

Graduated Memory Program

**The
Heidelberg
Catechism**

For All Ages

Graduated Catechism Memory Program for All Ages

For centuries the Heidelberg Catechism has been used for the instruction of the church, including her youth and her converts. Recognized the world over as one of the most beautiful of all of the catechisms of the Reformation, it is known for its personal warmth and practicality. It was written to be committed to memory.

The following material has been compiled to assist and encourage memorization of the Heidelberg Catechism in the homes of the church. Those who've never learned the Catechism, or whose memories are rusty and want a refresher, can take part in such a program too. Everyone, of every age, will have opportunity to begin where they need to as well as the challenge to go as far as they can for the glory of God (Colossians 3:17). Coordination by the church will mean that the whole congregation will be encouraged to be "on the same page" from week to week. In this way friendly competitions in the family and even between generations can be used to encourage one another in the fun and excitement of memorization.

The material has been arranged in four columns per Lord's Day, progressing from a "Beginner's Version" at the first level to the "Complete Version" at the final level, complete with Biblical proof texts. An attempt has been made to capture the heart of each question and answer at the beginner's level without affecting the logic and flow of the Catechism. Each progressive level includes increasingly more detail. An outline of the entire Catechism has also been included to provide an overview of its contents and to show how it is principally made up of a discussion of the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer.

In terms of strategy, the most effective use of a catechism is by way of continued repetition. Families might want to get in the habit of taking a little time during family devotions each day for memorization. Each week the next Lord's day will be the focus, but continuing to go over the answers already learned, in order, is also important for long term memory. In particular, over time, you will want to return to Lord's Days like 1, 7, 10, 23, 32 and 33, 44 and 45 again and again. This practice can be expected to bear the most fruit if it would also include some meditation and discussion of the teachings being memorized. At times, difficult words and concepts may need to be explained. The summer months can be used for review and repetition. Little by little, over the years, by God's grace, patient persistence will reap rewards.

Some additional benefits of this program would include the blessing of gradually being better and better equipped with a systematic understanding of the doctrines of the Bible. Even at the beginner's level one has a handy summary of the things we need to know, and digging deeper into a subject is as simple as working one's way across the page to the right, in order to find Biblical answers. It also makes the point that even as we strive for a fuller and fuller knowledge of these truths - even considering the proof texts - there is always more, the riches are never exhausted. Also, this program ought to serve the cause of evangelism. The Catechism equips us with central truths for a gospel presentation. It should even prove helpful for those being evangelized. We can begin with them at a very basic level (at the left of the page) and work (to the right) with them to seek to have them come to a deeper understanding.

May God bless the teachings of His Word to our hearts. May we live in the joy of knowing "our only comfort" in Christ, and may we always be "ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." (1 Peter 3:15)

Outline of the Heidelberg Catechism

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Q&A 1 What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I
belong--

to Jesus Christ.

Q&A 2 What must you know to live and die in the joy of
this comfort?

Three Things:
My sin;
how I am set free;
how I am to thank God.

Q&A 1 What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own,
but belong--

to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins.

*He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven.*

Q&A 2 What must you know to live and die in the joy of
this comfort?

Three Things:
My sin;
how I am set free;
how I am to thank God.

Q&A 1 What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own,
but belong--
body and soul,
in life and in death--
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins.

*He also watches over me in such a way
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.*

*Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life
and makes me willing and ready
to live for Him.*

**Q&A 2 What must you know to live and die in the joy of
this comfort?**

Three things:
*first, how great **my sin** and misery are;*
*second, **how I am set free** from all my sins and misery;*
*third, **how I am to thank God** for such deliverance.*

Q&A 1 What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own,[1]
but belong--
body and soul,
in life and in death--[2]
to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.[3]

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious
blood,[4]
and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.[5]
He also watches over me in such a way[6]
that not a hair can fall from my head
without the will of my Father in heaven:[7]
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.[8]

Because I belong to Him,
Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life[9]
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for Him.[10]

- [1] 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- [2] Rom. 14:7-9
- [3] 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14
- [4] 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2
- [5] John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11
- [6] John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5
- [7] Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18
- [8] Rom. 8:28
- [9] Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14
- [10] Rom. 8:1-17

**Q&A 2 What must you know to live and die in the joy of
this comfort?**

Three things:
*first, how great **my sin** and misery are;*[1]
*second, **how I am set free** from all my sins and misery;*[2]
*third, **how I am to thank God** for such deliverance.*[3]

- [1] Rom. 3:9-10; 1 John 1:10
- [2] John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43
- [3] Matt. 5:16; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 5:8-10; 2Tim.2:15; 1Pet.2:9-10

Q&A 3 How do you come to know your misery?

The law of God tells me.

Q&A 4 What does God's law require of us?

Love the Lord your God.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Q&A 5 Can you live up to all this perfectly?

No.

Q&A 3 How do you come to know your misery?

The law of God tells me.

Q&A 4 What does God's law require of us?

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind
and with all your strength.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Q&A 5 Can you live up to all this perfectly?

No.

Q&A 3 How do you come to know your misery?

The law of God tells me.

Q&A 4 What does God's law require of us?

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind
and with all your strength.
This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.

Q&A 5 Can you live up to all this perfectly?

No.
I have a natural tendency
to hate God and my neighbor.

Q&A 3 How do you come to know your misery?

The law of God tells me.[1]

[1] Rom. 3:20; 7:7-25

Q&A 4 What does God's law require of us?

Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22--

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind
and with all your strength.[1]
This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it:
Love your neighbor as yourself.[2]

All the Law and the Prophets hang
on these two commandments.

[1] Deut. 6:5

[2] Lev. 19:18

Q&A 5 Can you live up to all this perfectly?

No.[1]
I have a natural tendency
to hate God and my neighbor.[2]

[1] Rom. 3:9-20, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10

[2] Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph. 2:1-3; Titus3:3

Q&A 6 Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

No.
God created man good

for His praise and glory.

Q&A 7 Then where does this corrupt nature come from?

From the fall of
Adam and Eve.

Q&A 8 But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

Yes.

Q&A 6 Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

No.
God created man good and in His own image,

so that he might
truly know God,
love Him,
and live with Him
for His praise and glory.

Q&A 7 Then where does this corrupt nature come from?

From the fall and disobedience of our first parents,
Adam and Eve, in Paradise.

We are born sinners.

Q&A 8 But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

Yes, unless we are born again.

Q&A 6 Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

No.
God created man good and in His own image,
that is, in true righteousness and holiness,
so that he might
truly know God his creator,
love Him,
and live with Him
for His praise and glory.

Q&A 7 Then where does this corrupt nature come from?

From the fall and disobedience of our first parents,
Adam and Eve, in Paradise.
This fall has so poisoned our nature
that we are born sinners.

Q&A 8 But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

Yes, unless we are born again,
by the Spirit of God.

Q&A 6 Did God create man so wicked and perverse?

No.
God created man good[1] and in His own image,[2]
that is, in true righteousness and holiness,[3]
so that he might
truly know God his creator,[4]
love Him with all his heart,
and live with Him in eternal happiness
for His praise and glory.[5]

- [1] Gen. 1:31
- [2] Gen. 1:26-27
- [3] Eph. 4:24
- [4] Col. 3:10
- [5] Ps. 8

Q&A 7 Then where does this corrupt nature come from?

From the fall and disobedience of our first parents,
Adam and Eve, in Paradise.[1]
This fall has so poisoned our nature[2]
that we are born sinners--
corrupt from conception on.[3]

- [1] Gen. 3
- [2] Rom. 5:12, 18-19
- [3] Ps. 51:5

Q&A 8 But are we so corrupt that we are totally unable to do any good and inclined toward all evil?

Yes,[1] unless we are born again,
by the Spirit of God.[2]

- [1] Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6
- [2] John 3:3-5

Q&A 9 But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in His law what man is unable to do?

No, God created man with the ability to keep the law.

Q&A 10 Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

Certainly not.

Q&A 11 But isn't God also merciful?

God is certainly merciful, but He is also just.

Q&A 9 But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in His law what man is unable to do?

No, God created man with the ability to keep the law.

Man, however,

robbed himself

of these gifts.

Q&A 10 Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

Certainly not.

He is terribly angry

about the sin we are born with

as well as the sins we personally commit.

As a just judge

He punishes them.

Q&A 11 But isn't God also merciful?

God is certainly merciful,

but He is also just.

His justice demands

that sin

be punished.

Q&A 9 But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in His law what man is unable to do?

No, God created man with the ability to keep the law.
Man, however, tempted by the devil,
in reckless disobedience,
robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.

Q&A 10 Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

Certainly not.
He is terribly angry
about the sin we are born with
as well as the sins we personally commit.

As a just judge
He punishes them now and in eternity.

Q&A 11 But isn't God also merciful?

God is certainly merciful,
but He is also just.
His justice demands
that sin, committed against His supreme majesty,
be punished with the supreme penalty.

Q&A 9 But doesn't God do man an injustice by requiring in His law what man is unable to do?

No, God created man with the ability to keep the law.[1]
Man, however, tempted by the devil,[2]
in reckless disobedience,[3]
robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.[4]

[1] Gen. 1:31; Eph. 4:24

[2] Gen. 3:13; John 8:44

[3] Gen. 3:6

[4] Rom. 5:12, 18, 19

Q&A 10 Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

Certainly not.
He is terribly angry
about the sin we are born with
as well as the sins we personally commit.

As a just judge
He punishes them now and in eternity.[1]

He has declared:

"Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them." [2]

[1] Ex. 34:7; Ps. 5:4-6; Nah. 1:2; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 9:27

[2] Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26

Q&A 11 But isn't God also merciful?

God is certainly merciful,[1]
but He is also just.[2]
His justice demands
that sin, committed against His supreme majesty,
be punished with the supreme penalty--
eternal punishment of body and soul.[3]

[1] Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 103:8-9

[2] Ex. 34:7; Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 5:4-6; Heb. 10:30-31

[3] Matt. 25:35-46

Q&A 12 According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both in this world and forever after: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

God
must be paid in full.

Q&A 13 Can we pay this debt ourselves?

Certainly not.

Q&A 14 Can another creature--any at all-- pay this debt for us?

No.

Q&A 15 What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

He must be truly human and truly righteous,

He must also be true God.

Q&A 12 According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both in this world and forever after: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

God requires that
the claims of His justice
must be paid in full.

Q&A 13 Can we pay this debt ourselves?

Certainly not.
Actually, we increase our guilt every day.

Q&A 14 Can another creature--any at all-- pay this debt for us?

No.

No mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin

Q&A 15 What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

He must be truly human and truly righteous,

He must also be true God.

Q&A 12 According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both in this world and forever after: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

God requires that His justice be satisfied.
Therefore the claims of His justice must be paid in full.

Q&A 13 Can we pay this debt ourselves?

Certainly not.
Actually, we increase our guilt every day.

Q&A 14 Can another creature--any at all-- pay this debt for us?

No.
To begin with,
God will not punish another creature for man's guilt.
Besides,
no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin

Q&A 15 What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

He must be truly human and truly righteous,

He must also be true God.

Q&A 12 According to God's righteous judgment we deserve punishment both in this world and forever after: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God's favor?

God requires that His justice be satisfied.[1]
Therefore the claims of His justice must be paid in full,
either by ourselves or another.[2]

[1] Ex. 23:7; Rom. 2:1-11

[2] Isa. 53:11; Rom. 8:3-4

Q&A 13 Can we pay this debt ourselves?

Certainly not.
Actually, we increase our guilt every day.[1]

[1] Matt. 6:12; Rom. 2:4-5

Q&A 14 Can another creature--any at all-- pay this debt for us?

No.
To begin with,
God will not punish another creature for man's guilt.[1]
Besides,
no mere creature can bear the weight of God's eternal anger against sin
and release others from it.[2]

[1] Ezek. 18:4, 20; Heb. 2:14-18

[2] Ps. 49:7-9; 130:3

Q&A 15 What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

He must be truly human[1] **and truly righteous.**[2]
yet more powerful than all creatures,
that is, **He must also be true God.**[3]

[1] Rom. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:17

[2] Isa. 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

[3] Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Jer. 23:6; John 1:1

Q&A 16 Why must He be truly human and truly righteous?

God's justice demands it:

Q&A 17 Why must He also be true God?

So that

He might bear *God's anger.*

Q&A 18 And who is this Mediator-- true God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous?

Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q&A 19 How do you come to know this?

The holy gospel tells me.

Q&A 16 Why must He be truly human and truly righteous?

God's justice demands it:

*man has sinned,
man must pay for his sin;*

Q&A 17 Why must He also be true God?

So that,

*by the power of His divinity,
He might bear the weight of God's anger in His humanity.*

Q&A 18 And who is this Mediator-- true God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous?

