

**Epitome of
Rev. Dr. Erick Pontoppidan's
Explanation
Of
Martin Luther's Small Catechism**

Translated from the Norwegian

By

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"FEED MY LAMBS"

Third Thousand

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PREFACE

Of the great value of Luther's Small Catechism, as it came from his pen, no extended proof need be given at this late day. It is enough to say, that it has a history of three and a half centuries, has been translated into more languages and published in larger numbers than any other book except the Bible, whose faithful echo it is, and that it is to-day studied by millions of God's children throughout the world. But it has been felt in every generation, since the days of Luther, that an explanation, which should successfully develop the vast amount of divine truth, so wonderfully condensed in his Catechism, would prove valuable to teacher and pupil, and aid in realizing the great Reformer's object in preparing it.

Prominent among the learned and pious men in our Church, who have undertaken this task, is Dr. Erick Pontoppidan, who was born in Aarhus, Denmark, August 24th 1698, and who faithfully served the Church in many important positions in Denmark and Norway. In 1737 he wrote his *Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism*. This was known as his larger work, an epitome of which was afterwards published and is still extensively used. Of the latter we herewith offer what we believe to be a faithful rendering into the English language. The text of Luther's Catechism is throughout printed in large *Italics*, so that it can be easily distinguished from the *Explanation*. The translation of this part of the present volume is not new, but is that which has long been in use in our English Churches and which is scarcely susceptible of improvement. The proof texts are frequently quoted in full, where they are only indicated in the original, and a few additional ones have been given. The answer to question 507 has been supplemented by a number of reasons, placed within brackets, in proof of the scriptural authority for Infant Baptism, and, after question 538, Luther's full text on *Confession* has been inserted. We have also appended a translation of "Questions on the Reformation" which are found in the Norwegian Synod's last edition of the original, and have closed the whole with the Morning and Evening Prayers, contained in our author's larger work.

The Translator is under special obligations to Rev. A. Mikkelsen and Rev. O. Juul, pastors of Norwegian Churches in this city, for aiding him in a careful revision of the translation, and he feels flattered by their unqualified approval of his work.

May this little volume, by the grace of God, be a guide to salvation to many of the children and youth of the Church and of the land.

Chicago, Ill., Aug 9, 1877

The Translator

INTRODUCTION

1. By what means does God show men the way to salvation?

By His Word.

2. Have we this Word of God in our possession?

Yes, in the Holy Scriptures, which are called the Bible.

3. Who wrote the Bible?

The holy Prophets, Evangelists and Apostles.

4. But were these not men?

Yes

5. How, then is their word the Word of God?

Because the Spirit of God revealed to them all that they should write and the words which they should use.

***II Tim 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

***II Pet 1:21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*

6. Whence do we know that the Scriptures (the Bible) are the Word of God?

From the fulfillment of prophecies and from the many miracles by which they are confirmed.

7. But what must he do, who still does not believe that the Bible is God's Word?

He must try to obey the Word and allow it to operate on his heart.

***John 7:17** If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself.*

8. Must we accept the Holy Scriptures as the only sure and perfect rule of our faith and life?

Yes, certainly.

***Luke 16:29** They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.*

9. Is not the Bible dark and obscure to the simple and unlearned?

In all things, the knowledge of which is necessary to salvation, it is plain enough for those who use it rightly, whether they are ignorant or learned.

10. How do we rightly use God's Word?

When we, first of all, pray to God for enlightenment by His Spirit, and then read with devoutness and with a willing purpose to live according to the Word. **John 7:17.**

11. Can we not with our mere natural reason understand and explain the Scriptures unto the knowledge of salvation?

No; because our reason has been corrupted by sin.

I Cor 2:14** The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. **Eph 1:17

12. By whom should the Scriptures be read?

By all, since it is a duty, which has been commanded us, and a divine privilege, of which every one ought to avail himself with joy.

13. How are the Holy Scriptures divided, with reference to the time when they were written?

Into the Old Testament and the New Testament.

14. Which is the Old Testament?

That which was written by the Prophets, before Christ came into the world.

15. Which is the New Testament?

That which was written by the Evangelists and Apostles, after Christ came into the world.

16. What is the substance and the shortest summary of all the books of the Bible?

The great truth, that Jesus is the way to salvation to all believing souls.

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.

17. What is a Catechism?

A short summary of God's Word in regard to our faith and life.

18. How is God's Word divided with reference to the instruction contained in it?

Into the Law and the Gospel.

19. What is the Law?

That form of instruction, in which God shows us what we must do and what we must avoid.

20. What is the Gospel?

That form of instruction, in which God offers us His grace in Christ.

21. What does the word Gospel mean?

Glad tidings

22. How many parts are there in the Catechism?

Five: The Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

**PART I.
Of The Law, or The Ten Commandments**

23. How many kinds of laws did God give in the Old Testament?

Three kinds: 1. The ceremonial church law; 2. The civil law; 3. The moral Law.

24. Which of these laws is still in force?

The moral Law, which is contained in the Ten Commandments.

25. Cannot this Law be abolished?

No; because it is founded on God's holy and righteous nature.

26. How has God revealed this Law?

In the creation He wrote it in men's hearts, and hence it is called the Law of nature.

Rom. 2:15 Which show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.

27. Has not God revealed this Law in any other way?

Yes, He gave it on Mt Sinai, written on two tablets of stone.

28. Can we be saved by this Law?

No; because no one, since the fall, can keep it perfectly.

Rom. 8:3 For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh. God sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

29. Does the Law, then, profit us at all?

Yes, very much.

I Tim. 1:8 But we know that the Law is good, if a man use it lawfully.

30. How does the Law benefit the impenitent?

It convinces them of their sins and of God's wrath against sin.

Rom. 3:20 By the Law is the knowledge of sin

31. How does the Law benefit the penitent?

It alarms them and drives them to seek Christ.

Gal. 3:24 The Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.

32. How does the Law benefit the believing?

It teaches them what they ought to do and what they ought to avoid.

Prov. 6:23 The commandment is a lamp; and the Law is light.

33. Are believers subject to the compulsion and condemnation of the Law?

No, for Christ has redeemed us therefrom.

Rom. 6:14 Ye are not under the Law, but under grace.

I Tim. 1:9 Knowing this, that the Law is not made for a righteous man.

34. Are not believers bound to live according to the Law?

Yes, certainly.

Rom. 3:31 Do we then make void the Law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the Law.

35. What is it, then, that drives a believer to live according to the Law, since he does it not from fear of the condemnation of the Law?

The love of Christ constraineth us. **II Cor. 5:14, 15.**

36. Is the Law satisfied with outward works?

No; it demands the whole man, body and soul.

Luke 10:27. thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind.

37. How is the Law of God divided?

Into two tables

Matt 22:37-40 *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

38. How many commandments belong to the first table?

The first three commandments.

39. How many commandments belong to the second table?

The last seven commandments.

40. What is the shortest summary of the Law?

Love to God, ourselves, and our neighbor.

Rom. 13:10 *Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the Law.*

I Tim. 1:5 *The end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.*

Of the First Table of the Law

41. What is the sum and substance of the first table?

Love to God. **Luke 10:27.** See Quest. 36

The First Commandment

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

42. What evil is forbidden in the first commandment?

To practice idolatry.

43. What is an idol?

Everything, which a man worships, fears, loves, and trusts instead of the only true God.

44. In how many ways can man practice idolatry?

Either in a gross or a subtle way.

45. What is gross idolatry?

The worship of sun, moon, stars, pictures, angels, or departed saints.

46. What is subtle idolatry?

To love, fear or trust in anything more than God.

47. How many kinds of secret idols are there, which can steal our hearts from God?

Men can set up, as such idols, either themselves, their fellowman, or other created things, or the outward worship of God, or even the devil.

48. How do men make idols of themselves?

By sinful self-love, which hinders them from submitting to God and acknowledging themselves to be nothing.

***I Cor. 4:7** What hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

49. How can man make idols of their fellow beings?

By so fearing, loving, or trusting in them as to be led to do evil and neglect to do good.

