

Anchored in Christ

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ABOUT THIS CATECHISM

What is a Catechism

The word "catechism" comes from the Greek word *κατηχέω* (katēcheō), which means "to instruct" or "to teach." It is derived from the root *ἤχέω* (ēcheō), meaning "to sound" or "to resound." Throughout church history, catechisms have been written to instruct new believers (often children and youth) in the faith so they can understand what a church believes on major issues. Such catechisms have proven to be invaluable when it comes to laying a firm foundation for believers to not be blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

A typical catechism includes a list of questions and answers. The catechism user is expected to memorize the question and answer. The hope is not to cover every possible element of each doctrine, but that in each question a foundation of sound doctrine can be laid to prepare the believer for maturity. Catechisms can be done by an individual memorizing the questions and answers themselves, or by an instructor (often a parent, pastor, or teacher) asking the question, and the student providing the expected answer. Ultimately, the purpose is to ensure new believers (of all ages) will be able to articulate the faith they believe.

Why This Catechism Was Written

This catechism was written to equip families at Grace Community Chapel, Saint Peters, Missouri with a resource to grow in doctrine. It was created with the intention of establishing a blueprint for future youth Sunday school lessons which will expand on each question. The hope is to turn each question and answer into a Sunday school lesson. This would lead to a roughly three-year circuit for students to study through. The hope is that students who begin in sixth grade will have studied these doctrines at least twice by the time they graduate high school. Hopefully this will mean the foundations of the faith will not sound foreign to them. It will also hopefully mean that they will be able to accurately articulate the Christian doctrines they grew up learning. While this was written with our local church youth group in mind, I am convinced this could benefit like-minded churches, including all ages. It is designed with the assumption that people might desire to learn from it in different ways.

How The Doctrines/Questions Were Chosen

There are many areas of biblical doctrine that can be deemed important to know. The major categories of doctrine in this catechism were chosen knowing that this could not be exhaustive. I wrote this catechism with

an ordination exam in mind. I asked: “What should the church want to know about a pastor’s theology if they were considering them for ordination?” From there, I chose some of the most common categories of doctrine that might be asked in an ordination exam. I also searched for common questions that churches typically ask. Within those categories, I asked questions that could introduce students to the essential doctrines they ought to know as Christians. These doctrines most certainly need to be expounded upon beyond the one question and answer, but that is why our youth group is studying systematic theology lessons based on each question.

Formatting the Questions

Traditional catechisms ask a question then follow up with an answer summarizing the basic tenets of a doctrine. This catechism instead asks a question and provides one word-for-word Bible verse (from time to time several verses) to answer that question. Knowing that supplementary doctrine-teaching Sunday school lessons are intended to be written, I felt it would be more beneficial to have students memorize a verse that could sum up those doctrines rather than trying to put those doctrines into succinct statements from my own summary. I believe it is an additional benefit to have students memorize Scripture while providing a question that helps them understand what the Scripture means. There are indeed pre-existing catechisms such as the *Shorter Westminster Catechism* that include doctrinal statements to memorize as well as Scripture memorization. This was written knowing not everyone will take the time to memorize both (though if the reader is willing, I encourage them to put this catechism down and pick up the *Westminster* instead!). Sometimes children/youth memorize verses without ever considering what the verse actually means. Being paired with a direct question meant to teach a doctrine can help fight some of that blind memorization.

I understand it can be dangerous to build whole doctrines based on one verse at a time. That is not what I was attempting here. Rather, I began with the doctrines that are based on the whole scope of Scripture, and asked what verse might best summarize the answer to that question. Each question and answer were written knowing that Sunday school lessons will be produced from those questions which will allow students to examine the whole scope of Scripture to see where those doctrines are coming from. Therefore, this is in no way an attempt to build a doctrine based on one verse at a time. Rather, it is using one verse at a time to summarize well-established doctrines that are biblically based and will be more thoroughly examined in future contexts.

The catechism is intentionally broken down into individual sections to make it less overwhelming. Rather than 100+ questions and answers in a row to be memorized, people can take things one section at a time. It is far less intimidating to make it a goal to get through one section in a year rather than one long catechism, one question at a time, feeling like one has made no progress.

Theological Terms

Each section will be introduced by explaining the general topic of doctrine that section is covering. Next to the general term will be an italicized term that gives the more formal theological term to describe that topic. For example: “Jesus Christ | *Christology*.” This is meant to introduce important theological terms so that eventually those terms can be used naturally. There is a tendency in our culture to avoid the more formal theological terms in an attempt to make things understandable. It is certainly profitable to make sure what we are saying is

understandable, but I believe it is not beneficial to skip past the theological terms altogether. Rather, I think it is best to give a theological term and explain in understandable terms what that theological term means. This will enrich the believer's ability to articulate and understand what they believe. Precious and rich theological terms will always remain intimidating or strange if they are consistently left in a corner. We must reintroduce young people to these important terms.