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Q&A 19 How do you come to know this?

The holy gospel tells me.

*God Himself began to reveal the gospel
already in Paradise;*

*finally, He fulfilled it
through His own dear Son.*

Q&A 16 Why must He be truly human and truly righteous?

God's justice demands it:

*man has sinned,
man must pay for his sin;
but a sinner can not pay for others.*

Q&A 17 Why must He also be true God?

So that,

*by the power of His divinity,
He might bear the weight of God's anger in His humanity
and earn for us
and restore to us
righteousness and life.*

Q&A 18 And who is this Mediator-- true God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous?

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

who was given us.

Q&A 19 How do you come to know this?

The holy gospel tells me.

*God Himself began to reveal the gospel
already in Paradise;
later, He proclaimed it

and portrayed it,

finally, He fulfilled it
through His own dear Son.*

Q&A 16 Why must He be truly human and truly righteous?

God's justice demands it:

*man has sinned,
man must pay for his sin;[1]
but a sinner can not pay for others.[2]*

[1] Rom. 5:12, 15; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:14-16
[2] Heb. 7:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:18

Q&A 17 Why must He also be true God?

So that,

*by the power of His divinity,
He might bear the weight of God's anger in His humanity
and earn for us
and restore to us
righteousness and life.[1]*

[1] Isa. 53; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21

Q&A 18 And who is this Mediator-- true God and at the same time truly human and truly righteous?

Our Lord Jesus Christ,[1]

*who was given us
to set us completely free
and to make us right with God.[2]*

[1] Matt. 1:21-23; Luke 2:11; 1 Tim. 2:5
[2] 1 Cor. 1:30

Q&A 19 How do you come to know this?

The holy gospel tells me.

*God Himself began to reveal the gospel
already in Paradise;[1]
later, He proclaimed it
by the holy patriarchs[2] and prophets,[3]
and portrayed it
by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law;[4]
finally, He fulfilled it
through His own dear Son.[5]*

[1] Gen. 3:15
[2] Gen. 22:18; 49:10
[3] Isa. 53; Jer. 23:5-6; Mic. 7:18-20; Acts 10:43; Heb. 1:1-2
[4] Lev. 1-7; John 5:46; Heb. 10:1-10
[5] Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:4-5; Col. 2:17

Lord's Day 7
Beginner's Version

**Q&A 20 Are all men saved through Christ just as all
were lost through Adam?
No. Only by true faith**

**Q&A 21 What is true faith?
True faith is knowledge;**

it is also assurance,

that

I

have been made forever right with God.

**Q&A 22 What then must a Christian believe?
Everything in the gospel.**

**Q&A 23 What are these articles?
I believe in God, the Father almighty.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Lord's Day 7
Intermediate Version

**Q&A 20 Are all men saved through Christ just as all
were lost through Adam?
No. Only those are saved who by true faith**

accept all His blessings.

**Q&A 21 What is true faith?
True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction
that everything God reveals in His Word is true;
it is also a deep-rooted assurance,
created in me by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that**

I

have been made forever right with God.

**Q&A 22 What then must a Christian believe?
Everything in the gospel.
*summarized
in the articles of our Christian faith.***

**Q&A 23 What are these articles?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten 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 hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living & the
dead.*
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
*I believe a holy catholic church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

Q&A 20 Are all men saved through Christ just as all were lost through Adam?

No. Only those are saved who by true faith
*are grafted into Christ
and accept all His blessings.*

Q&A 21 What is true faith?

True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction
*that everything God reveals in His Word is true;
it is also a deep-rooted assurance, created in me
by the Holy Spirit through the gospel,
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,
not only others, but I too,
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.*

Q&A 22 What then must a Christian believe?

Everything God promises us in the gospel.
*summarized
in the articles of our Christian faith.*

Q&A 23 What are these articles?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
*Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten 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 hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth 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;

*I believe a holy catholic church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Q&A 20 Are all men saved through Christ just as all were lost through Adam?

No. Only those are saved who by true faith
*are grafted into Christ
and accept all His blessings.[1]*

[1] Matt. 7:14; John 3:16, 18, 36; Rom. 11:16-21

Q&A 21 What is true faith?

True faith is not only a knowledge and conviction
*that everything God reveals in His Word is true;[1]
it is also a deep-rooted assurance,[2] created in me
by the Holy Spirit[3] through the gospel,[4]
that, out of sheer grace earned for us by Christ,[5]
not only others, but I too,[6]
have had my sins forgiven,
have been made forever right with God,
and have been granted salvation.[7]*

[1] John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19

[2] Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

[3] Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

[4] Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21

[5] Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

[6] Gal. 2:20

[7] Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10

Q&A 22 What then must a Christian believe?

Everything God promises us in the gospel.[1]
That gospel is *summarized* for us
in the articles of our Christian faith--
a creed beyond doubt,
and confessed throughout the world.

[1] Matt. 28:18-20; John 20:30-31

Q&A 23 What are these articles?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
*Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten 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 hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth 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;

*I believe a holy catholic church,
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?

God the Father;
God the Son;
God the Holy Spirit.

Q&A 25 Since there is but one God, why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

These three persons
are one God.

Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?

Into three parts:
God the Father;
God the Son;
God the Holy Spirit.

Q&A 25 Since there is but one God, why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Because that is how
God has revealed Himself in His Word:
these three persons
are one God.

Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?

Into three parts:

God the Father and our creation;
God the Son and our deliverance;
God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

Q&A 25 Since there is but one God, why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Because that is how

God has revealed Himself in His Word:
these three distinct persons
are one, true, eternal God.

Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?

Into three parts:

God the Father and our creation;
God the Son and our deliverance;
God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.

Q&A 25 Since there is but one God,[1] why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Because that is how

God has revealed Himself in His Word:[2]
these three distinct persons
are one, true, eternal God.

[1] Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4, 6

[2] Matt. 3:16-17; 28:18-19; Luke 4:18 (Isa. 61:1); John 14:26;
John 15:26; 2 Cor.13:14; Gal. 4:6; Tit. 3:5-6

Lord's Day 9
Beginner's Version

Q&A 26 What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth,

is my God and Father
because of Christ.

Lord's Day 9
Intermediate Version

Q&A 26 What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth,

who still upholds and rules them
by His providence,
is my God and Father
because of Christ.

He will provide
whatever I need,

and He will turn to my good
whatever adversity He sends me.

Q&A 26 What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth

***who still upholds and rules them
by His providence,
is my God and Father
because of Christ His Son.***

***He will provide
whatever I need
for body and soul,
and He will turn to my good
whatever adversity He sends me
in this sad world.***

***He is able to do this because He is almighty God;
He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.***

Q&A 26 What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth"?

That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth

***and everything in them,[1]
who still upholds and rules them
by His eternal counsel and providence,[2]
is my God and Father
because of Christ His Son.[3]***

I trust Him so much that I do not doubt

***He will provide
whatever I need
for body and soul,[4]
and He will turn to my good
whatever adversity He sends me
in this sad world.[5]***

***He is able to do this because He is almighty God;[6]
He desires to do this because He is a faithful Father.[7]***

[1] Gen. 1 & 2; Ex. 20:11; Ps. 33:6; Isa. 44:24; Acts 4:24;
14:15

[2] Ps. 104; Matt. 6:30; 10:29; Eph. 1:11

[3] John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 1:5

[4] Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25-26; Luke 12:22-31

[5] Rom. 8:28

[6] Gen. 18:14; Rom. 8:31-39

[7] Matt. 7:9-11

Q&A 27 What do you understand by the providence of God?

All things come to us
not by chance
but from His fatherly hand.

Q&A 28 How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

Nothing will separate us from His love.

Q&A 27 What do you understand by the providence of God?

*Providence is
the power of God
by which He upholds, as with His hand,
heaven
and earth
and all creatures,
and so rules them that*

all things come to us
not by chance
but from His fatherly hand.

Q&A 28 How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

*We can be patient,
thankful,
and for the future we can have
good confidence
that nothing will separate us from His love.*

Q&A 27 What do you understand by the providence of God?

Providence is

***the almighty and ever present power of God
by which He upholds, as with His hand,
heaven
and earth
and all creatures,
and so rules them that
leaf and blade,
rain and drought,
fruitful and lean years,
food and drink,
health and sickness,
prosperity and poverty--
all things, in fact, come to us
not by chance
but from His fatherly hand.***

Q&A 28 How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

***We can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God and Father
that nothing will separate us from His love.***

Q&A 27 What do you understand by the providence of God?

Providence is

***the almighty and ever present power of God*[1]
*by which He upholds, as with His hand,
heaven
and earth
and all creatures,*[2]
*and so rules them that
leaf and blade,
rain and drought,
fruitful and lean years,
food and drink,
health and sickness,
prosperity and poverty--*[3]
***all things, in fact, come to us
not by chance***[4]
but from His fatherly hand.[5]**

[1] Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-28

[2] Heb. 1:3

[3] Jer. 5:24; Acts 14:15-17; John 9:3; Prov. 22:2

[4] Prov. 16:33

[5] Matt. 10:29

Q&A 28 How does the knowledge of God's creation and providence help us?

***We can be patient when things go against us,*[1]
thankful when things go well,[2]
*and for the future we can have
good confidence in our faithful God and Father
that nothing will separate us from His love.*[3]**

All creatures are so completely in His hand
that without His will
they can neither move nor be moved.[4]

[1] Job 1:21-22; James 1:3

[2] Deut. 8:10; 1 Thess. 5:18

[3] Ps. 55:22; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:38-39

[4] Job 1:12; 2:6; Prov. 21:1; Acts 17:24-28

Q&A 29 Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," meaning "Savior"?

Because He saves us from our sins.

Q&A 30 Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only Savior Jesus?

No.

Q&A 29 Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," meaning "Savior"?

**Because He saves us from our sins.
*Salvation cannot be found in anyone else.***

Q&A 30 Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only Savior Jesus?

**No.
*Although they boast of being His,
by their deeds they deny
the only Savior and Deliverer, Jesus.***

Q&A 29 Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," meaning "Savior"?

Because He saves us from our sins.
Salvation cannot be found in anyone else;

Q&A 30 Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only Savior Jesus?

No.
Although they boast of being His, by their deeds they deny the only Savior and Deliverer, Jesus.

Those who in true faith accept this Savior have in Him all they need for their salvation.

Q&A 29 Why is the Son of God called "Jesus," meaning "Savior"?

Because He saves us from our sins.^[1]
Salvation cannot be found in anyone else; it is futile to look for any salvation elsewhere.^[2]

[1] Matt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25

[2] Isa. 43:11; John 15:5; Acts 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 2:5

Q&A 30 Do those who look for their salvation and security in saints, in themselves, or elsewhere really believe in the only Savior Jesus?

No.
Although they boast of being His, by their deeds they deny the only Savior and Deliverer, Jesus.^[1]

Either Jesus is not a perfect Savior, or those who in true faith accept this Savior have in Him all they need for their salvation.^[2]

[1] 1 Cor. 1:12-13; Gal. 5:4

[2] Col. 1:19-20; 2:10; 1 John 1:7

Q&A 31 Why is He called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

Because He has been
anointed
to be
our Prophet;

our Priest;

and our King.

Q&A 32 But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ.

Q&A 31 Why is He called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

Because He has been ordained by God the Father
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit
to be
our chief Prophet and Teacher

our only High Priest

and our eternal King

Q&A 32 But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ
and so I share in His anointing.

I am anointed
to confess His name,
to present myself to Him as a living sacrifice,
to strive against sin and the devil.

Q&A 31 Why is He called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

Because He has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be

our chief Prophet and Teacher
who perfectly reveals to us
the will of God for our deliverance;

our only High Priest
who has set us free by the one sacrifice,
and who continually pleads our cause;

and our eternal King
who governs us by His Word and Spirit,
and who guards us and keeps us.

Q&A 32 But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in His anointing.

I am anointed
to confess His name,
to present myself to Him as a living sacrifice of thanks,
to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ.

Q&A 31 Why is He called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

Because He has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit[1]
to be

our chief Prophet and Teacher[2]
who perfectly reveals to us
the secret counsel & will of God for our deliverance;[3]

our only High Priest[4]
who has set us free by the one sacrifice of His body,[5]
and who continually pleads our cause with the Father;[6]

and our eternal King[7]
who governs us by His Word and Spirit,
and who guards us and keeps us
in the freedom He has won for us.[8]

[1] Luke 3:21-22; 4:14-19 (Isa. 61:1); Heb. 1:9 (Ps. 45:7)

[2] Acts 3:22 (Deut. 18:15)

[3] John 1:18; 15:15

[4] Heb. 7:17 (Ps. 110:4)

[5] Heb. 9:12; 10:11-14

[6] Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24

[7] Matt. 21:5 (Zech. 9:9)

[8] Matt. 28:18-20; John 10:28; Rev. 12:10-11

Q&A 32 But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ[1]
and so I share in His anointing.[2]

I am anointed
to confess His name,[3]
to present myself to Him a living sacrifice of thanks,[4]
to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life,[5]
and afterward to reign with Christ
over all creation
for all eternity.[6]

[1] 1 Cor. 12:12-27

[2] Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28); 1 John 2:27

[3] Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; Heb. 13:15

[4] Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9

[5] Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 1:18-19

[6] Matt. 25:34; 2 Tim. 2:12

Q&A 33 Why is He called God's "only begotten Son"
when we also are God's children?