***Jer. 17:5** Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.*

50. How can man make idols of other creatures?

When they are so in love with them, that these draw the highest joy and confidence of the heart from God to themselves.

51. In whom is this especially seen?

In the covetous, who are called idolaters.

***Eph. 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is and idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

52. How can man make idolatrous use of the outward worship of God?

When, in the midst of their impenitence, they blindly trust the outward worship of God.

Jer. 7:4,5

***Is. 1:15** And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide Mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.*

53. Can men also make the devil their idol?

Yes, when they perversely serve sin.

***II Cor. 4:4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.*

54. What good is enjoined in the first commandment?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

55. Then God really looks at the state of our hearts towards Him?

Yes, for He says *My son, give Me thine heart* **Prov. 23:26**

56. What is the true and living knowledge of God?

That which moves our hearts to love God and to shun all evil in His sacred presence.

***I John 2:3** Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

57. What is it to fear God?

It is to heartily bow before His most holy Majesty, so as to fear to awaken His anger by any sin.

***Matt. 10:28** Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Phil 2:12

58. Of how many kinds is the fear of God?

Of two kinds: a slavish fear and a filial fear.

59. What is slavish fear?

To fear God only on account of punishment.

I John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

60. What is filial fear?

When, from love to God, we fear to do anything against His will.

Gen 39:9 *How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*

61. Which is really the fear of God's children?

Filial fear

Rom. 8:15 *Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father*

62. How may a truly pious man be known?

In this, that he hates and flees from sin.

Prov. 8:13 *The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.*

63. Are not all those pious who read, pray, and sing a great deal?

Not always; for there are some also who have the form of godliness and deny its power.

II Tim 3:5

64. Whence has true piety its origin?

From faith and love

65. What is it to love God?

To reverence Him highly, fervently long for Him, seek our true joy and pleasure in Him, and resign ourselves to His good will.

Ps. 18:1 *I will love Thee, O Lord, my strength.*

Ps. 73:25-26 *Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Ps. 42:1,2*

66. How much should we love God?

Above all things

Jesus says: *He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. Matt 10:37*

67. Can we at the same time love God and the sinful ways of the world?

No.

I John 2:15 *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

68. Why ought we to love God?

First, because He is good in Himself, and next because He is good to us.

Matt 19:17 *There is none good but One, that is God.*

I John 4:19 *We love Him because He first loved us.*

69. Whereby do we know that we love God?

By a godly life.

John 14:21 *He that hath My commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me.*

70. Can you love God by your own strength?

No; God's Spirit Himself works love in me.

Rom 5:5 *The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

71. What is it to trust in God alone?

It is to resign one's self with the full confidence to the providence of God, expect all good from Him, and to put all one's affairs into His hand.

Prov. 3:5 *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

Ps. 57:1

72. Why should we trust in God alone?

Because He is our almighty and faithful Friend.

Ps. 146:5,6 *Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: which made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth forever.*

73. What is humility?

The heart's conviction and feeling of its unworthiness before God of the least grace and honor.

1 Pet. 5:5,6 *Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

74. What is patience?

To endure sufferings for God's sake, and persevere with thanksgiving, until He removes them.

Jas. 1:2-4 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.* **Job 1:21**

75. What is self-denial?

To renounce our own will and all that is dear to us in the world, in order that God's will may be advanced in us.

Luke 14:26, 27 *If any man come to Me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.*

76. Why does the explanation of each commandment begin with the words: We should fear and love God?

To show that all the virtues of Christianity must come from a believing, loving, and pious heart.

The Second Commandment

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God as not to curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His name, but call upon Him in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

77. What evil is forbidden in the second commandment?

To take God's name in vain.

78. What is God's name?

1. The peculiar names by which He is called in Scripture.
2. All that specially belong to Him, as: His attributes, Word, Sacraments and works.

79. How is God's name taken in vain?

1. By using God's name or anything that is spiritual in a trifling manner.
2. By using God's name in cursing, swearing, practicing sorcery, lying or deceiving.

80. What is it to curse by God's name?

It is to wish evil on any person, in the name of God. **Jas. 3:9, 10**

81. What is it to swear?

It is to confirm anything by the name of God.

82. Is it never allowable to swear?

Yes; when magistrates require it in God's stead.

Heb. 6:16 *Men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them and end of all strife.*

83. Is all other swearing in daily conversation a sin?

Yes; a great sin.

Matt. 5:34-37 *But I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King; neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

84. Is the sin as great when one does not swear purposely, but from habit, especially if he swear to the truth?

Yes, certainly; for a sinful habit proves that sin rules over me.

85. What is it to practice sorcery by the name of God?

To try, by God's name or a passage of Scripture, to cure sickness, charm, call back the spirits of the departed, or practice any kind of superstition.

Deut. 18:10-12 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are and abomination unto the Lord.*

86. How is the name of God misused for the purpose of lying, deceiving, or cheating?

By false doctrine and hypocrisy.

II Pet. 2:1 *There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teacher among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

87. What must he expect who takes the name of God in vain?

Severe punishment, both temporal and eternal; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

88. What good is enjoined in the second commandment?

That in all our need and adversity, we should call on God's holy name with prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God as not to despise His Word and the preaching of the Gospel, but deem it holy, and willingly hear and learn it.

89. What good is enjoined in this commandment?

To keep the Sabbath day holy.

90. Which day was the Jewish Sabbath?

The seventh day, on which God rested, that is, ceased to create.

91. Which is the day of rest among Christians?

The first day of the week, on which Christ rose from the dead.

92. How shall we hallow the day of rest?

So as to use the whole day for the advancement of our sanctification.

93. What advances our sanctification?

Hearing and meditating on God's Word.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth.

94. Is it sufficient for the hallowing of the day of rest, that we hear and read the Word of God?

No.

Jas. 1:22 Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

95. What evil is forbidden in the third commandment?

To despise and neglect God's holy Word.

96. Who neglect the Word of God?

Those who unnecessarily absent themselves from the Church, at the time of public worship.

Heb 10:25 Nor forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is.

97. Who despise the Word of God?

Those who, during its hearing and reading, talk, sleep, or fill their minds with strange thoughts.

Ecc 5:1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools.

98. How is the day of rest profaned?

By unnecessary bodily labor, and also by sinful pleasures and deeds.

99. Is, then, no outward work allowed on Sunday?

Yes, works of necessity which cannot be postponed, and works of love toward our neighbor.

Luke 14:5 Matt 12:7

The Second Table.

100. What briefly, is the substance of the second table table?

Love to ourselves and our neighbor.

Matt. 22:39 *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

101. Is it right to love ourselves?

Yes; but not in an inordinate and sinful manner.

102. In what does proper and innocent self-love consist?

In a desire, implanted by God, to promote our true welfare and salvation.

103. For what should a person especially care?

For the soul, as the immortal part.

Matt. 16:26 *What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?*

104. What does the second table teach me in regard to my neighbor?

That I should feel and, at every opportunity, act towards him as I would have him act towards me.

Matt 7:12 *All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.*

105. Who are my neighbors?

All men.

106. Am I bound to love my enemy as myself?

Yes.

Matt 5:44 *Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.*

107. Is it enough that we should show love to our neighbor by words and looks?

No.

I John 3:18 *Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

The Fourth Commandment

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God as not to despise nor displease our parents and superiors, but honor, serve, obey, love, and esteem them.

108. What good is enjoined in the fourth commandment?

To honor, serve, obey, and esteem our parents.

109. What evil is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

To despise and displease our parents.

110. Who are meant by titles of father and mother?

First, our natural parents, and after them, all those who are authorized to command and counsel us, as magistrates, teachers, superiors and the like.

111. Why must a child, a servant and a pupil honor these parents?

Because God has placed them over us.

Rom. 13:1 The powers that be are ordained of God.

112. How ought subjects to deport themselves toward their magistrates?

They ought to obey and honor them, pray for them, and honestly pay their tax, duty, and tithes.

Rom. 13:5-7 I Tim. 2:1 Matt. 22:21

113. What is the duty of the magistrates toward their subjects?

To love them, seek their temporal and eternal welfare, punish evil and reward virtue.