How to Use this Catechism

This catechism was intentionally broken down into sections that begin with new numbers rather than continuing numbers across the entire document. That is because different people are in different seasons of life and can use this catechism in different ways. Some people might have the desire, time, and ability to memorize one question and answer every day. Some people might be new to the Catechism world and might begin with the goal of memorizing one section of the Catechism in a year. As long as there is intentionality and growth, this catechism is being used well.

This catechism can be memorized by an individual, but my greatest hope is that parents will commit to going through this with their children. That can be done in many ways. For some it might be used as supplementary home school material to instruct in Christian doctrine. For some it might be used in a family worship time. This might mean sitting together as a family to pray together, to memorize the question and answer together, and to do a Bible study on that doctrine, then to close by singing a hymn or two that relates to that doctrine. Perhaps for homes where older teenagers who are constantly in and out of the house, it might mean agreeing to memorize the same question and answer that week together, then seeing if you can all say it at mealtimes. It will certainly be used in our youth Sunday school program by memorizing one question at a time and studying a Sunday school lesson on that particular question and answer. As we take it slowly, the doctrines can be thought about and supported by the whole scope of Scripture.

On Appendixes

The appendixes are additions to the main material that are beneficial. One appendix includes the core beliefs of GCC. This is not expected to be memorized. It is included for the sake of like-minded churches to evaluate what our church considers essential to be a member at GCC. This will hopefully demonstrate why we chose the questions we chose and the answers we chose.

Other appendixes would still be useful to memorize. This includes the Ten Commandments which are a solid foundation for any new believer to understand that there is such a thing as absolute moral good and evil. Another section includes prayers that would be beneficial to have memorized as a Christian. Another appendix includes key biblical people and events. These are brief questions and answers meant to help a newer believer understand some of the more important people and events of Scripture. The next appendix is a list of the books of the Bible, which will be useful for all believers to be acquainted with. The final appendix is a list of four important creeds of the Christian faith, which gives us a better understanding of orthodox doctrine. Additionally, there is a glossary of terms that explains the more traditional theological terms covered throughout the catechism. May God bless you as you endeavor to memorize His Word and strengthen your foundation of theology.

“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

– 1 Timothy 4:16

Bibliology

The study of the Bible

1 SCRIPTURE | *BIBLIOLOGY*

1. What is the Bible?

“[God’s] word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” – Psalm 119:105¹

2. Where did the Bible come from? | *Inspiration of Scripture*

“Prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

– 2 Peter 1:21

3. How important is the Bible for faith and life?

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

– Matthew 4:4

4. What is the Bible profitable for?

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

– 2 Timothy 3:16–17

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5. How do we know God's Word is sufficient? | *Sufficiency of Scripture*

“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.”
– Psalm 19:7–11

6. What is the purpose of the Bible?

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” – John 20:31

7. Why do we believe other religious books cannot save?

“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.” – 2 Peter 1:16

8. How do we know the Old Testament is the Word of God?

“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” – Luke 24:27

9. How do we know the New Testament is the Word of God?

“How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?” – Hebrews 2:3

10. How does God speak today?

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” – Romans 10:17

11. How do we know every Word was written for us?

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” – Romans 15:4

Theology Proper

The study of God's nature, attributes, and being

2 ATTRIBUTES OF GOD | THEOLOGY PROPER

1. Is our God the only God? | *Monotheism*

“I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me.” – Isaiah 45:5

2. Was God created? | *Aseity of God*

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.” – Psalm 90:2

3. Does God have a body? | *Eternality/infinite nature of God*

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” – John 4:24

4. How great is God? | *Greatness of God*

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.” – Psalm 145:3

5. Is God all powerful? | *Omnipotence of God*

“The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.” – Isaiah 40:28

6. How is God different from all others? | *Holiness of God*

“Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” – Exodus 15:11

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7. Can God do anything evil? | *Goodness and justice of God*