We are adopted children of God.

Q&A 34 Why do you call Him "our Lord"?

Because--

He
has bought us.

Q&A 33 Why is He called God's "only begotten Son"
when we also are God's children?

*Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God.
We, however, are adopted children of God--*

Q&A 34 Why do you call Him "our Lord"?

Because--

with His precious blood--
He
has bought us,
body and soul,
to be His very own.

**Q&A 33 Why is He called God's "only begotten Son"
when we also are God's children?**

*Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God--
adopted by grace through Christ.*

Q&A 34 Why do you call Him "our Lord"?

Because--

*not with gold or silver,
but **with His precious blood--**
He has set us free
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,
and **has bought us,**
body and soul,
to be His very own.*

**Q&A 33 Why is He called God's "only begotten Son"
when we also are God's children?**

*Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God.[1] We, however, are adopted children of God--
adopted by grace through Christ.[2]*

[1] John 1:1-3, 14, 18; Heb. 1

[2] John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5-6

Q&A 34 Why do you call Him "our Lord"?

Because--

*not with gold or silver,
but **with His precious blood--**[1]
He has set us free
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,[2]
and **has bought us,**
body and soul,
to be His very own.[3]*

[1] 1 Pet. 1:18-19

[2] Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 2:14-15

[3] 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Tim. 2:5-6

Q&A 35 What does it mean that He "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

That the eternal Son of God,

took

a truly human nature

Q&A 36 How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

He is our Mediator,

Q&A 35 What does it mean that He "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

That the eternal Son of God,

**took to Himself,
*through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,*
a truly human nature.**

Q&A 36 How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

He is our Mediator.

***He removes from God's sight
my sin.***

Q&A 35 What does it mean that He "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

That the eternal Son of God,

*who is and remains
true and eternal God,*

took to Himself,

*through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature,*

*in all things like us His brothers
except for sin.*

Q&A 36 How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

He is our Mediator.

*He removes from God's sight
my sin--mine since I was conceived.*

Q&A 35 What does it mean that He "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

That the eternal Son of God,

*who is and remains
true and eternal God,[1]*

took to Himself,

*through the working of the Holy Spirit,[2]
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,[3]
a truly human nature*

*so that He might become David's true descendant,[4]
in all things like us His brothers[5]
except for sin.[6]*

[1] John 1:1; 10:30-36; Acts 13:33 (Ps. 2:7); Col. 1:15-17;
1 John 5:20

[2] Luke 1:35

[3] Matt. 1:18-23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14

[4] 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Matt. 1:1; Rom. 1:3

[5] Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:17

[6] Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27

Q&A 36 How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?

He is our Mediator,[1]

and with His innocence and perfect holiness

He removes from God's sight

my sin--mine since I was conceived.[2]

[1] 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:13-15

[2] Rom. 8:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19

Q&A 37 What do you understand by the word
"suffered"?

Christ sustained

the anger of God.

Q&A 38 Why did He suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as
judge?

So that He,

might

free us from the judgment of God

Q&A 39 Is it significant that he was "crucified" instead
of dying some other way?

Yes.

Q&A 37 What do you understand by the word
"suffered"?

*That during His whole life on earth,
but especially at the end,
Christ sustained*

the anger of God.

That

*He might set us free
from eternal condemnation.*

Q&A 38 Why did He suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as
judge?

So that He,

though innocent,

might

free us from the judgment of God.

Q&A 39 Is it significant that he was "crucified" instead
of dying some other way?

Yes.

since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.

Q&A 37 What do you understand by the word
"suffered"?

*That during His whole life on earth,
but especially at the end,
Christ sustained
in body and soul
the anger of God.*

*That,
by His suffering,
He might set us free, body and soul,
from eternal condemnation,
and gain for us
God's grace,
righteousness,
and eternal life.*

Q&A 38 Why did He suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as
judge?

*So that He,
though innocent,
might be condemned by a civil judge,
and so free us from the judgment of God.*

Q&A 39 Is it significant that he was "crucified" instead
of dying some other way?

Yes.

*He shouldered the curse
which lay on me,
since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.*

Q&A 37 What do you understand by the word
"suffered"?

*That during His whole life on earth,
but especially at the end,
Christ sustained
in body and soul
the anger of God against the sin of the whole human
race.[1]*

This He did in order *that*,
by His suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,[2]
He might set us free, body and soul,
from eternal condemnation,[3]
and gain for us
God's grace,
righteousness,
and eternal life.[4]

[1] Isa. 53; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18

[2] Rom. 3:25; Heb. 10:14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

[3] Rom. 8:1-4; Gal. 3:13

[4] John 3:16; Rom. 3:24-26

Q&A 38 Why did He suffer "under Pontius Pilate" as
judge?

*So that He,
though innocent,
might be condemned by a civil judge,[1]
and so free us from the severe judgment of God
that was to fall on us.[2]*

[1] Luke 23:13-24; John 19:4, 12-16

[2] Isa. 53:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13

Q&A 39 Is it significant that he was "crucified" instead
of dying some other way?

Yes.

This death convinces me
that *He shouldered the curse
which lay on me,*
since death by crucifixion was accursed by God.[1]

[1] Gal. 3:10-13 (Deut. 21:23)

Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

Only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.

Q&A 41 Why was He "buried"?

He really died.

Q&A 42 Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

It is our entrance into eternal life.

Q&A 43 What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

Our old selves are crucified.

Q&A 44 Why does the creed add, "He descended into hell"?

Christ

has delivered me from hell.

Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

*Because God's justice and truth demand it:
only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.*

Q&A 41 Why was He "buried"?

*His burial testifies
that He really died.*

Q&A 42 Since Christ has died for us, why do we still have to die?

*Our death does not pay the debt of our sins.
Rather, it is our entrance into eternal life.*

Q&A 43 What further advantage do we receive from Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?

*Through Christ's death
our old selves are crucified.*

Q&A 44 Why does the creed add, "He descended into hell"?

*To assure me
that Christ my Lord,*

has delivered me from hell.

Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

*Because God's justice and truth demand it:
only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.*

Q&A 41 Why was He "buried"?

*His burial testifies
that He really died.*

**Q&A 42 Since Christ has died for us, why do we still
have to die?**

*Our death does not pay the debt of our sins.
Rather, it puts an end to our sinning
and is our entrance into eternal life.*

**Q&A 43 What further advantage do we receive from
Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?**

*Through Christ's death
our old selves are crucified,*

*so that the evil desires of the flesh
may no longer rule us,
but that instead we may dedicate ourselves
as an offering of gratitude to Him.*

**Q&A 44 Why does the creed add, "He descended into
hell"?**

*To assure me
that Christ my Lord,
by suffering*

*especially on the cross but also earlier,
has delivered me from hell.*

Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to go all the way to death?

*Because God's justice and truth demand it:[1]
only the death of God's Son could pay for our sin.[2]*

[1] Gen. 2:17

[2] Rom. 8:3-4; Phil. 2:8; Heb. 2:9

Q&A 41 Why was He "buried"?

*His burial testifies
that He really died.[1]*

[1] Isa. 53:9; John 19:38-42; Acts 13:29; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

**Q&A 42 Since Christ has died for us, why do we still
have to die?**

*Our death does not pay the debt of our sins.[1]
Rather, it puts an end to our sinning
and is our entrance into eternal life.[2]*

[1] Ps. 49:7

[2] John 5:24; Phil. 1:21-23; 1 Thess. 5:9-10

**Q&A 43 What further advantage do we receive from
Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross?**

*Through Christ's death
our old selves are crucified, put to death and buried with
Him[1]*

*so that the evil desires of the flesh
may no longer rule us,[2]
but that instead we may dedicate ourselves
as an offering of gratitude to Him.[3]*

[1] Rom. 6:5-11; Col. 2:11-12

[2] Rom. 6:12-14

[3] Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:1-2

**Q&A 44 Why does the creed add, "He descended into
hell"?**

*To assure me in times of personal crisis and temptation
that Christ my Lord,
by suffering unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of
soul,*

*especially on the cross but also earlier,
has delivered me from the anguish and torment of hell.[1]*

[1] Isa. 53; Matt. 26:36-46; 27:45-46; Luke 22:44; Heb. 5:7-10

Lord's Day 17
Beginner's Version

Q&A 45 How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

He has overcome death.

Lord's Day 17
Intermediate Version

Q&A 45 How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

He has overcome death.

*We
are already now resurrected to a new life.*

Q&A 45 How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

*First, by His resurrection **He has overcome death,**
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.*

*Second, by His power **we too**
are already now resurrected to a new life.*

*Third, Christ's resurrection
is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.*

Q&A 45 How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

*First, by His resurrection **He has overcome death,**
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.[1]*

*Second, by His power **we too**
are already now resurrected to a new life.[2]*

*Third, Christ's resurrection
is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.[3]*

[1] Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:16-20; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

[2] Rom. 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4

[3] Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21

Lord's Day 18
Beginner's Version

Q&A 46 What do you mean by saying, "He ascended into Heaven"?

That Christ was lifted up into heaven.

Q&A 47 But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?

In His divinity He is not absent from us for a moment.

Q&A 48

Q&A 49 How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

He pleads our cause in heaven

Lord's Day 18
Intermediate Version

Q&A 46 What do you mean by saying, "He ascended into Heaven"?

That Christ, while His disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth into heaven and will be there for our good until He comes again

Q&A 47 But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?

In His human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in His divinity He is not absent from us for a moment.

Q&A 48

Q&A 49 How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

First, He pleads our cause in heaven

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven--

Third, He sends His Spirit to us on earth.

Q&A 46 What do you mean by saying, "He ascended into Heaven"?

That Christ, while His disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth into heaven and will be there for our good until He comes again to judge the living and the dead.

Q&A 47 But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?

Christ is true man and true God.

In His human nature Christ is not now on earth; but in His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit He is not absent from us for a moment.

Q&A 48 If His humanity is not present wherever His divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

Certainly not.

Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity He has taken on, but remains personally united to His humanity.

Q&A 49 How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

First, He pleads our cause in heaven

in the presence of His Father.

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven-- a guarantee that Christ will take us to Himself in heaven.

Third, He sends His Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee.

By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives,

the things above.

Q&A 46 What do you mean by saying, "He ascended into Heaven"?

That Christ, while His disciples watched, was lifted up from the earth into heaven^[1] and will be there for our good^[2] until He comes again to judge the living and the dead.^[3]

[1] Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11

[2] Rom. 8:34; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 7:23-25; 9:24

[3] Acts 1:11

Q&A 47 But isn't Christ with us until the end of the world as He promised us?^[1]

Christ is true man and true God.

***In His human nature Christ is not now on earth;*^[2] but in His divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit He is not absent from us for a moment.**^[3]

[1] Matt. 28:20

[2] Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21

[3] Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:16-19

Q&A 48 If His humanity is not present wherever His divinity is, then aren't the two natures of Christ separated from each other?

Certainly not.

Since divinity is not limited and is present everywhere,^[1] it is evident that

Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of the humanity He has taken on,

but at the same time His divinity is in

and remains personally united to His humanity.^[2]

[1] Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 7:48-49 (Isa. 66:1)

[2] John 1:14; 3:13; Col. 2:9

Q&A 49 How does Christ's ascension into heaven benefit us?

First, He pleads our cause in heaven

in the presence of His Father.^[1]

Second, we have our own flesh in heaven-- a guarantee that Christ our head will take us, His members, to Himself in heaven.^[2]

Third, He sends His Spirit to us on earth as a further guarantee.^[3]

By the Spirit's power we make the goal of our lives,

not earthly things,

but the things above where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand.^[4]

[1] Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1

[2] John 14:2; 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6

[3] John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5

[4] Col. 3:1-4

Q&A 50 Why the next words:
"and sitteth at the right hand of God"?

To show
that the Father rules all things through Him.

Q&A 51 How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

First,
He pours out His gifts from heaven.

Second,
He defends us and keeps us safe.

Q&A 52 How does Christ's return to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

Me and all His chosen ones
He will take
into heaven.

Q&A 50 Why the next words:
"and sitteth at the right hand of God"?

To show that He is Head of His church,
that the Father rules all things through Him.

Q&A 51 How does this glory of Christ our head benefit us?