Rom. 13:4 He is the minister of God, to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain.

114. By whom are teacher appointed?

By God

II Cor. 5:20 We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

115. What do the hearers owe their teachers?

To love, honor, obey, reward them, and pray for their welfare.

I Cor. 9:14 Gal. 6:6 I Tim. 5:17 Heb. 13:17

116. What is the duty of teachers to their hearers?

To teach, exhort, reprove them from a loving heart, pray for them, and set them a good example.

II Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

117. What is the duty of parents and guardians towards the young?

To pray for them, and seek their temporal and eternal welfare. *Eph. 6:4*

118. What must parents do to disobedient children?

They should punish them in a reasonable and affectionate manner.

Prov. 13:24 He that spareth the rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

119. What is the duty of the children towards their parents?

To love, honor, serve, and obey them in heart, words, manner, and deed.

Deut. 27:16 Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother: and all the people shall say, Amen.

Eph. 6:2 Honor thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise.

120. What is the duty of employers towards their servants?

1. To pay them their wages at the proper time. **Lev. 19:13**
2. To govern them with affectionate patience.
3. To care for their bodily and spiritual wants. **Eph 6:9**

121. What is the duty of servant towards their employers?

They ought to love, honor, and obey them, pray for them, and be faithful as well in their absence as in their presence. **Eph. 6:5,8**

122. May children or servants obey their parents or superiors in that which is sinful?

No.

Acts 5:29 *We ought to obey God rather than men.*

123. What reward does God promise to obedient children and servants in the fourth commandment?

That it will be well with them, and that they shall live long on the earth.

124. But does God give long life to all obedient children?

Yes, if He deems it good for them, otherwise not.

The Fifth Commandment

Thou shalt not kill.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God as not to do our neighbor any bodily harm or injury, but rather assist and comfort him in danger and want.

125. What evil is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

To kill.

126. How many kind of murder are there?

Two kinds: 1. The gross, which is committed by actual deeds. 2. The subtle murder, which is committed by hatred of heart, words of mouth and expressions of the face.

127. Is a hateful and revengeful man a murderer?

Yes, certainly; for God looks at the heart more than the hand.

I John 3:15 *Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

128. Is a reviler, who pours forth bitter words, also a murderer?

Yes; Jesus call it a sin, which deserves hell-fire. **Matt 5:22**

129. Can a person destroy his neighbor's soul?

Yes; by misleading him and throwing stumbling blocks in his way. **Matt. 18:6**

130. Can a person take his own life?

No; that would be to kill soul and body at the same time.

131. What good is enjoined on us in the fifth commandment?

To help and stand by our neighbor when his life is in danger.

The Sixth Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God, as to be chaste and pure in our words and deeds, each one also loving and honoring his wife or her husband.

132. Who instituted marriage?

God Himself ordained it in Paradise.

133. How should a husband conduct himself towards his wife?

He should love her, bear with her weakness, and seek her soul's salvation.

Col. 3:19* Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. *Eph 5:25

134. How should a wife conduct herself towards her husband?

She should be subject to him in love, diligent in domestic affairs, and seek to promote his salvation. ***Eph. 5:24*** ***1 Pet. 3:6***

135. What is the duty of pious widows?

To lead a modest and devout life.

***1 Tim 5:5,6* She that is widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.**

136. What evil is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

Adultery and all kinds of impure thoughts, words, gestures or deeds.

137. Are impure and unchaste desires also sins against the sixth commandment?

Yes, certainly; for Jesus says: ***Matt 5:28*** *I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

138. Are obscene and immodest words and gestures also sins against the sixth commandment?

Yes, certainly

***Eph 4:29* Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**

***Eph 5:3,4* But fornication and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks.**

139. What makes this sin more abhorrent than others?

Because it pollutes both soul and body, which should be the temple of God, but becomes the abode of the unclean spirit.

***1 Cor. 6:15** Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid.*

140. What good is enjoined in the sixth commandment?

To lead a chaste and virtuous life whether married or unmarried.

***Matt. 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

141. What means should be used as protection against unchastity?

One should watch, pray, and guard against everything that kindles evil desires.

142. What especially kindles carnal desires?

Gluttony and drunkenness.

143. Are gluttony and drunkenness very sinful?

Yes, certainly; for they shut out of the kingdom of God, as well as do adultery, murder, and theft.

***1 Cor. 6:9,10** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

Luke 21:34** Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness. **Gal. 5:19,21

144. What else may tempt to unchastity?

Idleness, immoral company, romances, amorous books and pictures, lascivious plays, dancing, theatrical exhibitions, and everything which feeds the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and an intemperate life.

145. What good thoughts are fitted to suppress carnal temptations?

The remembrance of the face and presence of the Most Holy God, of the crucified Jesus in His bodily suffering, of the terrible agony of the condemned in hell, and of the brief pleasure of the sin of unchastity.

The Seventh Commandment

Thou shalt not steal.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God, as not to rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring it into our possession by unfair dealing or fraudulent means, but rather assist him to improve and protect it.

146. What evil is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

To steal.

147. What is it to steal?

To take from another anything, even the smallest part of his possessions, against his will.

148. In how many ways can theft be committed?

Either by violence or trickery.

149. Who steal by violence?

The common thieves, who, without the least appearance of right, take possession of the property of another.

150. Who steal by trickery?

All those who, in a sly and secret manner, either take or withhold the property of others.

***I Thess. 4:6** That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any manner: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.*

151. Are all thieves under condemnation?

Yes, certainly. ***I Cor. 6:10*** See Question 143

152. Is it a sin to steal a small thing?

Yes, the sin is equally great before God.

153. Is it a sin to harbor a thief?

Yes, it is to become partaker of the sins of another.

***Prov. 29:24** Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul.*

154. Can a person steal from himself?

Yes, by wastefulness, idleness, and penuriousness towards his own body.

***Prov. 23:21** The drunkard and glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.*

155. May not everyone do what he pleases with his own property?

No; because we are stewards of the gifts of God and shall sometime have to render account of the same. ***Luke 16:12***

156. What good is enjoined in the seventh commandment?

That we should promote our neighbor's welfare in things pertaining to his support.

157. How may we promote our neighbor's welfare in thing pertaining to his support?

By lending him anything, or giving him alms, if he needs it.

***Heb. 13:16** To do good and communicate forget not: for such sacrifices God is well pleased.
I John 3:17*

158. Does God punish the unmerciful?

Yes.

***Jas. 2:13** He shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.*

The Eighth Commandment

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God, as not deceitfully to belie, betray, slander, nor raise injurious reports against our neighbor, but apologize for him, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all his actions.

159. What evil is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

To bear false witness against our neighbor.

160. What is false witness?

All untruthful and unfriendly speaking about our neighbor, in or out of court.

161. How is false witness borne in proceedings in court?

1. When a witness testifies to a lie.

Ex. 23:1 Put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

2. When a judge decides a lie to be the truth, or right to be wrong.

Prov. 17:15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord.

162. How is false witness borne apart from proceedings in court?

When one belies his neighbor, or falsely brings him into evil repute.

163. What good is enjoined in the eighth commandment?

To apologize for our neighbor, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all his actions.

The Ninth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God, as not to desire by craftiness to gain possession of our neighbor's inheritance or home, or to obtain it under the pretext of a legal right, but be ready to assist and serve him in the preservation of his own.

164. What evil is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

Sinful desires and cravings, especially for the property of others.

165. Is not the tenth commandment apparently of the like import?

Yes.

The Tenth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

What is meant by this Commandment?

We should so fear, and love God, as not to alienate our neighbor's wife from him, entice away his servants, nor let loose his cattle, but use our endeavors that they may remain and discharge their duty to him.

166. What difference is there between the ninth and tenth commandments?

In the ninth commandment the actual lust is forbidden; but in the tenth the hereditary lust is forbidden.

167. How many kind of covetousness are there?

Two kinds: 1. Inherited or original covetousness. 2. Practical or actual covetousness.

Jas. 1:14,15 Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

168. Is anyone on earth free from inherited covetousness?

No.