“He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.” – Deuteronomy 32:4

8. Can God lie?

“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” – Numbers 23:19

9. Is God everywhere? | *Omnipresence of God*

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?” – Psalm 139:7

10. Is God loving?

“God is love.” – 1 John 4:8

11. Is God angry?

“God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.” – Psalm 7:11

12. Is God gracious?

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.” – Psalm 103:8

13. Is God sovereign? | *Sovereignty of God*

“Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.” – Psalm 115:3

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Trinitarianism

The study of the Trinity: One God in three persons

3 THE TRINITY | TRINITARIANISM

1. Is there more than one God? | *Monotheism—Refutation of Polytheism*

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” – Deuteronomy 6:4

2. What is the name of this God? | *Trinitarianism*

“The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 28:19

3. How do we describe the Father?

“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” – Ephesians 4:6

4. What did the Father do for us?

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” – John 3:16

5. Who is God’s only begotten Son?

“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.” – 1 John 4:15

6. What did the Son do for us?

“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” – Romans 5:10

7. Who is the Holy Spirit?

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” – John 14:26

8. What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” – John 15:26

9. Where does the Bible show the three persons are distinct persons and not just different ways He reveals Himself? | *Refutation of Modalism*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” – 2 Corinthians 13:14

10. Can someone know God if they do not believe in the Son? | *Refutation of Universalism*

“Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” – 1 John 2:23

Christology

The study of Jesus Christ

4 JESUS CHRIST | *CHRISTOLOGY*

1. Has the Son always been God with the Father? | *Divinity of Christ*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” – John 1:1

2. Was there ever a time when the Son did not exist? | *Eternality of Christ—Refutation of Arianism*

“He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” – John 1:2–3

3. Why is the Son called the Word of God? | *Logos*

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” – John 1:18

4. How did the Son of God make the Father known? | *Incarnation of Christ*

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14

5. How did the Word become flesh?

“‘And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” – Matthew 1:21–23

6. Did Jesus remain truly God when He was born of the virgin Mary? | *Kenosis*

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” – Hebrews 13:8

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7. Knowing that Jesus is truly God, is He also truly man? | *Hypostatic Union*

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same... Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren” – Hebrews 2:14, 17

8. How can we explain that Jesus is truly God and truly man?

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” – Colossians 2:9

9. Is the Son the same person as the Father?

“I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”
– John 16:28

10. Why did the Son have to become truly man? | *Redemption*

“God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” – Galatians 4:4–5

11. How does Christ being truly man redeem fallen man?

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.” – 1 Corinthians 15:22

12. Why did Christ have to be a sinless man?

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” – Romans 5:19

13. Why did Christ die?

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” – 1 Corinthians 15:3

14. Why did the Scriptures demand death for sin?

“For the wages of sin is death.” – Romans 6:23

15. How did Christ's death pay for sin?

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree').” – Galatians 3:13

16. How did Christ substitute Himself for us through His death? | *Substitutionary atonement*

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” – Isaiah 53:5

17. Do we need to pay more after what Jesus paid for us? | *Sufficiency of Christ's death*

“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” – Hebrews 10:14

18. Why did Christ rise from the dead?

“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.” – 1 Corinthians 15:21

19. Can anyone save us other than Jesus?

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12

20. Where did Christ go after His resurrection? | *Ascension of Christ*

“So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.” – Mark 16:19

21. What did Christ do when He ascended into heaven? | *Intercession of Christ*

“Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” – Acts 2:33²

22. How is Christ our High Priest?

“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” – Hebrews 7:25

² “What you see and hear” is referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

23. Now that Jesus is in heaven, what are we waiting for? | *Second Coming of Christ*

“Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”
– Titus 2:13

24. How is Christ like a husband to the church?

“For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.”
– Ephesians 5:23

Creation Theology

The study of God creating and sustaining the world

5 CREATION | *CREATION THEOLOGY*

1. Who created all things?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” – Genesis 1:1

2. Did the Father create all things?

“The Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him.” – 1 Corinthians 8:6

3. Did the Son create all things?

“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”
– Colossians 1:16

4. Did the Holy Spirit create all things?

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” – Job 33:4

5. Did God make the world out of physical stuff (matter)? | *Creatio ex nihilo* (“*Creation out of nothing*”)³

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.” – Hebrews 11:3

6. In how many days did God make the heavens and the earth?

“For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.” – Exodus 20:11

³ This doctrine is important because it emphasizes that God is not limited by or constrained by matter. Matter is not eternal. Only God is eternal.

7. Did God create sin?

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” – Genesis 1:31

8. Is God currently sustaining creation?

“If He should set His heart on it, if He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.” – Job 34:14–15

Anthropology

The study of humanity

6 MAN | ANTHROPOLOGY

1. Why is mankind sacred? | *Imago Dei (Image of God)*⁴

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” – Genesis 1:26–27

2. Did male and female exist before the fall?⁵

“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’” – Mark 10:6

3. How did God bless mankind when he created them male and female?

“Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’ And God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.’” – Genesis 1:28–29

4. How did God create the first man?

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” – Genesis 2:7

⁴ It is difficult to find any one verse that captures fully the concept of the image of God. Here we see that man is made in the image of God, and that means man is made in God’s likeness. We see dominion over creation is directly tied to that. Mankind is called to rule over creation as a faithful steward. We also see the concept of being male and female as tied to being made in the image of God. That is, both male and female are meant to be complementary in displaying the image of God.