First, through his Holy Spirit
He pours out His gifts from heaven

Second, by His power
He defends us and keeps us safe.

Q&A 52 How does Christ's return to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?

All His enemies and mine
He will condemn to everlasting punishment:
but me and all His chosen ones
He will take along with Him
into the joy and the glory of heaven.

**Q&A 50 Why the next words:
"and sitteth at the right hand of God"?**

**To show that He is Head of His church,
and that the Father rules all things through Him.**

**Q&A 51 How does this glory of Christ our head benefit
us?**

**First, through his Holy Spirit
He pours out His gifts from heaven
upon us His members.**

**Second, by His power
He defends us and keeps us safe
from all enemies.**

**Q&A 52 How does Christ's return to judge the living
and the dead" comfort you?**

**I
confidently await as judge the very One
who has already stood trial in my place before God.**

**All His enemies and mine
He will condemn to everlasting punishment:
but me and all His chosen ones
He will take along with Him
into the joy and the glory of heaven.**

**Q&A 50 Why the next words:
"and sitteth at the right hand of God"?**

Christ ascended to heaven,
there **to show that He is Head of His church,**^[1]
and that the Father rules all things through Him.^[2]

[1] Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18

[2] Matt. 28:18; John 5:22-23

**Q&A 51 How does this glory of Christ our head benefit
us?**

**First, through his Holy Spirit
He pours out His gifts from heaven
upon us His members.**^[1]

**Second, by His power
He defends us and keeps us safe
from all enemies.**^[2]

[1] Acts 2:33; Eph. 4:7-12

[2] Ps. 110:1-2; John 10:27-30; Rev. 19:11-16

**Q&A 52 How does Christ's return to judge the living
and the dead" comfort you?**

In all my distress and persecution
I turn my eyes to the heavens
and **confidently await as judge the very One**
who has already stood trial in my place before God
and so has removed the whole curse from me.^[1]

**All His enemies and mine
He will condemn to everlasting punishment:
but me and all His chosen ones
He will take along with Him
into the joy and the glory of heaven.**^[2]

[1] Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:22-25; Phil. 3:20-21; Tit. 2:13-14

[2] Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:6-10

Q&A 53 What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

He, as well as the Father and the Son,
is God.

Q&A 53 What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

First, He, as well as the Father and the Son,
is eternal God.

Second, He has been given to me
so that
He makes me share in Christ.

Q&A 53 What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

First, He, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.

Second, He has been given to me personally, so that, by true faith, He makes me share in Christ and all his blessings, comforts me, and remains with me forever.

Q&A 53 What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?

First, He, as well as the Father and the Son, is eternal God.[1]

Second, He has been given to me personally,[2]
so that, by true faith,
He makes me share in Christ and all his blessings,[3]
comforts me,[4]
and remains with me forever.[5]

[1] Gen. 1:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4

[2] 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 4:6

[3] Gal. 3:14

[4] John 15:26; Acts 9:31

[5] John 14:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:14

Lord's Day 21
Beginner's Version

Q&A 54 What do you believe concerning
"the holy catholic church"?
That the Son of God

gathers
a community chosen for eternal life.

Q&A 55 What do you understand by
"the communion of saints"?
That believers

share in Christ

for the service
of the other members.

Q&A 56 What do you believe concerning
"the forgiveness of sins"?
That God,

will never hold against me
any of my sins.

Lord's Day 21
Intermediate Version

Q&A 54 What do you believe concerning
"the holy catholic church"?
I believe that the Son of God
through His Spirit and Word,

gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself
a community chosen for eternal life.

Q&A 55 What do you understand by
"the communion of saints"?
First, that believers

share in Christ
and in all His treasures and gifts.
Second, that each member
should
use these gifts

for the service
of the other members.

Q&A 56 What do you believe concerning
"the forgiveness of sins"?
I believe that God,

because of Christ,
will never hold against me
any of my sins
nor my sinful nature

Rather,
God grants me the righteousness of Christ

Lord's Day 21
Advanced Version

Q&A 54 What do you believe concerning
"the holy catholic church"?

*I believe that the Son of God
through His Spirit and Word,*

*gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself
a community chosen for eternal life
and united in true faith.*

*And of this community I am and always will be
a living member.*

Q&A 55 What do you understand by
"the communion of saints"?

First, that believers one and all,

*share in Christ
and in all His treasures and gifts.*

*Second, that each member
should consider it a duty
to use these gifts*

*readily and cheerfully
for the service and enrichment
of the other members.*

Q&A 56 What do you believe concerning
"the forgiveness of sins"?

*I believe that God,
because of Christ's atonement,
will never hold against me*

*any of my sins
nor my sinful nature*

which I need to struggle against all my life.

Rather, in His grace

God grants me the righteousness of Christ.

Lord's Day 21
Complete Version

Q&A 54 What do you believe concerning
"the holy catholic church"?

*I believe that the Son of God
through His Spirit and Word.[1]*

out of the entire human race,[2]

from the beginning of the world to its end,[3]

*gathers, protects, and preserves for Himself
a community chosen for eternal life[4]*

and united in true faith.[5]

*And of this community I am[6] and always will be[7]
a living member.*

[1] John 10:14-16; Acts 20:28; Rom. 10:14-17; Col. 1:18

[2] Gen. 26:3b-4; Rev. 5:9

[3] Isa. 59:21; 1 Cor. 11:26

[4] Matt. 16:18; John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14

[5] Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:1-6

[6] 1 John 3:14, 19-21

[7] John 10:27-28; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

Q&A 55 What do you understand by
"the communion of saints"?

First, that believers one and all,

as members of this community,

*share in Christ
and in all His treasures and gifts.[1]*

*Second, that each member
should consider it a duty
to use these gifts*

*readily and cheerfully
for the service and enrichment
of the other members.[2]*

[1] Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:4-7, 12-13; 1 John 1:3

[2] Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:20-27; 13:1-7; Phil. 2:4-8

Q&A 56 What do you believe concerning
"the forgiveness of sins"?

*I believe that God,
because of Christ's atonement,
will never hold against me*

any of my sins[1]

nor my sinful nature

which I need to struggle against all my life.[2]

Rather, in His grace

*God grants me the righteousness of Christ
to free me forever from judgment.[3]*

[1] Ps. 103:3-4, 10, 12; Mic. 7:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21;
1 John 1:7; 2:2

[2] Rom. 7:21-25

[3] John 3:17-18; Rom. 8:1-2

Q&A 57 How does "the resurrection of the body"
comfort you?

After this life

my flesh
will be
made like Christ's glorious body.

Q&A 58 How does the article concerning "life
everlasting" comfort you?

I will have
perfect blessedness

in which to praise God eternally.

Q&A 57 How does "the resurrection of the body"
comfort you?

My soul
will be taken immediately after this life
to Christ,
even my very flesh,
will be
made like Christ's glorious body.

Q&A 58 How does the article concerning "life
everlasting" comfort you?

Even as I already now
experience in my heart
the beginning of eternal joy,
so after this life I will have
perfect blessedness

in which to praise God eternally.

**Q&A 57 How does "the resurrection of the body"
comfort you?**

*Not only my soul
will be taken immediately after this life
to Christ its head,
but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ,
will be reunited with my soul
and made like Christ's glorious body.*

**Q&A 58 How does the article concerning "life
everlasting" comfort you?**

*Even as I already now
experience in my heart
the beginning of eternal joy,
so after this life I will have
perfect blessedness such as
no eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no human heart has ever imagined:
a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.*

**Q&A 57 How does "the resurrection of the body"
comfort you?**

*Not only my soul
will be taken immediately after this life
to Christ its head,[1]
but even my very flesh, raised by the power of Christ,
will be reunited with my soul
and made like Christ's glorious body.[2]*

[1] Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23

[2] 1 Cor. 15:20, 42-46, 54; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2

**Q&A 58 How does the article concerning "life
everlasting" comfort you?**

*Even as I already now
experience in my heart
the beginning of eternal joy,[1]
so after this life I will have
perfect blessedness such as
no eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no human heart has ever imagined:
a blessedness in which to praise God eternally.[2]*

[1] Rom. 14:17

[2] John 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:9

Q&A 59 What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

In Christ I am right with God.

Q&A 60 How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

Q&A 61 Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?

Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make me right with God.

Q&A 59 What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

*In Christ I am right with God
and heir to life everlasting.*

Q&A 60 How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

Even though my conscience accuses me

*and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,
nevertheless,*

*God grants and credits to me
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of
Christ,*

Q&A 61 Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?

*It is not because of any value my faith has
that God is pleased with me.*

*Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness
make me right with God.*

Q&A 59 What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

**In Christ I am right with God
and heir to life everlasting.**

Q&A 60 How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.

*Even though my conscience accuses me
of having grievously sinned*

*and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,
nevertheless,*

*without my deserving it at all,
out of sheer grace,*

**God grants and credits to me
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of
Christ,**

*as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner,
as if I had been as perfectly obedient
as Christ was obedient for me.*

*All I need to do
is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.*

Q&A 61 Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?

*It is not because of any value my faith has
that God is pleased with me.*

**Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness
make me right with God.**

*And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine
in no other way than
by faith alone.*

Q&A 59 What good does it do you, however, to believe all this?

**In Christ I am right with God
and heir to life everlasting.**[1]

[1] John 3:36; Rom. 1:17 (Hab. 2:4); Rom. 5:1-2

Q&A 60 How are you right with God?

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.[1]

*Even though my conscience accuses me
of having grievously sinned against all God's
commandments*

and of never having kept any of them,[2]

*and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,[3]
nevertheless,*

without my deserving it at all,[4]

out of sheer grace,[5]

**God grants and credits to me the
perfect satisfaction, righteousness, & holiness of
Christ,[6]**

*as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner,
as if I had been as perfectly obedient
as Christ was obedient for me.[7]*

*All I need to do
is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.[8]*

[1] Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:8-11

[2] Rom. 3:9-10

[3] Rom. 7:23

[4] Tit. 3:4-5

[5] Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8

[6] Rom. 4:3-5 (Gen. 15:6); 2 Cor. 5:17-19; 1 John 2:1-2

[7] Rom. 4:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21

[8] John 3:18; Acts 16:30-31

Q&A 61 Why do you say that by faith alone you are right with God?

*It is not because of any value my faith has
that God is pleased with me.*

**Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness
make me right with God.**[1]

*And I can receive this righteousness and make it mine
in no other way than
by faith alone.[2]*

[1] 1 Cor. 1:30-31

[2] Rom. 10:10; 1 John 5:10-12

Q&A 62 Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with Him?

Even the very best we do in this life
is
stained with sin.

Q&A 63 How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?

It is a gift of grace.

Q&A 64 But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

No.

Q&A 62 Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with Him?

*Because the righteousness
which can pass God's scrutiny
must be entirely perfect*

Even the very best we do in this life
is imperfect
and stained with sin.

Q&A 63 How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?

*This reward is not earned;
it is a gift of grace.*

Q&A 64 But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

No.
It is impossible

not to produce fruits of gratitude.

Q&A 62 Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with Him?

*Because the righteousness
which can pass God's scrutiny
must be entirely perfect
and must in every way measure up to the divine law.
Even the very best we do in this life
is imperfect
and stained with sin.*

Q&A 63 How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?

*This reward is not earned;
it is a gift of grace.*

Q&A 64 But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

*No.
It is impossible
for those grafted into Christ by true faith
not to produce fruits of gratitude.*

Q&A 62 Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with Him?

*Because the righteousness
which can pass God's scrutiny
must be entirely perfect
and must in every way measure up to the divine law.[1]
Even the very best we do in this life
is imperfect
and stained with sin.[2]*

[1] Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:10 (Deut. 27:26)

[2] Isa. 64:6

Q&A 63 How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?[1]

*This reward is not earned;
it is a gift of grace.[2]*

[1] Matt. 5:12; Heb. 11:6

[2] Luke 17:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8

Q&A 64 But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

*No.
It is impossible
for those grafted into Christ by true faith
not to produce fruits of gratitude.[1]*

[1] Luke 6:43-45; John 15:5

Q&A 65 It is by faith alone that we share in Christ and all His blessings: where then does that faith come from?

The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts

Q&A 66 What are sacraments?

Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see.

Q&A 67 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?

Right!

Q&A 68 How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?

Two: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q&A 65 It is by faith alone that we share in Christ and all His blessings: where then does that faith come from?

*The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts
by the preaching
and confirms it
through the sacraments.*

Q&A 66 What are sacraments?

*Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see.
They were instituted by God so that*

*He might make us understand more clearly
the promise of the gospel,
and might put His seal on that promise.*

Q&A 67 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?

Right!

Q&A 68 How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?

Two: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q&A 65 It is by faith alone that we share in Christ and all His blessings: where then does that faith come from?