1 John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us

169. Does the inherited lust condemn God's believing children, who feel it with sorrow?

No.

170. Why not?

Because they are united with Christ by faith, and through Him have received the forgiveness of their sins.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

171. But what if a person follow up the inherited with actual lust, will, and pleasure?

Then he will deserve the wrath of God and the condemnation of the Law.

Rom. 8:13 If ye live after the flesh ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body ye shall live.

172. Is, then, an evil desire sin, although it rests in the intention and goes no further?

Yes, with God the will is taken instead of the deed.

Matt. 5:28 Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already in his heart.

173. In how many ways can we transgress God's commandments?

By thoughts, words, cravings, and deeds.

174. What good is enjoined in the ninth commandment?

That we should watch and strive against the evil lusts of the heart.

175. What good is enjoined in the tenth commandment?

That we should not have even the least evil craving in our hearts.

176. Of what service, then, is the tenth commandment, that demands of us perfect innocence, which is impossible?

It shows:

1. God's perfect righteousness.
2. That God is not the cause of sin, for then He could not forbid it.
3. That all, even the most holy men, are sinners and cannot stand approved before God by their own righteousness.

177. What does God declare concerning all these commandments?

He says: I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep my commandments.

What is meant by this declaration?

God threatens to punish all those who transgress these commandments. We should, therefore, dread His displeasure, and not act contrarily to these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep them. We should, therefore, love and trust in Him, and cheerfully do what He has commanded us.

178. How many reasons are here presented, which should move us to keep God's commandments?

1. God's righteous anger and jealousy against deliberate transgressors.
2. His fatherly grace and mercy towards those who keep His commandments.

179. What is transgression or sin?

Everything that resists the commandments of God.

180. Of how many kinds is sin in general?

Two kinds: 1. Original 2. Actual

181. What is original sin?

The depravity, deep corruption, and evil inclination of our nature.

182. Why is it called original sin?

Because it is inborn, and we have inherited it from our parents.

Ps. 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Rom. 5:12

183. What is actual sin?

All evil thoughts, words, or deeds, which come from original sin.

184. Is it as sinful to neglect to do right as it is to do evil?

Yes, certainly.

Jas. 4:17 *To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

185. Of how many kinds is actual sin in particular?

Of two kinds, namely: the sin of weakness and the sin of malice.

186. What is a sin of weakness?

One which a child of God commits against His own will and without His knowledge.

Jas. 3:2 *In many things we offend all.*

Ps. 19:12 *Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults.*

187. What does a child of God do when he sees that he has sinned?

He regrets his sin, asks forgiveness of God, and strives to become better.

188. What is a sin of malice?

When a person knowingly, purposely, and with pleasure does evil or neglects to do right.

I John 3:8,9 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

189. What, then, is the difference between a sin of weakness and a sin of malice?

The children of God sin against their will, but regret their sin, and daily seek to put away their sinful errors; but the children of the world sin with the consent of their will, and delight in sin.

190. Does a child of God, then, ever commit a sin of Malice?

No.

I John 3:9 *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God*

191. But since the children of God have sin, will it not condemn them?

No; not at all

Rom. 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

192. But do not even the smallest sins deserve condemnation?

Yes, certainly.

Deut. 27:26 *Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this Law to do them: and all the people shall say, Amen.*

Gal. 3:10 *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the Law to do them.*

193. How does it happen, then, that believers are not condemned for their sins of weakness?

Their union with Christ frees them from condemnation.

Rom. 8:1 (See Question 191.)

194. What is the result of a sin of malice?

It condemns all who love it.

***I Cor. 6:9,10** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

195. Is a single sin of malice enough to condemn a person?

Yes, certainly.

196. Can a person become partakers of the sins of others, and also of their punishment?

Yes, when he takes pleasure in them, gives consent, occasion, advice, or command to commit them, and does not prevent or reprove them when he can do so.

***Lev. 19:17** Thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him.*

197. What is hardening of the heart?

It is to despise and not follow the convictions produced by the Holy Ghost.

198. Which are the most common great sins against the Law of God?

They are these: unbelief, hypocrisy, ambition, avarice, lust, anger, and impatience.

199. Which are the principle virtues according to the Law of God?

They are these: faith, love, honesty, humility, contentment, moderation, meekness, patience, and, above all, a godly and heavenly mind.

200. With what does God threaten those who transgress His commandments?

That He will visit, that is, punish, their iniquity.

201. Of how many kinds is God's punishment in general?

1. The bodily. 2. The spiritual. 3. The eternal, which is condemnation to hell.

202. What good, on the other hand, does God promise those who keep His commandments?

That He will show mercy to them to the remotest generation.

203. What is here understood by mercy?

Every kind of good for the body and soul, for time and eternity.

***I Tim. 4:8** Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

204. To whom does God promise His mercy?

To those who love Him and keep His commandments.

205. Does no one, then, love God who does not keep His commandments?

No; Christ says:

***John 14:21** He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me.*

206. What is it to keep God's commandments?

That a believer, with an upright heart, governs his thoughts, words, and deeds according to them. *1 John 2:3,4*

Matt. 28:20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

207. Can one keep God's commandments perfectly?

No.

208. Can one merit salvation by keeping the Law?

No; for –

1. It is our duty to keep God's commandments. **Luke 17:10** *When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*
2. We cannot keep God's commandments perfectly. **Ps. 130:3** *If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*

209. But cannot a person, in common with the Apostle, advance so far that he is not conscious of intentional sins after his conversion?

Yes; but he is not thereby just before God.

210. Why not?

Because it is the Lord who judges us, and looks searchingly even into the thoughts and desires.

211. When we are diligent to keep God's commandments, what do we do?

We perform good works.

212. Which are truly good works?

Those which the Spirit of God produces in believers according to the rule of Law, and which are done in faith, without compulsion, to the glory of God, and for the good of our neighbor.

Gal. 5:22 *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.*

213. Is it absolutely necessary to perform good works?

Yes, certainly.

Heb. 12:14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*

214. Why is it so necessary to perform good works?

1. Because Christ has redeemed us for that purpose. **Tit. 2:14** *Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.* See Question 328.
2. Because it flows from the nature of faith. **James 2:18.** *Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.* See Question 381.

215. But can we be saved by our good works?

No; to this end our best works are of no avail.

Phil. 3:6,7 *Touching the righteousness which is in the Law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*

Rom. 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.*

216. By what means, then, is a man justified and saved?

Alone by faith, which accepts the grace of God in Christ. **Rom. 3:28** See Quest. 215.

217. Is faith so important in our Christianity?

Yes; it is the most important, for without faith it is impossible to please God.

Heb. 11:6 Rom. 14:23

218. In what part of my Catechism do I find instruction in regard to faith?

In Part II

PART II
The Apostle's Creed
Or the Articles of the Christian Faith

219. Can a person be saved by simply knowing the articles of faith?

No, for the devil also know them.

Jas. 2:19 *The devils also believe, and tremble.*

220. Of what do the articles of faith treat?

Of the being, will, and works of God.

221. Whence do you know that there is a God?

1. From the creation of the world, since the world could not possibly have created itself. **Rom. 1: 19,20** *That which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*
2. From conscience, which suffers fear, when we do evil, and rejoices when we do right. **Rom. 2:15** *Which shew the works of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the meanwhile accusing or else excusing one another.*
3. From the Holy Scriptures, which still more plainly testify concerning God. **John 1:18** *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.*

222. What is God?

A spiritual, infinite, and incomprehensible Being, who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, good, merciful, holy, true, and just.

223. Since God is a spiritual Being, has He, therefore, neither body nor form?

No, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones. **Luke 24:39**

224. What is then to be understood by the bodily members, which, in the Scriptures, are often ascribed to God?

By these are understood His attributes, as, for instance, His eyes denote His wisdom, His hand His power, and so forth.

225. Can you name some of God's attributes?

His is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, etc.