⁵ It is becoming increasingly more common for some theologians to argue that male and female distinctions are a result of the fall. This is meant to imply that gender distinctions are manmade and not influenced by the body. The point here is to show that God made and described only two genders, and He did so before the fall when things were “very good.”

5. How did God create the first woman?

“And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’ ... And He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.” – Genesis 2:18, 21–22

6. Why is human life sacred from conception to death?

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”
– Psalm 139:13–14

7. Are our bodies important to God?⁶ | *Refutation of Gnosticism*

“The body is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.” – 1 Corinthians 6:13

8. Does God only care about what is on the outside?

“The LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” – 1 Samuel 16:7

9. How does God work in our outer and inner self?

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:23

10. Are males better than females or females better than males? | *Complementarianism*⁷

“Nevertheless, neither is man independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but all things are from God.”
– 1 Corinthians 11:11–12

⁶ This question is meant to challenge the false view that the body is essentially a shell that man must be freed from. This was believed by one of the earliest heresies in history, namely, Gnosticism. God created the body, and He created it sacred. Our bodies will resurrect someday.

⁷ The remaining verses in this chapter are intended to show one aspect of complementarianism. There are two common views on male and female. (1) Complementarianism—The view that male and female are both of equal value before God but are distinct in their God-given roles (here we display the differences in marriage). (2) Egalitarianism—The view that denies that there is any distinction between the roles of a male or female. We firmly reject egalitarianism as having no place in Scripture or in the history of the church.

11. What is marriage?

“But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female.’ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”

– Mark 10:6–9

12. What is the role of a husband in Christian marriage?

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her... For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church” – Ephesians 5:23, 25

13. What is the role of a wife in Christian marriage?

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord... Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” – Ephesians 5:22, 24

14. What is the mystery of marriage?

“‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” – Ephesians 5:31–32

Angelology | Demonology

Angelology—The study of angels
Demonology—The study of demons

7 ANGELS AND DEMONS | *ANGELOLOGY AND DEMONOLOGY*

1. What are angels and why do they exist?

“Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”
– Hebrews 1:14

2. Who is our enemy?

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” – 1 Peter 5:8

3. Where did Satan come from?⁸

“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering... You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.” – Ezekiel 28:12–15

4. How did Satan fall?

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” – Isaiah 14:12–15

⁸ Here we seek to emphasize that Satan is a creature who had to be created by God. He is not an equal enemy of God. God is in no way striving with Satan as if He were equally matched. Satan is a creation.

5. Did other angels sin with Satan? | *Demons*

“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.” – Jude 1:6

6. How does Satan attack?

“He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” – John 8:44⁹

7. Does Satan make us do or think sinful things?

“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.” – James 1:14

8. How do we resist the devil?

“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”
– Ephesians 6:14–18¹⁰

9. How did Jesus destroy the works of the devil?

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in [the cross].” – Colossians 2:15

⁹ The emphasis here is that Satan attacks, not by forcing us to sin, but by presenting lies to us. Consider Job’s situation when it comes to the destruction Satan can cause. Job still had the choice to not sin. Satan could not force Job to renounce God. Additionally, consider Satan’s lie to Eve. He presented a real lie and temptation. He can and does do the same things today. However, he could not force Eve to sin in behavior or thought.

¹⁰ Take careful notice: All of these elements of the armor of God have to do with the truth. These questions are meant to refute a mistaken demonology that Satan forces Christians to sin or that every bad thing that happens is directly because of Satan afflicting us. Equally disturbing is the notion that spiritual warfare means “tell the devil, ‘no, not today!’” This is directly rebuked in Jude 1:9–10. While there are cases of demonic possession where Christians in Scripture are seen casting them out in the name of Jesus, spiritual warfare typically, and here in Ephesians 6, is not us screaming at demons. Rather, this passage emphasizes a focus on truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation in Christ, the Word of God, and relying on the Spirit in prayer. These are all characteristics of a life devoted to God in grace and truth. The way to resist Satan is not by how authoritatively we can scream the name of Jesus, but with how much we rely on Him with a godly life.

Pneumatology

The study of the Holy Spirit

8 THE HOLY SPIRIT | *PNEUMATOLOGY*

1. Is the Holy Spirit a person or an impersonal force? | *Personhood of the Holy Spirit*

“But the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” – Romans 8:16

2. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit for believers?