The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts
by the preaching of the holy gospel,
and confirms it
through our use of the holy sacraments.

Q&A 66 What are sacraments?

Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see.
They were instituted by God so that
by our use of them
He might make us understand more clearly
the promise of the gospel,
and might put His seal on that promise.

And this is God's gospel promise:
to forgive our sins and give us eternal life

Q&A 67 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?

Right!
The Holy Spirit teaches
and assures us
that our entire salvation
rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.

Q&A 68 How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?

Two: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q&A 65 It is by faith alone that we share in Christ and all His blessings: where then does that faith come from?

The Holy Spirit produces it in our hearts^[1]
by the preaching of the holy gospel,^[2]
and confirms it
through our use of the holy sacraments.^[3]

[1] John 3:5; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; Eph. 2:8

[2] Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25

[3] Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:16

Q&A 66 What are sacraments?

Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see.
They were instituted by God so that
by our use of them
He might make us understand more clearly
the promise of the gospel,
and might put His seal on that promise.^[1]

And this is God's gospel promise:
to forgive our sins and give us eternal life
by grace alone
because of Christ's one sacrifice
finished on the cross.^[2]

[1] Gen. 17:11; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 4:11

[2] Matt. 26:27-28; Acts 2:38; Heb. 10:10

Q&A 67 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?

Right!
In the gospel the Holy Spirit teaches us
and through the holy sacraments He assures us
that our entire salvation
rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.^[1]

[1] Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 3:27

Q&A 68 How many sacraments did Christ institute in the New Testament?

Two: baptism and the Lord's Supper.^[1]

[1] Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

Lord's Day 26
Beginner's Version

Q&A 69 How does baptism remind you and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

As surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and His Spirit wash away all my sins.

Q&A 70 What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

That God, by grace, has forgiven my sins.

That the Holy Spirit has renewed me.

Q&A 71

Lord's Day 26
Intermediate Version

Q&A 69 How does baptism remind you and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

As surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and His Spirit wash away all my sins.

Q&A 70 What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

That God, by grace, has forgiven my sins because of Christ's blood

That the Holy Spirit has renewed me and set me apart to be a member of Christ

Q&A 71

Lord's Day 26
Advanced Version

Q&A 69 How does baptism remind you and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

As surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and His Spirit wash away my all my sins.

Q&A 70 What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

That God, by grace, has forgiven my sins because of Christ's blood

That the Holy Spirit has renewed me and set me apart to be a member of Christ so that more and more I become dead to sin and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.

Q&A 71 Where does Christ promise that we are washed with his blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

In the institution of baptism.

Lord's Day 26
Complete Version

Q&A 69 How does baptism remind you and assure you that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

In this way:

Christ instituted this outward washing[1] and with it gave the promise that,

as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly His blood and His Spirit wash away my soul's impurity, in other words, all my sins.[2]

[1] Acts 2:38

[2] Matt. 3:11; Rom. 6:3-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Q&A 70 What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

To be washed with Christ's blood means

that God, by grace, has forgiven my sins because of Christ's blood

poured out for me in His sacrifice on the cross.[1]

To be washed with Christ's Spirit means

that the Holy Spirit has renewed me and set me apart to be a member of Christ

so that more and more I become dead to sin and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.[2]

[1] Zech. 13:1; Eph. 1:7-8; Heb. 12:24; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:5

[2] Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:5-8; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:11; Col. 2:11-12

Q&A 71 Where does Christ promise that we are washed with his blood and Spirit as surely as we are washed with the water of baptism?

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 Spirit."[1]

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."[2]

This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism the washing of regeneration[3] and the washing away of sins.[4]

[1] Matt. 28:19

[2] Mark 16:16

[3] Tit. 3:5

[4] Acts 22:16

Q&A 72 Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

No.

Q&A 73 Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

God

wants to assure us.

Q&A 74 Should infants, too, be baptized?

Yes.

Q&A 72 Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Q&A 73 Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

God

wants to assure us
that the washing away of our sins spiritually
is as real as physical washing with water.

Q&A 74 Should infants, too, be baptized?

Yes.

Infants as well as adults
are in God's covenant and are His people.

Q&A 72 Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.

Q&A 73 Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

God

wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that the washing away of our sins spiritually is as real as physical washing with water.

Q&A 74 Should infants, too, be baptized?

Yes.

Infants as well as adults are in God's covenant and are His people. They, no less than adults, are promised the forgiveness of sin.

Therefore, by baptism, the mark of the covenant, infants should be received into the Christian church and should be distinguished from the children of unbelievers.

Q&A 72 Does this outward washing with water itself wash away sins?

No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all sins.[1]

[1] Matt. 3:11; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 John 1:7

Q&A 73 Why then does the Holy Spirit call baptism the washing of regeneration and the washing away of sins?

God has good reason for these words.

He wants to teach us that the blood and Spirit of Christ wash away our sins just as water washes away dirt from our bodies.[1]

But more important,

He **wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign, that the washing away of our sins spiritually is as real as physical washing with water.**[2]

[1] 1 Cor. 6:11; Rev. 1:5; 7:14

[2] Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27

Q&A 74 Should infants, too, be baptized?

Yes.

Infants as well as adults are in God's covenant and are His people.[1]
They, no less than adults, are promised the forgiveness of sin through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith.[2]

Therefore, by baptism, the mark of the covenant, infants should be received into the Christian church and should be distinguished from the children of unbelievers.[3]

This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision,[4] which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.[5]

[1] Gen. 17:7; Matt. 19:14

[2] Isa. 44:1-3; Acts 2:38-39; 16:31

[3] Acts 10:47; 1 Cor. 7:14

[4] Gen. 17:9-14

[5] Col. 2:11-13

Q&A 75 How does the Lord's Supper remind you and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

His body was offered and broken for me and His blood poured out for me on the cross.

Q&A 76 What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink His poured-out blood?

It means to accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ

Q&A 77

Q&A 75 How does the Lord's Supper remind you and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

First,

His body was offered and broken for me and His blood poured out for me on the cross.

Second,

He nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with His crucified body and poured-out blood.

Q&A 76 What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink His poured-out blood?

It means to accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ

But it means more.

Through the Holy Spirit we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body.

Q&A 77

Q&A 75 How does the Lord's Supper remind you and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

First, as surely as I see with my eyes

His body was offered and broken for me and His blood poured out for me on the cross.

Second, as surely as I taste with my mouth

He nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with His crucified body and poured-out blood.

Q&A 76 What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink His poured-out blood?

It means to accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ

But it means more.

Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us, we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body.

Q&A 77 Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with His body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?

In the institution of the Lord's Supper:

Q&A 75 How does the Lord's Supper remind you and assure you that you share in Christ's one sacrifice on the cross and in all His gifts?

In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup. With this command He gave this promise:[1]

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

His body was offered and broken for me and His blood poured out for me on the cross.

Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth

the bread and cup of the Lord,
given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely
He nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with His crucified body and poured-out blood.

[1] Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

Q&A 76 What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink His poured-out blood?

It means to accept with a believing heart

the entire suffering and death of Christ and by believing to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.[1]

But it means more.

Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us, we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body.[2]

And so, although He is in heaven[3] and we are on earth, we are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone.[4]

And we forever live on and are governed by one Spirit, as members of our body are by one soul.[5]

[1] John 6:35, 40, 50-54

[2] John 6:55-56; 1 Cor. 12:13

[3] Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 11:26; Col. 3:1

[4] 1 Cor. 6:15-17; Eph. 5:29-30; 1 John 4:13

[5] John 6:56-58; 15:1-6; Eph. 4:15-16; 1 John 3:24

Q&A 77 Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with His body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?

In the institution of the Lord's Supper:

"The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said,

"Take, eat, this is my body, which is for you.

Do this in remembrance of Me.'

In the same way, also the cup, after supper, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." [1]

This promise is repeated by Paul in these words:

"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 bread." [2]

[1] 1 Cor. 11:23-26

[2] 1 Cor. 10:16-17

Q&A 78 Are the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

No.

**Q&A 79 Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood?
(Paul uses the words, a participation in Christ's body and blood.)**

Christ

wants to assure us,

Q&A 78 Are the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

No.

*it is called the body of Christ
in keeping with the nature and language of
sacraments.*

**Q&A 79 Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood?
(Paul uses the words, a participation in Christ's body and blood.)**

Christ

wants to assure us
*that we
share in His true body and blood*

Q&A 78 Are the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

No.

*it is called the body of Christ
in keeping with the nature and language of
sacraments.*

**Q&A 79 Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood?
(Paul uses the words, a participation in Christ's body and blood.)**

Christ

wants to teach us that

*His crucified body and poured-out blood
truly nourish our souls for eternal life.*

*He wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge,
that we
share in His true body and blood
as surely as our mouths
receive these holy signs in His remembrance,*

Q&A 78 Are the bread and wine changed into the real body and blood of Christ?

No.

Just as the water of baptism
is not changed into Christ's blood
and does not itself wash away sins
but is simply God's sign and assurance,[1]
so too the bread of the Lord's Supper
is not changed into the actual body of Christ[2]
even though *it is called the body of Christ*[3]
*in keeping with the nature and language of
sacraments.*[4]

[1] Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5

[2] Matt. 26:26-29

[3] 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26-28

[4] Gen. 17:10-11; Ex. 12:11, 13; 1 Cor. 10:1-4

**Q&A 79 Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood?
(Paul uses the words, a participation in Christ's body and blood.)**

Christ has good reason for these words.

He *wants to teach us that*

*as bread and wine nourish our temporal life,
so too His crucified body and poured-out blood
truly nourish our souls for eternal life.*[1]

But more important,

*He wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge,
that we, through the Holy Spirit's work,
share in His true body and blood
as surely as our mouths
receive these holy signs in His remembrance,[2]
and that all of His suffering and obedience
are as definitely ours
as if we personally
had suffered and paid for our sins.*[3]

[1] John 6:51, 55

[2] 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26

[3] Rom. 6:5-11

Q&A 80

Q&A 81 Who are to come to the Lord's table?

Those who are displeased with themselves

but who trust

and who also desire Christ,

to lead a better life.

Q&A 82 Are those to be admitted to the Lord's Supper who show by what they say and do that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

No.

Q&A 80

Q&A 81 Who are to come to the Lord's table?

Those who are displeased with themselves

because of their sins,
but who nevertheless trust
that their sins are pardoned

by the suffering and death of Christ,
and who also desire

to strengthen their faith
and to lead a better life.

Q&A 82 Are those to be admitted to the Lord's Supper who show by what they say and do that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

No.

Q&A 80 How does the Lord's Supper differ from the Roman Catholic Mass?

*The Mass teaches
that the living and the dead
do not have their sins forgiven
through the suffering of Christ
unless Christ is still offered for them daily by the priests.*

*It also teaches
that Christ is bodily present
in the form of bread and wine
where Christ is therefore to be worshipped.*

*Thus the Mass is basically
a denial
of Jesus Christ
and a condemnable idolatry.*

Q&A 81 Who are to come to the Lord's table?

**Those who are displeased with themselves
because of their sins,
but who nevertheless trust
that their sins are pardoned**

**by the suffering and death of Christ,
and who also desire
to strengthen their faith
and to lead a better life.**

Q&A 82 Are those to be admitted to the Lord's Supper who show by what they say and do that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

No.

*the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such people,
by the official use of the keys of the kingdom.*

Q&A 80 How does the Lord's Supper differ from the Roman Catholic Mass?

The Lord's Supper declares to us
that our sins have been completely forgiven
through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ
which He Himself finished on the cross once for all.[1]

It also declares to us
that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ,[2]
who with His very body
is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father[3]
where He wants us to worship him.[4]

But *the Mass teaches
that the living and the dead
do not have their sins forgiven
through the suffering of Christ
unless Christ is still offered for them daily by the priests.*

*It also teaches
that Christ is bodily present
in the form of bread and wine
where Christ is therefore to be worshipped.*

*Thus the Mass is basically
nothing but a denial
of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ
and a condemnable idolatry.*

[1] John 19:30; Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 25-26; 10:10-18

[2] 1 Cor. 6:17; 10:16-17

[3] Acts 7:55-56; Heb. 1:3; 8:1

[4] Matt. 6:20-21; John 4:21-24; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-3

Q&A 81 Who are to come to the Lord's table?

**Those who are displeased with themselves
because of their sins,
but who nevertheless trust
that their sins are pardoned**

**and that their continuing weakness is covered
by the suffering and death of Christ,
and who also desire
to strengthen their faith
and to lead a better life.**

Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however,
eat and drink judgment on themselves.[1]

[1] 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32

Q&A 82 Are those to be admitted to the Lord's Supper who show by what they say and do that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

No. that would dishonor God's covenant
and bring down God's anger upon the entire congregation.[1]
Therefore, according to the instruction of Christ and His apostles,
*the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such people,
by the official use of the keys of the kingdom,
until they reform their lives.*

[1] 1 Cor. 11:17-32; Ps. 50:14-16; Isa. 1:11-17

Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?