226. What is omnipotent?

It means He can do all things. *Luke 1:37 Ps. 135:6 Jer. 32:17, 19*

227. What is omniscience?

It means He knows and understands all things. *I John 3:20 Ps. 94:9 Ps. 139:1-4*

228. What is omnipresent?

It means that He is everywhere present at the same time. *Jer. 23:23, 24 Acts 17:27 Ps. 139:7-12*

229. What is God's goodness?

It means that there is no evil in Him, and that He desires our welfare. *I John 4:16 Ps. 106:1*

230. What is God's mercy?

It means He pities our distress. *Ps. 103:8, 10, 13 Luke 6:36*

231. What is God's holiness?

It means that He hates sin. *Is. 6:3 Jas. 1:13 Ps. 5:5*

232. What is God's truthfulness?

It means that He cannot lie nor deceive. *Num. 23:19 Ps. 33:4*

233. What is God's justice?

It means that He will punish evil, and reward good. *Ps. 7:12 Rom. 2:6*

234. How many gods are there?

But one only true God.

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.

235. How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

Three, namely: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

I John 5:7 There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these Three are One.

236. What personal relative acts are ascribed to each Person of the Godhead?

The Father, who is unbegotten, begets the Son from eternity; the Son is begotten of the Father, and the Holy Ghost proceeds from both.

237. Is the Father older or more exalted than the Son, and the Son than the Holy Ghost?

No; the Three are One, and therefore not superior or inferior to each other in nature and dignity, but perfectly equal.

238. What acts are ascribed to each of the Persons in the Godhead in these articles?

The Creation is ascribed to the Father, the Redemption to the Son, and Sanctification to the Holy Ghost.

239. But have not all Three Persons part in these several acts?

Yes, they have all part in those acts, which have reference to this world.

The First Article Of Creation

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What is meant by this article?

I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul with all my limbs and senses, my reason, and all the faculties of my mind, together with my raiment, food, home, and family, and all my property; that He daily provides me abundantly with all the necessities of life, protects me from all danger, and preserves me and guards me against all evil; all which He does out of pure, paternal, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

240. What is it to create?

It is to make something out of nothing, or out of chaotic matter. **Heb 11:3**

241. In how many days did God create the world?

In six days, and on the sixth day He created man. **Gen 1**

242. Does God still preserve what He has created?

Yes; I believe that He preserves all things, and that these would otherwise perish.

Heb. 1:3 *Upholding all things by the Word of His power.*

243. To what should this truth awaken you?

To thank God, praise Him, obey His will, and to serve Him.

244. Does God also preserve the ungodly?

Yes.

Matt. 5:45 *He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

245. For whom does God especially care?

For His believing children.

1 Pet. 3:12 *The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

246. Does God's providence guide and preserve all other things throughout the world?

Yes.

Acts 17:28 *In Him we live, and move, and have our being.*

247. Does the providence of God guide men in their sins?

No; but He suffers them to sin, sets bounds to their sins, and so guides the result, that all things must work together for good to those who love Him. **Rom. 8:28** This we see also in the case of Joseph.

248. Of how many kinds are God's creatures in general?

Of two kinds, namely: invisible and visible.

249. Which are the principle invisible creatures?

The angels.

250. How many kinds of angels are there?

Two kinds, namely: the good angels, and the bad angels, who are, otherwise, called devils.

251. What is the employment of the good angels?

To praise God, execute His commands, and serve believers.

Heb. 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

252. Did not God create all angels good?

Yes.

Gen. 1:31 *And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.*

253. How then have some angels become bad?

They fell away from God through pride and disobedience.

II Pet. 2:4 *God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.*

254. Which are the principle visible creatures?

Human beings.

255. Of how many essential parts does man consist?

Two, namely: soul and body.

256. What is the soul of man?

It is an immortal spirit, which is endowed with reason, will, and conscience.

257. How many human beings did God create in the beginning?

One man, who was called Adam, and one woman, who was called Eve. **Gen 1:27**

258. Of what was Adam created?

Of the dust of the earth.

259. Of what was Eve created?

Of a rib taken from Adam, while he slept.

260. How many are the states of man?

Four: 1. The state of innocence. 2. The state of sin. 3. The state of grace. 4. The state of glory for the saved, but the state of condemnation for the lost.

261. What is the state of innocence?

The state in which man bore the image of God.

Gen. 1:27 *God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.*

262. In what did the image of God consist, as regards the soul of man?

In true wisdom, righteousness, holiness, peace, and joy. **Ecc. 7:29 Eph 4:24 Col. 3:10**

263. Did the human body derive any benefit from the image of God?

Yes, it was immortal and knew of no distress or sickness.

264. Is no man now in the state of innocence?

No; because Adam and all his descendants have fallen into the state of sin.

Rom. 5:12 *By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

265. In what consisted the sin of our first parents?

They ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge.

266. Was this such a great sin?

Yes; because God had strictly forbidden them to do it.

267. Did their sin, then, consist in the outward eating of the fruit?

No; it consisted chiefly in this, that they were disobedient to God.

268. Who misled them into this sin?

The devil. **Gen. 3**

269. What was the result of the first fall into sin?

We lost the image of God and became guilty of death, both spiritual, bodily, and eternal.

Gen. 2:17 *In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

270. How has sin injured the human soul?

1. It has darkened the understanding.
2. It has disabled the will for that which is good and inclined it to all evil.
3. It has disturbed the peace of conscience.

Rom. 8:7 *The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be.* **Eph. 4:18 I Cor. 2:14**

271. How has sin injured the human body?

It has made it sinful, needy, and mortal.

272. Has the image of God, then, been thus lost through sin?

Yes.

273. Shall we never recover it?

Yes; God's children will recover it.

274. Will they recover it perfectly?

Not here on earth, but in heaven they will bear it perfectly.

275. Have all men part in this first fall into sin?

Yes, certainly.

Rom. 5:12 *By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

276. From whom then have sin and all evil come into the world?

From Satan, and the abuse of man's free will.

277. Is God not the cause of sin?

No; by no means (See Augsburg Confession, Article 19)

278. Could not God have prevented the fall into sin?

Not without depriving men of their free will, and thus, contrary to His wise purpose, change them into other beings, in whom no test of obedience could be established.

279. What has man deserved by his voluntary sin?

God's anger and disfavor, temporal death, and eternal condemnation.

280. Will God, then, leave men to perish eternally?

No; He has out of love determined to transfer them from the state of sin to the state of grace.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

1 Tim 2:4 *Who will have all men to be saved, and come to a knowledge of the truth.*

281. What is the state of grace?

A happy union with God, who, for Christ's sake regenerates the sinner, forgives his sins, and renews him after His own image.

Eph. 2:4-6 *God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

282. Who has secured men the grace of God, so that they may be raised from the fall, and be restored to a happy state?

Only Jesus Christ, God's own Son, has done this.

283. When was He first promised to the world?

Immediately after the fall.

Gen. 3:15 *I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.*

284. When was He sent into the world?

In the fullness of time.

Gal. 4:4 *When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman.*

285. Where do I learn more fully to know and love this precious Savior, Jesus Christ?

In the Second Article.

The Second Article Of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

What is meant by this article?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, secured and delivered me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, and lives, and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

286. Is it of great importance to know Christ?

Yes; for there is not salvation in any other.

John 17:3 *This is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.*

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

287. Who is Jesus Christ?

The Son of God and of Mary, true God and also true man.

288. Is Christ, then two persons?

No.

1 Tim. 2:5 *There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

289. But how many natures are there in Christ?

Two, namely: the divine and the human nature, which are united in Christ's one divine Person.

290. From whom has He the divine nature?

From the Father from eternity.

Ps. 2:7 *Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.*

291. From whom has He the human nature?

That he received from Mary, His mother.

Gal. 4:4 *When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son made of a woman.*

292. How do you prove that Christ is true, essential God?

1. Because He was begotten of the Father from eternity.
2. Because divine attributes and works are ascribed to Him in Scriptures.

Col. 2:9 *In Him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

Col. 1:16, 17 John 2:25 Phil. 3:21

3. Because in the Scriptures He is expressly called God.

I John 5:20 *We are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*

Rom. 9:5 *Of whom, as concerning the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever.*

293. Can you prove that Christ is God and man in the one person?

Yes

John 1:1, 14 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God; and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

294. Why must the Son of God needs become true man?

That He might suffer and die for us.