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” – John 16:13

3. How does the Holy Spirit testify of Christ to the world?

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”
– John 16:8

4. Does the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians? | *Indwelling of the Holy Spirit*

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
– 1 Corinthians 3:16

5. What role does the Holy Spirit have in our salvation? | *Regeneration/New Birth*

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” – Titus 3:5

6. What happens to believers when they are born again?

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17

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7. How does the Holy Spirit assure us of our salvation? | *Sealing of the Holy Spirit*

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” – Ephesians 1:13

8. Can a Christian lose the Holy Spirit? | *Assurance of Salvation*

“[The Holy Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” – Ephesians 1:14

9. How does the Holy Spirit help us understand Scripture? | *Illumination of the Holy Spirit*

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” – 1 Corinthians 2:12

10. How does the Holy Spirit intercede for us? | *Intercession of the Holy Spirit*

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” – Romans 8:26

11. What are spiritual gifts?

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” – 1 Corinthians 12:1, 7, 11

12. How should a believer live the Spirit-filled life?

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” – Galatians 2:20

13. Where is a Christian’s spiritual strength?

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
– 2 Corinthians 12:9

14. What is the daily call for a born-again Christian?

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” – Luke 9:23

Soteriology

The study of salvation

9 SALVATION | *SOTERIOLOGY*

1. What is the gospel?

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

– 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

2. How did Jesus’s death forgive us of our sins? | *Substitutionary atonement*

“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” – 1 Peter 2:24

3. How do we receive this forgiveness of sins?

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” – Romans 10:9

4. Do we have to work to become saved, stay saved, or add to our salvation? | *Sola Gratia—Grace alone / Sola Fide—Faith alone*

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” – Ephesians 2:8–9

5. Are we allowed to sin all we want since we are saved by grace? | *Refutation of antinomianism*

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?” – Romans 6:1–2

6. What is justification? | *Justification*

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21

7. How are we justified? | *Propitiation / Redemption*

“Having been justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith.” – Romans 3:24–25

8. What is sanctification? | *Sanctification*

“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” – 2 Corinthians 7:1

9. Are we already sanctified? | *Positional sanctification*

“But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” – 1 Corinthians 6:11

10. Are we being sanctified? | *Progressive sanctification*

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” – 2 Corinthians 3:18

11. Were we God’s children before we were saved?

“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.” – Colossians 1:21

12. How does God save spiritually dead enemies?¹¹

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” – Ephesians 2:1

¹¹ This is meant to show that salvation is not a simple application of our will to choose God. It is a new birth wherein we are made from dead to alive, sealed and guaranteed to never lose such a salvation by the Holy Spirit.

13. Can a person who has been born again become dead in their sins again? | *Assurance of Salvation*

“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” – 1 Peter 1:23

14. What is election? | *Election*

“Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.” – Ephesians 1:4–5

15. Does God work out our salvation, or is it our responsibility?

“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” – Philippians 2:12–13

16. What is glorification? | *Glorification*

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” – 1 John 3:2

17. What will this glorification look like?¹²

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.” – Philippians 3:20–21

18. How precious is our salvation?

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.” – Philippians 3:8–9

¹² See Eschatology, question 7.

Ecclesiology

The study of the church

10 THE CHURCH | *ECCLÉSIOLOGY*

1. What is the church?

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” – 1 Corinthians 12:27

2. What does the Bible say about the identity and purpose of the church?

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” – 1 Peter 2:9

3. What mission did Jesus give the church before He ascended into heaven?

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’” – Matthew 28:18–20

4. What four things does the Bible tell us the earliest church was committed to?

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." – Acts 2:42

5. What is baptism?

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” – Acts 2:38

6. Does the water of baptism wash our sins away?

“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” – 1 Peter 3:21

7. What is communion/the Lord's Supper?

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, 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 till He comes.” – 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

8. Why did Christ give church leadership?

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” – Ephesians 4:11–12

9. What is church unity?

“Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” – Ephesians 4:13

10. What is maturity in Christ?

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.” – Ephesians 4:14–15

11. Is it only the leaders, or does every member contribute to the growth of the church?

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” – Ephesians 4:16

12. Is the local church important?

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:24–25

13. How should Christians interact with church leadership?

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”
– Hebrews 13:17

14. What is the role of an overseer/elder/pastor?

“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly.” – 1 Peter 5:2

15. What responsibility does church leadership have to protect the church? | *Church discipline*

“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.” – Romans 16:17

16. What is the hope of church discipline?

“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
– 2 Corinthians 7:9–10

Eschatology

The study of the end times

11 END TIMES | *ESCHATOLOGY*

1. What did Jesus promise us about His second coming?

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.”
– Revelation 22:12

2. Is Jesus’s return going to come physically or is it just a metaphor?

“This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” – Acts 1:11

3. What is the rapture of the church?

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
– 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

4. What is the great tribulation?

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” – Matthew 24:21

5. What is Jesus’s most common command about the end times?

“Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.” – Matthew 24:4–5

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6. Who will see Jesus's second coming and what will be the response?