The preaching of the holy gospel
and Christian discipline

Q&A 84 How does preaching the gospel open and close
the kingdom of heaven?

The kingdom of heaven is opened
to each and every believer
as often as he accepts the gospel promise in true faith.

Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven closed and
opened by Christian discipline?

If anyone, though called a Christian,
refuses to abandon his errors and wickedness,
such a one the officers exclude from Christian
fellowship

Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?

The preaching of the holy gospel
and Christian discipline toward repentance.

Q&A 84 How does preaching the gospel open and close
the kingdom of heaven?

The kingdom of heaven is opened
to each and every believer
as often as he accepts the gospel promise in true faith.

*The kingdom of heaven is closed, however,
to unbelievers and hypocrites
as long as they do not repent,*

Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven closed and
opened by Christian discipline?

If anyone, though called a Christian,
refuses to abandon his errors and wickedness,
such a one the officers exclude from Christian
fellowship
*Such a person,
When he promises and demonstrates genuine reform,
is received again
as a member of Christ
and of His church.*

Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?

**The preaching of the holy gospel
and Christian discipline toward repentance.**

**Q&A 84 How does preaching the gospel open and close
the kingdom of heaven?**

**The kingdom of heaven is opened
by proclaiming and publicly declaring
to each and every believer that,
as often as he accepts the gospel promise in true faith,
God, because of what Christ has done,
truly forgives all his sins.**

**The kingdom of heaven is closed, however,
by proclaiming and publicly declaring
to unbelievers and hypocrites that,
as long as they do not repent,
the anger of God and eternal condemnation
rest on them.**

**Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven closed and
opened by Christian discipline?**

If anyone, though called a Christian,

**if after repeated brotherly counsel,
refuses to abandon his errors and wickedness, and,
if after being reported to the church, that is, to its officers,
he fails to respond also to their admonition--
such a one the officers exclude from Christian fellowship
by withholding the sacraments from him,**

**Such a person,
when he promises and demonstrates genuine reform,
is received again
as a member of Christ
and of His church.**

Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?

**The preaching of the holy gospel
and Christian discipline toward repentance.**

Both preaching and discipline
open the kingdom of heaven to believers
and close it to unbelievers.[1]

[1] Matt. 16:19; John 20:22-23

**Q&A 84 How does preaching the gospel open and close
the kingdom of heaven?**

According to the command of Christ:

**The kingdom of heaven is opened
by proclaiming and publicly declaring
to each and every believer that,
as often as he accepts the gospel promise in true faith,
God, because of what Christ has done,
truly forgives all his sins.**

**The kingdom of heaven is closed, however,
by proclaiming and publicly declaring
to unbelievers and hypocrites that,
as long as they do not repent,
the anger of God and eternal condemnation
rest on them.**

God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come,
is based on this gospel testimony.[1]

[1] Matt. 16:19; John 3:31-36; 20:21-23

**Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven closed and
opened by Christian discipline?**

According to the command of Christ:

**If anyone, though called a Christian,
professes unchristian teachings or lives an unchristian life,
if after repeated brotherly counsel,
he refuses to abandon his errors and wickedness, and,
if after being reported to the church, that is, to its officers,
he fails to respond also to their admonition--
such a one the officers exclude from Christian fellowship
by withholding the sacraments from him, and
God Himself excludes him from the kingdom of Christ.[1]**

**Such a person,
when he promises and demonstrates genuine reform,
is received again
as a member of Christ
and of His church.[2]**

[1] Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 11-13; 2 Thess. 3:14-15

[2] Luke 15:20-24; 2 Cor. 2:6-11

Lord's Day 32
Beginner's Version

Q&A 86 We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: why then must we still do good?

Because
Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself.

Q&A 87 Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways?

By no means.

Lord's Day 32
Intermediate Version

Q&A 86 We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: why then must we still do good?

To be sure, Christ has redeemed us by His blood. But we do good because
Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself.

so that in all our living we may show that we are thankful to God for all He has done for us, and so that He may be praised through us.

Q&A 87 Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways?

By no means.

Q&A 86 We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: why then must we still do good?

*To be sure, Christ has redeemed us by His blood.
But we do good because
Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself,
so that in all our living
we may show that we are thankful to God
for all He has done for us,
and so that He may be praised through us.*

*And we do good
so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,
and so that by our godly living
our neighbors may be won over to Christ.*

Q&A 87 Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways?

By no means.

Q&A 86 We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: why then must we still do good?

*To be sure, Christ has redeemed us by His blood.
But we do good because
Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself,
so that in all our living
we may show that we are thankful to God
for all He has done for us,[1]
and so that He may be praised through us.[2]*

*And we do good
so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,[3]
and so that by our godly living
our neighbors may be won over to Christ.[4]*

[1] Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10

[2] Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

[3] Matt. 7:17-18; Gal. 5:22-24; 2 Pet. 1:10-11

[4] Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-2

Q&A 87 Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways?

By no means.

Scripture tells us that
no unchaste person,
no idolater, adulterer, thief,
no covetous person,
no drunkard, slanderer, robber,
or the like
is going to inherit the kingdom of God.[1]

[1] 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:1-20; 1 John 3:14

Q&A 88 What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

Two things:

the dying-away of the old self,
and the coming-to-life of the new.

Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?

It is to be genuinely sorry for sin,

Q&A 90 What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

It is wholehearted joy
to do
as God wants us to.

Q&A 91 What do we do that is good?

Only that which

is done for His glory.

Q&A 88 What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

Two things:

the dying-away of the old self,
and the coming-to-life of the new.

Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?

It is to be genuinely sorry for sin,
to hate it more and more,
and to run away from it.

Q&A 90 What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ
and a delight to do every kind of good
as God wants us to.

Q&A 91 What do we do that is good?

Only that which

arises out of true faith,
conforms to God's law,
and is done for His glory;

Q&A 88 What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

Two things:

the dying-away of the old self,
and the coming-to-life of the new.

Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?

It is to be genuinely sorry for sin,
to hate it more and more,
and to run away from it.

Q&A 90 What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ
and a delight to do every kind of good
as God wants us to.

Q&A 91 What do we do that is good?

Only that which

arises out of true faith,
conforms to God's law,
and is done for His glory;
and not that which is based
on what we think is right.

Q&A 88 What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

Two things:

the dying-away of the old self,
and the coming-to-life of the new.[1]

[1] Rom. 6:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10

Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?

It is to be genuinely sorry for sin,
to hate it more and more,
and to run away from it.[1]

[1] Ps. 51:3-4, 17; Joel 2:12-13; Rom. 8:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:10

Q&A 90 What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ[1]
and a delight to do every kind of good
as God wants us to.[2]

[1] Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa.57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17

[2] Rom. 6:10-11; Gal. 2:20

Q&A 91 What do we do that is good?

Only that which

arises out of true faith,[1]
conforms to God's law,[2]
and is done for His glory;[3]
and not that which is based
on what we think is right
or on established human tradition.[4]

[1] John 15:5; Heb. 11:6

[2] Lev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eph. 2:10

[3] 1 Cor. 10:31

[4] Deut. 12:32; Isa. 29:13; Ezek. 20:18-19; Matt. 15:7-9

Q&A 92 What does the Lord say in his law?

And God spoke all these words, saying:

1. ***I am the LORD your God,***
*who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of bondage.*
You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. ***You shall not make for yourself a carved image -***
*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 generations
of those who hate Me,
but showing mercy to thousands
to 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 labor and do all your work;
but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God.
In it you shall do no work:*
*you, nor your son, nor your daughter,
nor your manservant, nor your maidservant,
nor your cattle,
nor your stranger who is within your gates.*
*For in six days the LORD made the heavens & 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. ***Honor your father and your mother,***
*that your days may be long upon the land
which the LORD your God is giving you.*
6. ***You shall not murder.***
7. ***You shall not commit adultery.***
8. ***You shall not steal.***
9. ***You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.***
10. ***You shall not covet your neighbor's house;***
*you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,
nor his ox, nor his donkey,
nor anything that is your neighbor's.*

Q&A 92 What does the Lord say in his law?

And God spoke all these words, saying:

1. ***I am the LORD your God,***
*who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
out of the house of bondage.*
You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. ***You shall not make for yourself a carved image -***
*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 generations
of those who hate Me,
but showing mercy to thousands
to 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 labor and do all your work;
but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God.
In it you shall do no work:*
*you, nor your son, nor your daughter,
nor your manservant, nor your maidservant,
nor your cattle,
nor your stranger who is within your gates.*
*For in six days the LORD made the heavens & 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. ***Honor your father and your mother,***
*that your days may be long upon the land
which the LORD your God is giving you.*
6. ***You shall not murder.***
7. ***You shall not commit adultery.***
8. ***You shall not steal.***
9. ***You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.***
10. ***You shall not covet your neighbor's house;***
*you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,
nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,
nor his ox, nor his donkey,
nor anything that is your neighbor's.[1]*

[1] Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21

Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?

Into two tables.

Q&A 94 What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

*That I
avoid and shun
all idolatry.*

Q&A 95 What is idolatry?

*Idolatry is
having or inventing something in which one trusts
in place of or alongside of the only true God.*

Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?

Into two tables.

Q&A 94 What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

*That I
avoid and shun
all idolatry.*

*That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God,
trust Him alone,
look to Him for every good thing
humbly and patiently,
love Him, fear Him, and honor Him
with all my heart.*

Q&A 95 What is idolatry?

*Idolatry is
having or inventing something in which one trusts
in place of or alongside of the only true God.*

Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?

Into two tables.

Q&A 94 What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

That I, not wanting to endanger my very salvation, avoid and shun

all idolatry, magic, superstitious rites, and prayer to saints or to other creatures.

That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God, trust Him alone, look to Him for every good thing humbly and patiently, love Him, fear Him, and honor Him with all my heart.

In short,

that I give up anything rather than go against His will in any way.

Q&A 95 What is idolatry?

Idolatry is

having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed Himself in His Word.

Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?

Into two tables.

The first has four commandments, teaching us what our relation to God should be. The second has six commandments, teaching us what we owe our neighbor.[1]

[1] Matt. 22:37-39

Q&A 94 What does the Lord require in the first commandment?

That I, not wanting to endanger my very salvation, avoid and shun

all idolatry,[1] magic, superstitious rites,[2] and prayer to saints or to other creatures.[3]

That I sincerely acknowledge the only true God,[4] trust Him alone,[5] look to Him for every good thing[6] humbly[7] and patiently,[8] love Him,[9] fear Him,[10] and honor Him[11] with all my heart.

In short,

that I give up anything rather than go against His will in any way.[12]

[1] 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 10:5-14; 1 John 5:21

[2] Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:9-12

[3] Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9

[4] John 17:3

[5] Jer. 17:5, 7

[6] Ps. 104:27-28; James 1:17

[7] 1 Pet. 5:5-6

[8] Col. 1:11; Heb. 10:36

[9] Matt. 22:37 (Deut. 6:5)

[10] Prov. 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:17

[11] Matt. 4:10 (Deut. 6:13)

[12] Matt. 5:29-30; 10:37-39

Q&A 95 What is idolatry?

Idolatry is

having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed Himself in His Word.[1]

[1] 1 Chron. 16:26; Gal. 4:8-9; Eph. 5:5; Phil. 3:19

Q&A 96 What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

That we in no way make any image of God nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word.

Q&A 97 May we then not make any image at all?

God can not and may not be visibly portrayed in any way.

Q&A 98 But may not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God.

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God can not and may not be visibly portrayed in any way.

Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images if one's intention is to worship them or to serve God through them.

Q&A 98 But may not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

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Q&A 96 What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

That we in no way make any image of God[1]
nor worship Him in any other way than He has commanded in His Word.[2]

[1] Deut. 4:15-19; Isa. 40:18-25; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:22-23
[2] Lev. 10:1-7; 1 Sam. 15:22-23; John 4:23-24

Q&A 97 May we then not make any image at all?

God can not and may not be visibly portrayed in any way.

Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images if one's intention is to worship them or to serve God through them.[1]

[1] Ex. 34:13-14, 17; 2 Kings 18:4-5

Q&A 98 But may not images be permitted in the churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God. He wants His people instructed by the living preaching of His Word--[1]
not by idols that cannot even talk.[2]

[1] Rom. 10:14-15, 17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19
[2] Jer. 10:8; Hab. 2:18-20

Lord's Days 36 and 37

Beginner's Version

Q&A 99 What is God's will for us in the third commandment?

That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.

Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing really such serious sin that God is angry also with those who do not do all they can to help prevent it and forbid it?

Yes, indeed.