295. Why must He also be true God?

In order that His death and blood might have infinite power of atonement.

Heb. 9:12 *By His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

296. By whom was He conceived?

By the Holy Ghost.

297. By whom was He born?

By the Virgin Mary.

298. Was Christ not conceived and born of sinful seed?

No; in the conception of Christ all sin was cleansed away by the Holy Ghost.

Luke 1:35 *The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

299. How may we be benefited by the thoughts of Jesus' holy assumption of human nature?

This truth comforts us with the assurance of God's earnest love for us poor creatures, of our perfect reconciliation and the superiority of our nature through union with God in the person of Christ; wherefore we ought the more cleanse ourselves from the contamination of the flesh and of the spirit.

300. What does the name JESUS mean?

A Savior.

Matt. 1:21 *Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*

301. What does the name CHRIST signify?

The same as Messiah, that is, Anointed.

302. With what was Christ anointed?

With the Holy Ghost and with power.

Acts 10:38 *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy ghost and with power.*

303. According to which nature was Christ anointed?

According to His human nature; for the divine possessed all things from eternity.

304. Did Christ always exercise His divine attributes?

No; in His state of humiliation He refrained from exercising them, except when He desired, by miracle, to show who He was. **Phil 2:6-8**

305. What persons were anointed in the Old Testament?

The High Priests, Prophets, and Kings.

306. Did Christ also have these three offices?

Yes.

307. In what does His office of High Priest consist?

In that He gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, and still intercedes for us.

Heb. 7:24, 25 *But this man, because He continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for us.*

308. In what does Christ's prophetic office consist?

In teaching us God's will for our salvation.

Luke 24:19 *Jesus of Nazareth, which was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.* **Matt. 17:5**

309. In what does Christ's kingly office consist?

In governing, sustaining, and shielding believers against their enemies.

Rev. 17:14 *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings.* **Luke 1:33**

310. How are believers named after Christ?

Christians, that is, anointed.

I John 2:20 *Ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.*

311. Are then all people living in Christian countries such Christians?

They have indeed all the name, but the spirit of unction, and of grace, is wanting in most of them.

312. Who has now redeemed us?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, and that according to both natures.

Acts 20:28 *Feed the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.*

313. Have not the Father and the Holy Ghost redeemed us?

They have loved us and furthered our redemption.

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

I Cor. 6:11 But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

314. Have not the Father and the Holy Ghost redeemed us with suffering and death?

No; because the Father is God only, who cannot die, and likewise the Holy Ghost, but the Son is true God and true man, who died and shed His blood for our sins.

315. Whom has Christ redeemed?

Me, a poor, lost and condemned creature.

316. Has Christ not redeemed all men?

Yes.

I Tim. 2:6 Who gave Himself a ransom for all.

I Tim. 4:10 Who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.

I John 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

317. But are not many of those lost whom Christ has redeemed?

Yes, certainly.

II Pet. 2:1 There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

318. What, then, is the cause of their condemnation?

Their impenitence, unbelief, and other sins.

John 3:18 He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **Deut. 27:26 Gal. 3:10**

319. Wherewith has Christ redeemed us?

Neither with gold or silver, but with His holy and precious blood, and His unjust and innocent death.

I Pet. 1:18, 19 Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

320. Has not Christ also redeemed us by His obedience?

Yes, by His holy life and perfect obedience He has fulfilled the Law in our stead.

Rom. 5:19 As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous.

321. Was it so highly necessary to use such precious means for our redemption?

Yes, Christ's blood was necessary for our cleansing and reconciliation.

Heb. 9:22 Without shedding of blood is no remission.

322. From what evil has Christ redeemed us?

From sin, from death, and from Satan's kingdom.

323. How has Christ redeemed us from sin?

1. So that the guilt and punishment of sin are taken away.
Col. 1:14 *In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*
2. So that sin should not rule over us.
Rom. 6:14 *Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the Law, but under grace.*
I Pet. 2:24 *Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes ye were healed.*
3. So that by a happy death sin will be rooted entirely out.

324. Can I not be freed from the punishment of sin and yet remain under its dominion?

No: by no means

Luke 1: 74, 75 *That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*

325. How has Christ redeemed us from death?

So that temporal death has become an entrance into life, spiritual death has lost its power, and eternal death is no longer to be feared by believers.

John:11:25, 26 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.* **Luke 16:22**

326. How has Christ redeemed us from Satan and his kingdom?

So that Satan has no power over us.

Heb. 2:14, 15 *That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

327. For what purpose has Christ redeemed you?

So that I might be His own as a peculiar treasure, and constantly serve Him.

328. Does Christ's redemption then give you no permission at all to serve sin and Satan, and to be their subject?

No; by no means

I Cor. 6:20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Tit. 2:14 *Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

329. How many are the states of Christ?

Two, namely: the state of Humiliation, and the state of Exaltation.

Phil. 2:8-11 *And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

330. How many grades or parts belong to Christ's state of Humiliation?

Five: 1. The birth in poverty. 2. The passion. 3. The crucifixion. 4. The death. 5. The burial.

331. Why did Christ begin His life with birth in poverty in the stable?

In order to show that by His poverty He could make us rich.

II Cor. 8:9 *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.*

332. When did Christ's passion begin?

His whole life from infancy was spent in poverty, contempt, persecution, and labor. **Is. 53.**

333. When did He suffer most?

On Good Friday, when He was tortured under Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor.

334. What did He suffer in His body?

He was beaten, crowned with thorns, mocked, nailed to the cross, and ill-treated.

335. Did Christ only suffer in body?

No; His greatest suffering was the anguish of hell resting on His soul on account of our sins.

336. When did He especially suffer in this anguish of hell?

In the garden, when He sweat drops of blood, and said: *My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.* **Matt. 26:38** **Luke 22:44**

And, on the cross, when He cried : *My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?* **Matt. 27:76**

337. Why did Jesus suffer so much for evil?

On account of our sins, and for our salvation.

Is. 53:4, 5 *Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.*

338. How did Jesus act during His suffering?

With great patience, even as a lamb that is led to the slaughter **Is. 53:7**

339. What was Christ's crucifixion?

An exceedingly painful, ignominious, and accursed death-penalty, which was executed only on the greatest criminals.

Ga. 3:13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.*

340. Did Christ truly die on the cross?

Yes.

Luke 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost.*

341. What benefit do we derive from Christ's death?

By it death, as the wages of sin, is paid.

Rom. 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.*

342. Did Christ remain hanging on the cross?

No; He was taken down from the cross and laid in a sepulcher. **Luke 23:53**

343. What comfort do we derive from Christ's burial?

He has thereby buried our sins, hallowed our graves, and taken away their ghastliness.

344. How shall we regard Christ's whole life and suffering in His state of humiliation?

Chiefly, as an atonement for us, but also as an example of holiness and patience in life and in suffering.

1 Pet. 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps.

345. How many grades or parts belong to His state of exaltation?

Five: 1. His descent into hell. 2. His resurrection. 3. His ascension. 4. His session at the right hand of the Father. 5. His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

346. What did Christ accomplish when He descended into hell?

He displayed the victory which He had won over the devil.

347. Did Christ remain in the sepulcher?

No; the third day He rose from the dead.

348. What benefit do we derive from Christ's resurrection?

1. It testifies that He has made full satisfaction for our sins.

Rom 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

2. It gives us strength for the spiritual resurrection and a holy walk in a new life.

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

3. It assures us of the resurrection of our bodies unto salvation.

1 Cor. 15:20, 21 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

349. How long did Christ remain on earth after His resurrection?

Forty days.

350. Whither did He afterwards go?

He left this world with His visible presence, ascended into heaven, and sat down at God's right hand. **Acts 1:9-12**

351. What comfort do we derive from Christ's ascension?

That He has gone to prepare a place for us in His Father's house, whither He will take us to Himself.

John 14:2,3 In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

352. What admonition ought we to draw from the ascension of Jesus?

That we should be heavenly-minded; yea, have a desire to depart and be with Christ.