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.” – Revelation 1:7

7. What will happen at the resurrection of the dead when Jesus returns? | *Resurrection of the Dead*

“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”
– John 5:28–29

8. What will happen at the final judgment?

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” – Revelation 20:12

9. What is the Millennium? | *Millennium*

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” – Revelation 20:6

10. What is the final fulfillment of God's plans?

“And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.’”
– Revelation 21:3

APPENDIX I: GCC CORE BELIEFS

Scripture

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible to be the only inspired, authoritative Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21)

The Father

We believe that there is one God, the Creator, eternally existent in three Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—each having the same essence and attributes. (2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man in indivisible union. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary atonement through His shed blood, His death and bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His future bodily return in power and glory. (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:6–8; 1 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 19:11–16; I Corinthians 15:1–8)

Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes and seals all believers at the moment of their salvation, filling them as they yield to Him with the goal of conforming them to the image of Christ. (Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:13; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18)

Salvation

We believe salvation is a gift of God received through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone and His sacrifice for sin. We believe that a person is justified by grace through faith apart from works and that all true believers have eternal life. Saving faith includes repentance, which is a change of mind about sin and the need for Jesus as Savior. (Ephesians 2:8–9; John 3:16; I John 5:10–13; Mark 1:15)

The Church

We believe that the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22–23, 2:19–22)

Ordinances

We believe that water baptism and the ¹³Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation. (Acts 8:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23–28)

Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, of the believer to everlasting glory in heaven with God and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment in hell apart from God. (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 22:3–5, 20:15; Daniel 12:2)

¹³ Communion is open to all who have trusted Christ as Savior whether members of Grace or not and is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

APPENDIX II: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1st Commandment

And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. “You shall have no other gods before Me.

2nd Commandment

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 nor 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.

3rd Commandment

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.

4th Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

5th Commandment

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

6th Commandment

You shall not murder.

7th Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

8th Commandment

You shall not steal.

9th Commandment

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10th Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

APPENDIX III: SIMPLE PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9–13)

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

A Prayer of Repentance (Psalm 53:10)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Trisagion—Praising the Thrice Holy God (Revelation 4:8)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

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For His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.

APPENDIX IV: KEY BIBLICAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Who was the first man? **Adam**

Who was the first woman? **Eve**

Who were Adam and Eve's first sons? **Cain and Abel**

Who was the first murderer? **Cain**

Who built the ark? **Noah**

Whose family did God promise to bless all people through? **Abraham**

Who was Abraham's wife? **Sarah**

Who was Abraham's promised son? **Isaac**

Who was Isaac's blessed son? **Jacob**

What did God change Jacob's name to? **Israel**

How many sons did Israel have? **Twelve**

Jacob's twelve sons grew up to become what? **The twelve tribes of Israel**

Who did God call to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt? **Moses**

What was the day called when God delivered the Israelites out of slavery? **Passover**

How many years did the Israelites spend in the desert? **Forty years**

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Who was Moses's brother and first high priest? **Aaron**

Who led the Israelites into the promised land? **Joshua**

Who ruled Israel after Joshua and before there were kings? **The judges**

Who was the first king of Israel? **Saul**

Who was the second king of Israel, a man after God's own heart, and the sweet psalmist of Israel? **David**

Who was David's son—a king blessed with wisdom who built the first temple? **Solomon**

Who did God send to give messages to the people of Israel? **The prophets**

Who prepared the way for Jesus? **John the Baptist**

Who died for our sins and resurrected on the third day? **Jesus Christ**

How many apostles did Jesus have? **Twelve**

Who was blessed for confessing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God? **Peter**

Who betrayed Jesus? **Judas Iscariot**

Who is called "the one whom Jesus loved?" **John**

When did Jesus rise from the dead? **On the third day**

Who was the first martyr? **Stephen**

Who was called to be an apostle to the Gentiles and wrote most of the New Testament? **Saul/Paul**

APPENDIX V: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament

The Pentateuch (Torah)

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Historical Books

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Wisdom Literature

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon

The Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

The Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

New Testament

The Gospels

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts and Epistles

Acts

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Revelation

Revelation

APPENDIX VI: IMPORTANT CREEDS

Why Creeds Matter

Four significant creeds of the Christian faith are listed here. The importance of creeds cannot be overstated. Many protestant churches do not put much emphasis on the creeds of the past. This is unfortunate. These creeds are designed as statements of faith to make clear what the church viewed as essential doctrine for Christians. While these creeds might sound too old-fashioned to some, the truth is they are rich in doctrine and serve as important resources for assessing what the church has believed for 2,000 years.