Lord's Day 37

Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

Yes.

Q&A 102 May we swear by saints or other creatures?

No.

Lord's Days 36 and 37

Intermediate Version

Q&A 99 What is God's will for us in the third commandment?

That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.

In a word, it requires that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe.

Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing really such serious sin that God is angry also with those who do not do all they can to help prevent it and forbid it?

Yes, indeed. No sin is greater.

That is why He commanded the death penalty for it.

Lord's Day 37

Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it,

for God's glory and our neighbor's good.

Q&A 102 May we swear by saints or other creatures?

No.

No creature is worthy of such honor.

Lord's Days 36 and 37
Advanced Version

Q&A 99 What is God's will for us in the third commandment?

That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.

In a word, it requires

that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe, so that we may properly confess Him, pray to Him, and praise Him in everything we do and say.

Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing really such serious sin that God is angry also with those who do not do all they can to help prevent it and forbid it?

Yes, indeed. No sin is greater,

That is why He commanded the death penalty for it.

Lord's Day 37

Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it,

in order to maintain and promote truth and

trustworthiness

for God's glory and our neighbor's good.

Such oaths are approved in God's Word

Q&A 102 May we swear by saints or other creatures?

No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the one who knows my heart

No creature is worthy of such honor.

Lord's Days 36 and 37
Complete Version

Q&A 99 What is God's will for us in the third commandment?

That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing,[1] perjury,[2] or unnecessary oaths,[3] nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders.[4]

In a word, it requires

that we use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe,[5] so that we may properly confess Him,[6] pray to Him,[7] and praise Him in everything we do and say.[8]

[1] Lev. 24:10-17

[2] Lev. 19:12

[3] Matt. 5:37; James 5:12

[4] Lev. 5:1; Prov. 29:24

[5] Ps. 99:1-5; Jer. 4:2

[6] Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

[7] Ps. 50:14-15; 1 Tim. 2:8

[8] Col. 3:17

Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing really such serious sin that God is angry also with those who do not do all they can to help prevent it and forbid it?

Yes, indeed.[1] No sin is greater,

no sin makes God more angry than blaspheming His name.

That is why He commanded the death penalty for it.[2]

[1] Lev. 5:1

[2] Lev. 24:10-17

Lord's Day 37

Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name if we do it reverently?

Yes, when the government demands it, or when necessity requires it,

in order to maintain and promote truth and trustworthiness

for God's glory and our neighbor's good.

Such oaths are approved in God's Word[1]

and were rightly used by Old and New Testament believers.[2]

[1] Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Jer. 4:1-2; Heb. 6:16

[2] Gen. 21:24; Josh. 9:15; 1 Kings 1:29-30; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23

Q&A 102 May we swear by saints or other creatures?

No. A legitimate oath means calling upon God as the one who knows my heart

to witness to my truthfulness

and to punish me if I swear falsely.[1]

No creature is worthy of such honor.[2]

[1] Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:23

[2] Matt. 5:34-37; 23:16-22; James 5:12

Q&A 103 What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

that

especially on the festive day of rest,
I regularly attend the assembly of God's people

Q&A 103 What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

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especially on the festive day of rest,
I regularly attend the assembly of God's people
to learn what God's Word teaches,
to participate in the sacraments,
to pray to God publicly,
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Q&A 103 What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

First,

that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained,
and that, ***especially on the festive day of rest,***
I regularly attend the assembly of God's people
to learn what God's Word teaches,
to participate in the sacraments,
to pray to God publicly,
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Second,

that every day of my life
I rest from my evil ways,
let the Lord work in me through His Spirit,
and so begin already in this life
the eternal Sabbath.

Q&A 103 What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

First,

that the gospel ministry & education for it be maintained,[1]
and that, ***especially on the festive day of rest,***
I regularly attend the assembly of God's people[2]
to learn what God's Word teaches,[3]
to participate in the sacraments,[4]
to pray to God publicly,[5]
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.[6]

Second,

that every day of my life
I rest from my evil ways,
let the Lord work in me through His Spirit,
and so begin already in this life
the eternal Sabbath.[7]

[1] Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25; 1 Cor. 9:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:13-17; Tit. 1:5

[2] Deut. 12:5-12; Ps. 40:9-10; 68:26; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25

[3] Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Cor. 14:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:13

[4] 1 Cor. 11:23-25

[5] Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:1

[6] Ps. 50:14; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9

[7] Isa. 66:23; Heb. 4:9-11

Q&A 104 What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

**That I honor, love, and be loyal to
my father and mother
and all those in authority over me;**

Q&A 104 What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

**That I honor, love, and be loyal to
my father and mother
and all those in authority over me;
*that I obey and submit to them, as is proper,
when they correct and punish me;***

Q&A 104 What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

That I honor, love, and be loyal to
my father and mother
and all those in authority over me;
that I obey and submit to them, as is proper,
when they correct and punish me;
and also that I be patient with their failings--
for through them God chooses to rule us.

Q&A 104 What is God's will for you in the fifth commandment?

That I honor, love, and be loyal to
my father and mother
and all those in authority over me;
that I obey and submit to them, as is proper,
when they correct and punish me;[1]
and also that I be patient with their failings--[2]
for through them God chooses to rule us.[3]

[1] Ex. 21:17; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; Rom. 13:1-2;
Eph. 5:21-22; 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-4:1

[2] Prov. 20:20; 23:22; 1 Pet. 2:18

[3] Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-8; Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-21

Q&A 105 What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor--

Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to killing?

**God
hates the root of murder:
envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.**

Q&A 107 Is it enough then that we do not kill our neighbor in any such way?

No.

**God tells us
to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Q&A 105 What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

**I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor--
not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture,
and certainly not by actual deeds--**

I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.

Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to killing?

**God
hates the root of murder:
envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.**

In God's sight all such are murder.

Q&A 107 Is it enough then that we do not kill our neighbor in any such way?

No.

**God tells us
to love our neighbor as ourselves,**

***to protect him from harm as much as we can,*
*and to do good even to our enemies.***

Q&A 105 What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor--
not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture,
and certainly not by actual deeds--
and I am not to be party to this in others;
rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.

I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.

Prevention of murder is also why
government is armed with the sword.

Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to killing?

God
hates the root of murder:
envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.

In God's sight all such are murder.

Q&A 107 Is it enough then that we do not kill our neighbor in any such way?

No.

God tells us
to love our neighbor as ourselves,
to be patient, peace-loving, gentle,
merciful, and friendly to him,
to protect him from harm as much as we can,
and to do good even to our enemies.

Q&A 105 What is God's will for you in the sixth commandment?

I am not to belittle, insult, hate, or kill my neighbor--
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rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.[2]

I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.[3]

Prevention of murder is also why
government is armed with the sword.[4]

[1] Gen. 9:6; Lev. 19:17-18; Matt. 5:21-22; 26:52

[2] Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 18:35; Rom. 12:19; Eph. 4:26

[3] Matt. 4:7; 26:52; Rom. 13:11-14

[4] Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:14; Rom. 13:4

Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to killing?

By forbidding murder **God** teaches us
that He **hates the root of murder:**
envy, hatred, anger, vindictiveness.[1]

In God's sight all such are murder.[2]

[1] Prov. 14:30; Rom. 1:29; 12:19; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 John 2:9-11

[2] 1 John 3:15

Q&A 107 Is it enough then that we do not kill our neighbor in any such way?

No.

By condemning envy, hatred, and anger
God tells us
to love our neighbor as ourselves,[1]
to be patient, peace-loving, gentle,
merciful, and friendly to him,[2]
to protect him from harm as much as we can,
and to do good even to our enemies.[3]

[1] Matt. 7:12; 22:39; Rom. 12:10

[2] Matt. 5:3-12; Luke 6:36; Rom. 12:10, 18; Gal. 6:1-2;
Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:8

[3] Ex. 23:4-5; Matt. 5:44-45; Rom. 12:20-21 (Prov. 25:21-22)

Q&A 108 What is God's will for us in the seventh commandment?

God condemns all unchastity.

Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.

Q&A 108 What is God's will for us in the seventh commandment?

God condemns all unchastity.
We should therefore thoroughly detest it

Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.
That is why He forbids everything which incites unchastity.

Q Q&A 108 What is God's will for us in the seventh commandment?

God condemns all unchastity.

We should therefore thoroughly detest it and, married or single, live decent and chaste lives.

Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.

That is why He forbids everything which incites unchastity, whether it be actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.

Q&A 108 What is God's will for us in the seventh commandment?

God condemns all unchastity.[1]

We should therefore thoroughly detest it[2]
and, married or single,
live decent and chaste lives.[3]

[1] Lev. 18:30; Eph. 5:3-5

[2] Jude 22-23

[3] 1 Cor. 7:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4

Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.

That is why He forbids everything which incites unchastity,[1]
whether it be actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.[2]

[1] 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:18

[2] Matt. 5:27-29; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Eph. 5:3-4

Q&A 110 What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

He forbids theft and robbery.

In addition He forbids all greed and pointless squandering of His gifts.

Q&A 111 What does God require of you in this commandment?

That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good.

Q&A 110 What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

He forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law.

But in God's sight theft also includes cheating and swindling our neighbor.

In addition He forbids all greed and pointless squandering of His gifts.

Q&A 111 What does God require of you in this commandment?

That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good,
that I treat him as I would like him to treat me.

Q&A 110 What does God forbid in the eighth commandment?

He forbids not only outright theft and robbery, punishable by law.

***But in God's sight theft also includes cheating and swindling our neighbor by schemes made to appear legitimate, such as:
inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume;
fraudulent merchandising;
counterfeit money;
excessive interest;
or any other means forbidden by God.***

In addition He forbids all greed and pointless squandering of His gifts.

Q&A 111 What does God require of you in this commandment?

That I do whatever I can for my neighbor's good, that I treat him as I would like him to treat me, and that I work faithfully so that I may share with those in need.

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counterfeit money;
excessive interest;
or any other means forbidden by God.***[3]

In addition He forbids all greed[4]
and pointless squandering of His gifts.[5]

[1] Ex. 22:1; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:9-10

[2] Mic. 6:9-11; Luke 3:14; James 5:1-6

[3] Deut. 25:13-16; Ps. 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 12:22; Ezek. 45:9-12;
Luke 6:35

[4] Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:5

[5] Prov. 21:20; 23:20-21; Luke 16:10-13

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[1] Isa. 58:5-10; Matt. 7:12; Gal. 6:9-10; Eph. 4:28

Q&A 112 What is God's will for you in the ninth commandment?

God's will is that

I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind.

I should love the truth.

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God's will is that I

***never give false testimony against anyone,
twist no one's words,
not gossip or slander.***

I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind;

I should love the truth.

***And I should do what I can
to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.***

Q&A 112 What is God's will for you in the ninth commandment?

God's will is that I

*never give false testimony against anyone,
twist no one's words,
not gossip or slander,
nor join in condemning anyone
without a hearing or without a just cause.*

Rather, in court and everywhere else,

I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind;

these are devices the devil himself uses,
and they would call down on me God's intense anger.

I should love the truth,

*speak it candidly,
and openly acknowledge it.*

And I should do what I can

to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.

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to guard and advance my neighbor's good name.[4]

[1] Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32

[2] Lev. 19:11-12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8

[3] 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25

[4] 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8

Q&A 113 What is God's will for you in the tenth commandment?

That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in my heart.

Q&A 114 But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly?

No.

Q&A 115 No one in this life can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly: why then does God want them preached so pointedly?

So that we may come to know our sinfulness and look to Christ for forgiveness.

Q&A 113 What is God's will for you in the tenth commandment?

That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in my heart.

*Rather, with all my heart
I should always hate sin.*

Q&A 114 But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly?

No.
*In this life even the holiest
have only a small beginning of this obedience.*

Q&A 115 No one in this life can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly: why then does God want them preached so pointedly?

First, so that we may come to know our sinfulness and look to Christ for forgiveness.

*Second, so that,
we may never stop striving
to be renewed more and more after God's image.*

Q&A 113 What is God's will for you in the tenth commandment?

That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in my heart.

***Rather, with all my heart
I should always hate sin
and take pleasure in whatever is right.***

Q&A 114 But can those converted to God obey these commandments perfectly?

**No.
*In this life even the holiest
have only a small beginning of this obedience.***

*Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose,
they do begin to live
according to all, not only some,
of God's commandments.*

Q&A 115 No one in this life can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly: why then does God want them preached so pointedly?

***First, so that the longer we live
the more we may come to know our sinfulness
and the more eagerly look to Christ
for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.***

***Second, so that,
while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit,
we may never stop striving
to be renewed more and more after God's image.***

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That not even the slightest thought or desire contrary to any one of God's commandments should ever arise in my heart.