Col. 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

353. What does Christ's session at the right hand of the Father indicate?

That Christ, according to His human nature, unceasingly governs all things. *Eph. 1:20, 21*

354. What benefit do we derive from Christ's session at God's right hand?

That He defends His Church against its enemies, prays for us, and sends us His Holy Spirit.
Ps. 110:1

355. Is Christ then no longer present on earth?

Yes; in an effectual, though invisible, manner.

Matt. 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

356. When will He come the second time visibly to the world?

On the last day.

Luke 21:27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Acts 1:11 This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.

357. What will Christ do when on the last day He comes visibly again to the world?

He will judge all men, both the living and the dead.

II Cor. 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

358. Will Christ judge men only according to their outward deeds?

No; He will judge both their thoughts, words, and deeds.

Matt. 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

I Cor. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts

359. By what will Christ judge men?

By His Word.

John 12:48 The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

360. Is it enough that you know all these things concerning Christ and regard them as true?

No; not unless the Holy Ghost, by a living faith, glorifies Christ in my heart.

The Third Article **Of Sanctification**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body; and the Life everlasting. Amen

What is meant by this Article?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me by His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the true faith; in which Christian Church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and will raise up me and all the dead at the last day, and will grant everlasting life to me and all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.

361. Do you believe in the Holy Ghost?

Yes; because He is true God, in like manner as the Father and the Son.

362. Whereby do you prove, that the Holy Ghost is true God?

1. By the divine attributes and works, which are ascribed to Him in the Scriptures. I **Cor. 2:10** *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.* **John 16:3**
2. Because He is expressly called God.
I Cor. 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*
I John 5:7 *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*
Acts 5:3, 4 *Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? ... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

363. Which are the chief operations of the Holy Ghost?

To call, enlighten, sanctify and preserve.

364. What is God's call?

That by His Word He moves the hearts of men, and especially by the Gospel reveals His grace to them.

II Tim. 1:9 *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace.*

365. What other means does God use to awaken and call men to seek salvation?

To this end He sometimes uses suffering, sometimes benefactions, sometimes the examples of others, and whatever else can lead men to reflection.

366. Do all men accept God's call?

No; many resist it.

Acts 7:51 *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost.*

Is. 65:2 *I have spread out My hands all the day unto a rebellious people*

367. Who accept God's call?

Those who repent and believe the Gospel.

368. What is divine enlightenment?

A living knowledge and a powerful conviction concerning the divine truths.

369. Can you tell me the real difference between human learning and divine enlightenment?

Human learning is attained by human diligence in God's Word, and is purely historical knowledge, with which man continues in his wickedness. The divine enlightenment is wrought by the Holy Ghost through the Word, whose power is experienced in the heart and begins to take away the resistance of the will.

370. What is understood by the word sanctification?

Sometimes it denotes both regeneration, justification and renewing; sometimes it denotes only the daily renewing.

371. What is regeneration or the new birth?

The same as the impartation of the living faith, or awakening from the spiritual death, conversion and translation from darkness to light, from Satan's power to God.

372. Can you tell me something about the change which takes place through regeneration?

Through regeneration the state of a man's heart becomes changed, inasmuch as there is created in the understanding a new light, and in the will a new power, desire, and yearning.

John 3:6 *That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

373. By what means is regeneration wrought?

In little children, by water and the Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism.

John 3:5 *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

But in adults, who have fallen from the grace of Baptism, it is wrought by God's Word.

1 Pet. 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God.*

374. Is it altogether necessary to salvation to be born again?

Yes; certainly

John 3:3 *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

375. Whereby can a person know whether he has been born again?

It is known by the change of his heart and by the new gifts of grace.

Ezek. 36:26 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*

376. What then does a person really obtain by regeneration, which he did not already have?

He obtains the true living faith, which apprehends Christ.

John 1:12, 13 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

377. What is the true, living faith, which is given in regeneration?

Faith is the flight of a penitent soul to the grace of God through the merit of Christ, which is eagerly accepted, appropriated and built upon trustful confidence.

378. How many parts, therefore, really belong to the true faith?

Three, namely:

1. A living knowledge of God and of His will.

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

Rom. 10:14 *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?*

2. A living approval or assent.

Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

3. A living appropriation of the grace of God in Christ, whether it show itself in an ardent longing after Christ or in a firm assurance of grace.

Rom. 8:33, 34 *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

Matt. 5:6 *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Gal. 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

379. What is dead faith?

A dead faith is a false imagination, which the impenitent entertain in regard to receiving grace, although they will not repent.

Jas. 2:26 *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

380. Have the impenitent no true faith?

No; their faith is dead, when it does not change the heart and weaken the natural depravity.

381. Whereby can I know whether my faith is living or dead?

By its powerful operation in the heart, which is love to God and our neighbor.

Jas. 2:18 *Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

Acts 15: 9 *And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*

382. Is the true faith always and in all persons equally strong?

No; at times it is very weak and hardly dares to appropriate to itself the grace of God, but still has a hearty longing after it.

Mark 9:24 *Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

383. Whereby is it known that weak faith is a true faith?

By a profound longing after grace and a hatred of sin.

384. Is God well pleased with such weak faith?

Yes, if it is only true and sincere.

Matt. 5:3: 6 *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

385. What benefit does a person derive from that faith, which he obtains in regeneration?

He becomes righteous by faith, that is, participant of Christ's righteousness.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

386. What is justification?

That God, by grace, imputes Christ's righteousness to a penitent and believing sinner, acquits him from sin and its punishment, and regards him in Christ, as if he had never sinned.

II Cor. 5:21 For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Rom. 3:24, 28 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.

387. Is such a justified soul, then, in a truly happy and better state than formerly?

Yes; certainly.

Ps. 32:1,2 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

388. What is daily renewal?

The continuing putting off of the old man, or the laying aside of sin, and the putting on of the new man, or daily progress in that which is good.

Eph. 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

389. Why is this renewal designed as daily?

Because it ought to be continued all the days of our life.

II Cor 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Phil. 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

390. Which is the last benefit bestowed on man by the Holy Ghost?

It is His support, or that the Holy Ghost sustains us to the end, in all temptations, by true faith.

Phil 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

391. How does the Holy Ghost sustain believers?

In that He inwardly convinces, or reproves, teaches, guides, and comforts their hearts.

392. What is the Holy Spirit's office of convincing and reproving?

That He makes the conscience tender, and makes all sins, even the least, to be painfully felt unto humiliation.

John 16:8 And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

393. What is the Holy Spirit's office of teaching?

That by the Word of God He more and more opens and enlightens man's understanding, and in his heart confirms the truth against all error.

I John 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

394. What is the Holy Spirit's office of guiding?

That by His secret correction and warning He restrains man from sin, and, on the other hand, encourages man, and urges him to that which is good.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

395. What is the Holy Spirit's office of comforting?

That, especially in time of want and temptation, He reminds a true Christian of God's gracious assistance, lets him taste the comforting power of the Gospel, and sustains him in patience by a living hope.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

396. Now then God's Spirit thus sanctifies men, what are they and what are they called?

Saints, or holy persons.

Ps. 86:2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy.

397. Where are these saints found?

In the holy, universal, Christian Church.

398. What is understood by the Church?

The Church is the communion and union, in the spirit, of holy persons.

399. How many such churches or communions are there?

Only one, which is universal, that is, spread over the whole world.

400. What is the state of the Church of God in this world?

Militant.

401. What will be its state in heaven?

Triumphant or victorious.

402. Will all, then, be saved, who live and die in the visible Church?

No; not all the members of the visible, but only members of the invisible, Church will be saved.

Matt. 22:14 Many are called, but few are chosen.

403. How many kinds of members are there in the outward, visible Church?

Two kinds, namely: hypocrites, and true Christians.

404. Which are hypocrites?

Those, who indeed confess Christ with the mouth, but in their hearts do not believe on Him.

Matt. 7:21 Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

405. Which are true Christians, and proper members of the Church?

Those who in faith do the will of God.

406. Have true Christians an intimate bond of union among themselves?

Yes, certainly.

