The normal outward ways that Christ communicates the benefits of salvation are mainly the Word of God ('Bible'), baptism, the Lord's Supper, and prayer. These all work together to grow God's elect in the grace of salvation. (Rom. 10:17; James 1:18; 1 Cor. 3:5; Acts 14:1; 2:41-42)

**Q63. How does the Word of God function in salvation?**

A. The Spirit of God makes the reading and especially the preaching of the Word the way to convince and convert sinners. It also functions to build up believers in holiness and comfort, through faith in what the Word says. (Ps. 119:11-18; 1 Thess. 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:1-2; Rom. 1:16; Ps. 19:7)

**Q64. How should the Word of God be read and heard so that it functions in salvation?**

A. In order for it to function in salvation, the Word should be read and heard with carefulness, preparation in prayer, faith, and love. Then the Word will live in our hearts and we will do what it says with joy. (Prov. 8:34; 1 Pet. 2:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:13; Heb. 2:1-3; Heb. 4:2; 2 Thess. 2:10; Ps. 119:11; James 1:21-25)

**Q65. How do baptism and the Lord's Supper function in salvation?**

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper do not have a function in salvation because of any power in them or in whoever administers them. Rather, their function in salvation is to be visible symbols of the benefits Christians receive through the new covenant. They are the only such outward signs that Christ established to be received by faith. (1 Pet. 3:21; 1 Cor. 3:6-7; 1 Cor. 12:13; Matt. 28:19; Acts 22:16; Matt. 26:26-28; Rom. 6:4)

**Q66. What is baptism?**

A. Baptism is a holy outward sign of the Christian being united with Christ in his death and resurrection, and thus dying to sin and being alive to God in newness of life. It is a symbol of Jesus' blood and Spirit washing away a soul's impurity and sins, just like water washes away the dirt from the body. In baptism, the Christian is washed with water by being fully submerged, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27)

**Q67. Who can receive baptism?**

A. Since baptism is a symbol and expression of faith, it should only be given to someone who actually professes repentance towards God, faith in Jesus Christ, and obedience to the gospel. No other person can receive baptism, neither unbelievers nor any infant. (Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48)

**Q68. What is the duty of those who are rightly baptized?**

A. Those who are rightly baptized should join a visible, local, and orderly church of Jesus Christ, so that they may walk in all the commandments of the Lord. (Acts 2:46-47; Acts 9:26; 1 Pet. 2:5; Heb. 10:25; Rom. 16:5)

**Q69. What is the Lord's Supper?**

A. The Lord's Supper is a holy outward sign that Jesus gave to the church. It is a covenant meal where we eat bread and drink from the cup, proclaiming and giving thanks for Jesus Christ's atoning death on the cross. Those who eat and drink in an appropriate manner share in Christ's body and blood (in a symbolic manner) so that spiritually by faith they are nourished with the benefits he purchased, grow in grace, and look forward to the heavenly feast. (1 Cor. 10:16-18, 11:23-26)

**Q70. What is the appropriate way to receive the Lord's Supper?**

A. Those who receive the Lord's Supper in an appropriate way must be displeased with themselves because of their sins, but still trust that their sins are pardoned and that their continuing weakness is covered by the suffering and death of Christ. They also desire to grow in repentance from sin, strength of faith, and communion with God. However, if those who are unrepentant sinners receive the Lord's Supper, they eat and drink judgment on themselves, and are liable to sickness and death as a result. (1 Cor. 10:16-22, 11:26-32)

**Q71. What is the normal context for experiencing these outward means of grace?**

A. The normal context for experiencing these outward means of grace is the local church, which is the pillar and support of the Truth. In the local church, there should be preaching and teaching of God's Word, participation in baptism and the Lord's Supper, public prayer, fellowship among the saints,

and the giving of Christian offerings. (1 Cor. 9:13-14, 11:23-25, 14:31-32; 1 Tim. 3:13-17; Rev. 1:10-11)

**Q72. What is the invisible church?**

A. The invisible (or 'universal') church are all of God's elect who have been, are, or will be gathered together in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:10-23; John 10:16, 11:52)

**Q73. What is the visible church?**

A. The visible church is made up of all professing believers around the world who take part in local assemblies where the Gospel is truly preached, and baptism and the Lord's Supper are practiced. (Acts 2:42, 20:7; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-12)

**Q74. Who is responsible to rule and manage the local church?**

A. The elders are responsible to rule and manage the local church. They must meet clear standards, have real authority as a plurality, and be distinct from deacons who enable the elders to minister the Word and to pray for the church. (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 3:1-13, 5:17; Titus 1:5-9)