Apostles' Creed¹⁴

1. I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
2. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:
3. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary:
4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell:
5. The third day he rose again from the dead:
6. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
7. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:
8. I believe in the Holy Ghost:
9. I believe in the holy catholic¹⁵ church: the communion of saints:
10. The forgiveness of sins:
11. The resurrection of the body:
12. And the life everlasting. Amen.

¹⁴ "The Apostles' Creed," Christian Classics Ethereal Library, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/apostles.creed.html>.

¹⁵ The word "Catholic" in this context does not refer to "Roman Catholic." It means "universal." It refers to the church as the entire body of Christ across the globe.

The Nicene Creed¹⁶

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son¹⁷]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Chalcedonian Creed¹⁸

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have

¹⁶ "The Nicene Creed," *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/nicene.creed.html>.

¹⁷ This phrase is in brackets because it was originally not part of the Nicene Creed. This phrase is known as the filioque, which is simply Latin for "and the Son." This phrase was added by the Western Church and contributed to major division between the Church of the West and the Church of the East. It is included here to note the difference and because Christian Ethereal Classics included it, and that is where this creed is quoted from.

¹⁸ "The Chalcedonian Creed," *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/chalcedonian-creed.html>.

declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

Athanasian Creed¹⁹

1. Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith;
2. Which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.
3. And the catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;
4. Neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.
5. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.
6. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.
7. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit.
8. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated.
9. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.
10. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal.
11. And yet they are not three eternal but one eternal.
12. As also there are not three uncreated nor three incomprehensible, but one uncreated and one incomprehensible.
13. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty.
14. And yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty.
15. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God;
16. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
17. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord;
18. And yet they are not three Lords but one Lord.
19. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;
20. So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say; There are three Gods or three Lords.
21. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten.
22. The Son is of the Father alone; not made nor created, but begotten.
23. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.
24. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
25. And in this Trinity none is afore or after another; none is greater or less than another.
26. But the whole three persons are coeternal, and coequal.
27. So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.
28. He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

¹⁹ "The Athanasian Creed," *Christian Classics Ethereal Library*, accessed February 6, 2025, <https://www.ccel.org/creeds/athanasian.creed.html>.

ANCHORED IN CHRIST

29. Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
30. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.
31. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of substance of His mother, born in the world.
32. Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.
33. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood.
34. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ.
35. One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of that manhood into God.
36. One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
37. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ;
38. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead;
39. He ascended into heaven, He sits on the right hand of the Father, God, Almighty;
40. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
41. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies;
42. and shall give account of their own works.
43. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.
44. This is the catholic faith, which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Arianism—A heretical belief that denies the divinity of Christ. Any belief that claims there was a time when the Son did not exist. A classic Arian definition is to claim: “There was a time when the Son was not.” The emphasis being that Christ needed to be created.

Ascension of Christ—When Jesus, after His resurrection, physically went up into heaven before His disciples in the clouds.

Assurance of salvation—The doctrine that true believers are secure in Christ. The work of salvation is not a mere change of the will, but of God. Since salvation is of God, God will keep a truly saved individual forever. “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28).

Antinomianism—The false belief that, because Christians are under grace, they are free to live without regard for God's moral law.

Aseity of God—The attribute of God meaning He is self-existent and independent. He is the uncaused first cause, dependent on no one.

Church discipline—God has given the church authority to assess, correct, and restore professing believers who are living in unrepentant sin. The goal is always repentance and restoration, and never to cast off forever. This is meant to hold the church to biblical standards and should never be based on unbiblical standards of behavior.

Complementarianism—The biblical belief that men and women have different but complementary roles, particularly in marriage and church leadership. These roles are based on God's revealed system of authority, not men or women's functional capabilities or worth.

Creatio ex nihilo—Latin for "creation out of nothing." God did not use pre-existing matter to create. If he did, that would mean matter was eternal with God, making matter the uncaused first cause with God.

Divinity of Christ—The doctrine that Jesus Christ is truly God, possessing all the attributes of deity. He is not a lesser version of God than the Father.

Demons/Unclean spirits—Spiritual beings who sinned with Satan and were cast out of heaven. They are opposed to God and can influence and harm people.

Egalitarianism—A belief that men and women are interchangeable in all roles, including in marriage and church leadership, which contradicts the biblical teaching on complementarity.