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[1] Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23-24; Rom. 7:7-8

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[1] Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:9; 1 John 1:8-10
[2] Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 7:22-25; Phil. 3:12-16

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***First, so that the longer we live
the more we may come to know our sinfulness
and the more eagerly look to Christ
for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.***[1]

***Second, so that,
while praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit,
we may never stop striving
to be renewed more and more after God's image,
until after this life we reach our goal:
perfection.***[2]

[1] Ps. 32:5; Rom. 3:19-26; 7:7, 24-25; 1 John 1:9
[2] 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 3:1-3

Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.

Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that He will listen to us?

We must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God,

Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

Everything we need, as Christ our Lord Himself taught us.

Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

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 evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power,
 and the glory forever.
Amen.

Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us.
And also because God gives His grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly.

Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that He will listen to us?

First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God.

Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery.

Third,
even though we do not deserve it,
God will surely listen to our prayer
because of Christ our Lord.

Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

Everything we need, as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord Himself taught us.

Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

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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;
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 As we also have forgiven our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation,
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Amen.

Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

**Because prayer is the most important part
of the thankfulness God requires of us.**

***And also because God gives His grace and Holy Spirit
only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly,
asking God for these gifts
and thanking Him for them.***

**Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that He will listen
to us?**

**First, we must pray from the heart
to no other than the one true God,**

***asking for everything He has commanded us to ask for.
Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery,***

and humble ourselves in His majestic presence.

Third,

***even though we do not deserve it,
God will surely listen to our prayer
because of Christ our Lord.***

That is what He promised us in His Word.

Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

**Everything we need, spiritually and physically,
as embraced in the prayer
Christ our Lord Himself taught us.**

Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

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 evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power,
and the glory forever.

Amen.

Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

**Because prayer is the most important part
of the thankfulness God requires of us.**[1]

***And also because God gives His grace and Holy Spirit
only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly,
asking God for these gifts
and thanking Him for them.***[2]

[1] Ps. 50:14-15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18

[2] Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13

**Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that He will listen
to us?**

**First, we must pray from the heart
to no other than the one true God,**

***who has revealed Himself in his Word,
asking for everything He has commanded us to ask for.***[1]

***Second, we must acknowledge our need and misery,
hiding nothing,
and humble ourselves in His majestic presence.***[2]

Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation:

***even though we do not deserve it,
God will surely listen to our prayer
because of Christ our Lord.***

That is what He promised us in His Word.[3]

[1] Ps. 145:18-20; John 4:22-24; Rom. 8:26-27; James 1:5;
1 John 5:14-15

[2] 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 2:11; 34:18; 62:8; Isa. 66:2; Rev. 4

[3] Dan. 9:17-19; Matt. 7:8; John 14:13-14; 16:23; Rom. 10:13;
James 1:6

Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

Everything we need, spiritually and physically,[1]
**as embraced in the prayer
Christ our Lord Himself taught us.**

[1] James 1:17; Matt. 6:33

Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

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 evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power,
and the glory forever.

Amen.[1]

[1] Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Q&A 120 Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

God through Christ has become our Father.

Q&A 121 Why the words "Who art in heaven"?

These words teach us

to expect everything for body and soul from His almighty power.

Q&A 120 Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

God through Christ has become our Father.

Our fathers do not refuse us the things of this life; God our Father will even less refuse to give us what we ask in faith.

Q&A 121 Why the words "Who art in heaven"?

These words teach us

to expect everything for body and soul from His almighty power.

Q&A 120 Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

Christ wants to kindle in us

*the childlike awe and trust
that God through Christ has become
our Father.*

*Our fathers do not refuse us
the things of this life;
God our Father will even less refuse to give us
what we ask in faith.*

Q&A 121 Why the words "Who art in heaven"?

*These words teach us
not to think of God's heavenly majesty
as something earthly,
and to expect everything
for body and soul
from His almighty power.*

Q&A 120 Why did Christ command us to call God "our Father"?

At the very beginning of our prayer
Christ wants to kindle in us
what is basic to our prayer--
the childlike awe and trust
that God through Christ has become
our Father.

*Our fathers do not refuse us
the things of this life;
God our Father will even less refuse to give us
what we ask in faith.[1]*

[1] Matt. 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13

Q&A 121 Why the words "Who art in heaven"?

*These words teach us
not to think of God's heavenly majesty
as something earthly,[1]
and to expect everything
for body and soul
from His almighty power.[2]*

[1] Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-25

[2] Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:31-32

Q&A 122 What does the first request mean?

Hallowed be Thy name means,

*Help us to really know You,
to bless, worship, and praise You*

Help us to direct all our living--

*so that Your name will be
always honored and praised.*

Q&A 122 What does the first request mean?

Hallowed be Thy name means,

*Help us to really know You,
to bless, worship, and praise You
for all Your works*

And it means,

*Help us to direct all our living--
what we think, say, and do--*

*so that Your name will never be blasphemed because of us
but always honored and praised.*

Q&A 122 What does the first request mean?

Hallowed be Thy name means,

**Help us to really know You,
to bless, worship, and praise You**
for all Your works

*and for all that shines forth from them:
Your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,
justice, mercy, and truth.*

And it means,

**Help us to direct all our living--
what we think, say, and do--
so that Your name will never be blasphemed because of us
but always honored and praised.**

Q&A 122 What does the first request mean?

Hallowed be Thy name means,

Help us to really know You.^[1]
to bless, worship, and praise You
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*and for all that shines forth from them:
Your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,
justice, mercy, and truth.*^[2]

And it means,

**Help us to direct all our living--
what we think, say, and do--
so that Your name will never be blasphemed because of us
but always honored and praised.**^[3]

[1] Jer. 9:23-24; 31:33-34; Matt. 16:17; John 17:3

[2] Ex. 34:5-8; Ps. 145; Jer. 32:16-20; Luke 1:46-55, 68-75;
Rom. 11:33-36

[3] Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16

Q&A 123 What does the second request mean?

Thy kingdom come means,

Rule us by Your Word and Spirit.

Keep Your church strong, and add to it.

Destroy the devil's work.

Q&A 123 What does the second request mean?

Thy kingdom come means,

***Rule us by Your Word and Spirit in such a way
that more and more we submit to You.***

Keep Your church strong, and add to it.

**Destroy the devil's work;
*destroy every force which revolts against You
and every conspiracy against Your Word.***

Q&A 123 What does the second request mean?

Thy kingdom come means,

**Rule us by Your Word and Spirit in such a way
that more and more we submit to You.**

Keep Your church strong, and add to it.

**Destroy the devil's work;
*destroy every force which revolts against You
and every conspiracy against Your Word.***

*Do this until Your kingdom is so complete and perfect
that in it You are
all in all.*

Q&A 123 What does the second request mean?

Thy kingdom come means,

**Rule us by Your Word and Spirit in such a way
that more and more we submit to You.**[1]

Keep Your church strong, and add to it.[2]

**Destroy the devil's work;
*destroy every force which revolts against You
and every conspiracy against Your Word.***[3]

*Do this until Your kingdom is so complete and perfect
that in it You are
all in all.*[4]

[1] Ps. 119:5, 105; 143:10; Matt. 6:33

[2] Ps. 122:6-9; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42-47

[3] Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8

[4] Rom. 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:28; Rev. 22:17, 20

Q&A 124 What does the third request mean?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven means,

Help us and all people

to obey Your will without any back talk.

Q&A 124 What does the third request mean?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven means,

Help us and all people

to reject our own wills

and to obey Your will without any back talk.

Your will alone is good.

Q&A 124 What does the third request mean?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven means,

Help us and all people
to reject our own wills
and to obey Your will without any back talk.
Your will alone is good.

*Help everyone carry out the work he is called to
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.*

Q&A 124 What does the third request mean?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven means,

Help us and all people
to reject our own wills
and to obey Your will without any back talk.
Your will alone is good.[1]

Help everyone carry out the work he is called to[2]
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.[3]

[1] Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1-2; Tit.2:11-12

[2] 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9

[3] Ps. 103:20-21

Q&A 125 What does the fourth request mean?

Give us this day our daily bread means,

*Do take care of all our physical needs
so that we come to know
that You are the only source of everything good.*

Q&A 125 What does the fourth request mean?

Give us this day our daily bread means,

*Do take care of all our physical needs
so that we come to know
that You are the only source of everything good,
and that neither our work and worry
nor Your gifts
can do us any good without Your blessing.*

Q&A 125 What does the fourth request mean?

Give us this day our daily bread means,

**Do take care of all our physical needs
so that we come to know**

**that You are the only source of everything good,
and that neither our work and worry
nor Your gifts
can do us any good without Your blessing.**

*And so help us to give up our trust in creatures
and to put trust in You alone.*

Q&A 125 What does the fourth request mean?

Give us this day our daily bread means,

**Do take care of all our physical needs[1]
so that we come to know**

**that You are the only source of everything good,[2]
and that neither our work and worry
nor Your gifts
can do us any good without Your blessing.[3]**

*And so help us to give up our trust in creatures
and to put trust in You alone.*[4]

[1] Ps. 104:27-30; 145:15-16; Matt. 6:25-34

[2] Acts 14:17; 17:25; James 1:17

[3] Deut. 8:3; Ps. 37:16; 127:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58

[4] Ps. 55:22; 62; 146; Jer. 17:5-8; Heb. 13:5-6

Q&A 126 What does the fifth request mean?

And Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors means,

Do not hold against us,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.

Q&A 126 What does the fifth request mean?

And Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors means,

Because of Christ's blood,
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.

Just as we are fully determined,
to forgive our neighbors.

Q&A 126 What does the fifth request mean?

And Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors means,

***Because of Christ's blood,
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.***

***Forgive us just as we are fully determined,
as evidence of Your grace in us,
to forgive our neighbors.***

Q&A 126 What does the fifth request mean?

And Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors means,

***Because of Christ's blood,
do not hold against us, poor sinners that we are,
any of the sins we do
or the evil that constantly clings to us.[1]***

***Forgive us just as we are fully determined,
as evidence of Your grace in us,
to forgive our neighbors.*[2]**

[1] Ps. 51:1-7; 143:2; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 2:1-2

[2] Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35

Q&A 127 What does the sixth request mean?

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one means,

*The devil, the world, and our own flesh--
never stop attacking us.*
*And so, Lord,
uphold us and make us strong.*

Q&A 128 What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever means,

Your holy name,
should receive all the praise, forever.

Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?

Amen means,

God listens to my prayer.

Q&A 127 What does the sixth request mean?

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one means,

*Our sworn enemies--
the devil, the world, and our own flesh--
never stop attacking us.*
*And so, Lord,
uphold us and make us strong
with the strength of Your Holy Spirit.*

Q&A 128 What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever means,

*As our all-powerful king,
You not only want to,
but are able to give us all that is good;
and because Your holy name,*
should receive all the praise, forever.

Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?

Amen means,

This is sure to be!

God listens to my prayer,

Q&A 127 What does the sixth request mean?

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one means,

*By ourselves we are too weak
to hold our own even for a moment.*

*And our sworn enemies--
the devil, the world, and our own flesh--
never stop attacking us.*

*And so, Lord,
uphold us and make us strong
with the strength of Your Holy Spirit,
so that we may not go down to defeat
in this spiritual struggle.*

Q&A 128 What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever means,

*As our all-powerful king,
You not only want to,
but are able to give us all that is good;
and because Your holy name,
and not we ourselves,
should receive all the praise, forever.*

Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?

Amen means,

This is sure to be!

*It is even more sure
that God listens to my prayer.
than that I really desire
what I pray for.*

Q&A 127 What does the sixth request mean?

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one means,

*By ourselves we are too weak
to hold our own even for a moment.[1]*

*And our sworn enemies--
the devil,[2] the world,[3] and our own flesh--[4]
never stop attacking us.*

*And so, Lord,
uphold us and make us strong
with the strength of Your Holy Spirit,
so that we may not go down to defeat
in this spiritual struggle,[5]
but may firmly resist our enemies
until we finally win the complete victory.[6]*

[1] Ps. 103:14-16; John 15:1-5

[2] 2 Cor. 11:14; Eph. 6:10-13; 1 Pet. 5:8

[3] John 15:18-21

[4] Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17

[5] Matt. 10:19-20; 26:41; Mark 13:33; Rom. 5:3-5

[6] 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23

Q&A 128 What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever means,

We have made all these requests of You
because, *as our all-powerful king,*
You not only want to,
but are able to give us all that is good;[1]
and because Your holy name,
and not we ourselves,
should receive all the praise, forever.[2]

[1] Rom. 10:11-13; 2 Pet. 2:9

[2] Ps. 115:1; John 14:13

Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?

Amen means,

This is sure to be!

*It is even more sure
that God listens to my prayer,
than that I really desire
what I pray for.[1]*

[1] Isa. 65:24; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:13