**Q75. What is the duty of elders to their local church?**

A. Elders must shepherd their flock gladly and eagerly, leading by being examples. They must use the Word skillfully to exhort and correct, since they are accountable to God for the condition of their flock. (Titus 1:9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Heb. 13:17)

**Q76. What is the duty of believers to their local church and elders?**

A. Believers are responsible to love and pray for one another in the local church, to share in communion with Jesus Christ, and to serve that body of Christ according to their spiritual gifts. They are commanded to honor, imitate, and submit to their elders with a pleasant and cooperative spirit. (1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Cor. 12:4-27; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Heb. 13:7-17)

**Q77. Why is singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs a part of the local church?**

A. Singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs is a command for the local church in Scripture, since God's grace works through it to teach and build up the congregation as one. (Exod. 15:1-21; Ps. 1-150; Eph. 5:18-21; Col. 3:16)

**Instructions on Prayer**

**Q78. What is Prayer?**

A. Prayer is coming into the presence of God to worship Him through praise

and request. In prayer we exalt the name of God, offer up our desires to God, and ask for things agreeable to His will. We are able to pray because of the work of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies. (1 John 1:9, 5:14; Phil. 4:6; Ps. 10:17, 145:19; John 14:13-14)

**Q79. How do we know how to pray?**

A. The whole Word of God is useful to teach us how to pray, but the prayer that Christ taught his disciples ('the Lord's Prayer') is especially useful to teach us. (Matt. 6:9-13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

**Q80. What does the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?**

A. The preface of the Lord's Prayer is: "Our Father in heaven." It teaches us to come near to God with all holy honor and confidence, as a child to a father who is able and ready to help us. It also implies that we should pray with and for others. (Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:13; Rom. 8:15; Acts 12:5; 1 Tim. 2:1-3)

**Q81. What do we pray for in the first request?**

A. The first request is: "Hallowed be Your name." We pray that God would enable us and others to glorify Him in all of life, and that He would make all things display His glory. (Matt. 6:9; Ps. 67:1-3; Rom. 11:36; Rev. 4:11)

**Q82. What do we pray for in the second request?**

A. The second request is: "Your kingdom come." We pray that Satan's kingdom would be destroyed, and that the kingdom of God would be advanced. This happens by people being saved and brought into the kingdom, and being kept in the kingdom. We also pray that the final kingdom of glory may come soon. (Matt. 6:10; Ps. 68:1-18; Rom. 10:1; Matt. 9:37-38; Rev. 22:20)

**Q83. What do we pray for in the third request?**

A. The third request is: "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We pray that God would give us grace to be able and willing to know, obey, and submit to His will in all things – as the angels do in heaven. (Matt. 6:10; Ps. 25:4-5, 103:20-21, 119:26)

**Q84. What do we pray for in the fourth request?**

A. The fourth request is: "Give us this day our daily bread." We pray that in God's good pleasure, He would give us a necessary amount of the good things of this world so we can enjoy His blessing in this life through them. (Matt. 6:11; Prov. 30:8-9; 1 Tim. 4:4-5, 6:6-8)

**Q85. What do we pray for in the fifth request?**

A. The fifth request is: "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." We pray that God, because of the work of Jesus Christ, would freely forgive all our sins. We are encouraged to ask for this because when we are

forgiven, God's grace helps us to forgive others from the heart. (Matt. 6:12, 18:35; Ps. 51:1-7; Mark 11:25)

**Q86. What do we pray for in the sixth request?**

A. The sixth request is: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We pray that God would support us and make us spiritually strong with His Spirit so we will not be defeated in our battle with the world, flesh, and the devil. Rather, we pray that God would empower us to resist our enemies until we finally win complete victory, because by ourselves we are too weak to fight even for a moment. (Matt. 6:13, 26:41; Ps. 19:13; 1 Cor. 10:13; John 17:15)

**Q87. What does the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?**

A. The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer is: "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."\*\* It teaches us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise Him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to Him; and in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, AMEN. (Matt. 6:13; Dan. 9:18-19; 1 Chron. 29:11-13; 1 Cor. 14:16; Phil. 4:6; Rev. 22:20)

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**Appendix**

The New Covenant Church Catechism was derived from the following historic catechisms:

- 1677 Baptist Catechism (Keach's Catechism), 1677-79
- Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1646-1647
- Heidelberg Catechism, 1563
- New City Catechism, 2017
- A Puritan Catechism, 1855
- Catechism of the Church of Geneva, 1545
- A New Covenant Catechism, 2004-2005

\* "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hades; The third day he rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen."

\*\* Most likely not in the original manuscript.