Eternality/infinite nature of God—The belief that God has no beginning or end. God is not limited by space, time, or matter.

Eternality of Christ—The doctrine that the Son is eternal in the same sense as the Father is eternal. There was never a time when the Son was not.

Glorification—The point in salvation, when believers are fully transformed and perfected into the image of Christ, receiving their glorified bodies.

Justice of God—God's nature in doing what is right. God can do no wrong.

Gnosticism—An early heretical belief that emphasized secret knowledge. It taught that the physical realm, including the human body, is evil. Gnostics denied the true humanity of Christ and the bodily resurrection of the dead.

Holiness of God—God's perfect purity and separation from all sin and evil. God is distinct from His creation.

Hypostatic Union—The doctrine at Christ's incarnation, He remained truly God and truly man. He was not half God, half man, or sometimes fully God and sometimes fully man.

Imago Dei— “Image of God.” Humans are created in the image of God with a value and purpose to glorify God like no other creature can.

Incarnation of Christ—The doctrine that God the Son became truly human by being born of the virgin Mary. He did not cease to be God.

Indwelling of the Holy Spirit—The doctrine that the Holy Spirit lives in believers from the time of salvation.

Intercession of Christ (Christ as High Priest)—Jesus’s role as our one mediator between God and man. His one sacrifice was sufficient for all time.

Intercession of the Holy Spirit—The Holy Spirit's role in helping believers pray and intercede according to God’s will.

Kenosis—The doctrine that, in the incarnation, Jesus voluntarily limited the use of His divine attributes to fully embrace human limitations. This does not mean He ceased to be God, but that He relied on His Father in the incarnation.

Logos—A Greek term meaning “Word.” In John’s context, it was understood as the source of life. The one who upholds all things and maintains reality as it is. Jesus is the Word of God.

Millennium—The belief in a future 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth.

Monotheism—The belief that there is only one God.

Modalism—A heresy that teaches that God exists in only one person. He sometimes reveals Himself in different modes: sometimes the Father, sometimes, the Son, sometimes the Holy Spirit. This ignores many passages where the Father, Son, and Spirit are not only clearly distinct, but interact with one another.

Omnipotence of God—The belief that God is all-powerful and has the ability to do anything that is consistent with His nature and will.

Omnipresence of God—The belief that God is present everywhere at all times.

Personhood of the Holy Spirit—The understanding that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person, not an impersonal force. He has an intellect, will, and emotions.

Polytheism—The belief that there are multiple gods, which contradicts the biblical and orthodox teaching of monotheism.

Progressive sanctification—The ongoing process in the life of a believer, by the Holy Spirit, of growing in holiness and obedience to God.

Propitiation—Satisfying God's wrath against sin, accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Redemption—A payment for sin. God rescuing believers from sin and death through the blood of Christ which paid it all.

Regeneration/New-Birth—A person who was dead in their sins is made alive by the Holy Spirit at salvation. The old has become new. This is a work of the Holy Spirit and is an actual change in the heart from dead to alive, not an arbitrary act of the will that can be changed back at any time.

Resurrection of the dead—The future event when all people will be bodily resurrected, with the righteous receiving eternal life and the wicked facing judgment.

Sanctification—Being made holy. This is positional and progressive.

Sealing of the Holy Spirit—The Holy Spirit given to believers as a guarantee of their eternal salvation and future inheritance.

Second Coming of Christ—The future return of Jesus to earth, where He will judge the living and the dead, and establish His eternal kingdom.

Sola Gratia—Literally, “Grace alone.” The doctrine that salvation is by grace alone, not by any merit or work of the individual.

Sola Fide—Literally, “Faith alone.” The doctrine that justification is by faith alone, without reliance on works or human effort.

Sovereignty of God—The belief that God has absolute authority over creation. God works all things according to His will and purpose.

Substitutionary atonement—The doctrine that Christ took the place of sinners, bearing God's wrath on their behalf through His death on the cross. Our sin is replaced with Christ's righteousness.

Sufficiency of Christ's death—The belief that Christ's sacrifice on the cross fully and completely paid for the sins of those who believe. There can be no adding to or taking away from Christ's death for the believer. Christ does not need to be re-sacrificed.

Sufficiency of Scripture—The belief that Scripture contains all that is necessary for salvation and living a godly life.

Trinitarianism—The doctrine that God exists as three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one being, equal in power and glory.

Trisagion—A Christian hymn that emphasizes the holiness of God three times. Traditionally this is expressed as a hymn to the “Thrice Holy God.” “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.”

Universalism—The heretical belief that all people will ultimately be saved, regardless of their faith in Christ, or because they will be given a second chance to believe in Christ at some point. This is unbiblical and unorthodox.