Eph. 4:3-6 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one Baptism, One God and Father of all.

407. What else is there in the Third Article?

Three things, namely: the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

408. Who forgives sin?

God Himself.

Mark 2:7 Who can forgive sins but God only?

409. What is it to forgive sin?

It is to take away all the guilt and punishment of sin, so that the sinner is counted as, righteous, even as if he had not sinned.

II Sam 12:13 The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die

410. And will God thus forgive sin?

Yes, when the sinner repents from the heart.

Is. 55:6,7 Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

411. For whose sake will God forgive our sin?

For the sake of Christ, who, by His blood shed upon the cross, has atoned for the sins of the whole world.

Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

I John 2:2 And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

412. Whose sin will God forgive?

The sins of all penitent and believing souls.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.

413. Which or how many sins will God forgive those who repent?

All sins, the greatest as well as the least.

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.

414. By what means does God communicate to man the forgiveness of sins?

By His holy Gospel.

415. To whom has He given the power to declare to men, in His stead, the forgiveness of sins?

To His servants, that is, His ministry.

II Cor. 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

416. To what sinners has Jesus commanded His servants to declare the forgiveness of sins?

To the penitent and believing.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations.

417. By what means, on our part, do we obtain the forgiveness of sins?

Only by faith, which accepts Jesus and His righteousness.

Acts 10:43 *To him give all the Prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.*

Acts 13:38, 39 *Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses.*

418. Can we not, by our good deeds, deserve and obtain the forgiveness of sins?

No; by no means.

Rom. 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the Law.*

419. Does not such a doctrine concerning the forgiveness of sins lead to false security?

No; it ought much rather encourage us to cultivate true piety.

Ps. 130:4 *But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared.*

420. What is the resurrection of the body or flesh?

That on the last day our bodies shall be united again with our souls.

John 5:28,29 *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

421. Can this really take place?

Yes; because to God, who created the earth out of nothing, and the first man out of the earth, nothing is impossible.

422. Where do the risen bodies and the souls, united with them go?

The condemned go to the everlasting pains of hell; but the elect to eternal life.

Matt 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

423. What is eternal life?

The happy state in which the elect shall be freed from all evil, forever be with their Jesus, and with the holy angels praise God in ceaseless joy.

John 17:24 *Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me.*

I Thes. 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Ps. 17:15 I Cor. 13:12

424. What is eternal death?

A fearful exclusion from God's salvation, and, in its stead, terrible and endless suffering of body and soul.

Matt 25:41 *Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

425. Who shall go into the eternal death and suffering of hell?

All those who have died in impenitence and unbelief, who are called the rejected.

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

426. Who shall become partakers of the joy and blessedness of eternal life?

All those who have died in faith in Jesus, who are called the elect.

Rev. 14:13 Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

**PART II
Of Prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

427. What should be the constant exercise of a believing Christian?

To commune with God in prayer and holy meditations.

428. What is it to pray?

It is to speak with God in our hearts in all simplicity, mourn our wants before Him, and with earnest longing ask of Him what we need.

429. Who ought to pray in this manner?

All, even the little children.

Ps. 8:2 Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength because of Thine enemies.

430. Who can pray acceptably to God?

Those who either are converted or on the way to conversion.

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth.

431. Cannot the impenitent offer acceptable prayer to God?

No; their prayer is an abomination to God.

Prov.28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination. John 9:31 Is. 1:15

432. To whom must we pray?

To God only, who alone can grant our petition.

433. On what shall we base our prayer?

On Jesus' merits and intercession with the Father.

John 16:23 Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

434. What must be the nature of our prayer or conversation with God?

It must be offered with child-like confidence, devotion, and reverence.

435. When and where must we pray?

Always and everywhere, yet more especially in private.

1 Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

436. Shall we pray only out of prayer books?

No; but also from the heart, and in our own words.

437. Can children and plain people pray from the heart and in their own words?

Yes; because we can speak to God in simpler language than to men.

438. Who teaches us to pray aright?

The Holy Spirit, who is thence called the Spirit of prayer.

Rom. 8:26 The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought

439. How many kinds of prayer are there?

Two kinds:

1. The inward prayer, in which the heart sighs to God.
2. The outward prayer, when we express our desires in words.

Ps. 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer.

440. Should we pray for ourselves alone?

No; for all, even our enemies.

Jas. 5:16 Pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

Matt 5:44 Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you

441. What shall we pray for?

Not only for bodily gifts, which should be asked for with the condition, "Lord, if Thou wilt;" but chiefly for spiritual gifts.

442. Which is the most perfect prayer?

The Lord's Prayer.

443. Who has taught us this prayer?

Our Lord Jesus Christ.

444. How is the Lord's Prayer divided?

Into the Introduction, the seven Petitions, and the Conclusion.

445. What is the Introduction?

The confiding address: Our Father who art in heaven

446. What is meant by this Introduction?

God would thereby affectionately encourage us to believe that He is truly our Father, and that we are His children indeed, so that we may call upon Him with all cheerfulness and confidence, even as beloved children entreat their affectionate parents.

447. Who can properly call God their Father?

Only the true children of God.

Gal. 4:6 *And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*

448. Why do we say OUR, and not MY, Father?

Because we should pray, in the fellowship of the Spirit, with and for each other.

449. How many Petitions are contained in the Lord's Prayer?

Seven. In the first four we pray for good things; in the last three we pray to be delivered from evil.

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy Name.

What is meant by this Petition?

When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, lead holy lives, in accordance with it; to this may our blessed Father in heaven help us! But whoever teaches and lives otherwise than as God's Word prescribes, profanes the name of God among us; from this preserve us, Heavenly Father!

450. What do you pray for in this Petition?

That the name of God may be hallowed by us.

451. What is the name of God?

1. The peculiar names by which He is called in the Scriptures.
2. All that specially belongs to Him, as His attributes, Word, Sacraments, and works.

452. How is the name of God hallowed?

When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, lead holy lives, in accordance with it; to this may our blessed Father in heaven help us!

Matt 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

453. Who profanes the name of God?

Whoever teaches and lives otherwise, than as God's Word prescribes, profanes the name of God among us; from this preserves us, Heavenly Father.

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come

What is meant by this Petition?

The Kingdom of God comes indeed of itself, without our prayer; but we pray in this Petition that it may come unto us also.

When is this effected?

When our heavenly Father gives us His holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe in His holy Word, and live a godly Life here on earth and in heaven forever.

454. Of how many kinds is the kingdom of God?

1. The kingdom of nature, in which God directs all created things by His omnipotence.
2. The kingdom of grace, which is the Church or communion of saints.
3. The kingdom of glory in heaven, where the elect are with Christ in perfect happiness.

455. For which of these kingdoms do we pray in the Second Petition?

The kingdom of grace and glory.

456. When does the kingdom of God come to us?

When our heavenly Father gives us His holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe in His holy Word, and live a godly life here on earth, and in heaven forever.

457. Has Satan also a kingdom?

Yes; all unbelievers and ungodly persons are in his kingdom.

458. Whereby are those known who are in Satan's kingdom?

By the fact that they love and serve sin.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil.

The Third Petition

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

What is meant by this Petition?

The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer, but we pray in this Petition that it may be done by us also.

When is this effected?

When God frustrates and brings to nought every evil counsel and purpose, which would hinder us from hallowing the name of God, and prevent His kingdom from coming to us, such as the will of the devil, of the world, and of our own flesh; and when He strengthens us, and keeps us steadfast in His word and in the faith, even unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

459. What is the will of God?

The will of God is our sanctification through faith and love according to the Law and Gospel.

1 John 2:23 And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

1 Thess. 4:3 This is the will of God, even your sanctification.

460. When is the will of God accomplished?

When God frustrates and brings to nought every evil counsel and purpose.

461. Can the will of God be done on earth as perfectly as it is done by the angels in heaven?

No; but with the like hearty sincerity and joy.

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What is meant by this Petition?

God gives indeed without our prayer even to the wicked also their daily bread; but we pray in this Petition that He would make us sensible of His benefits, and enable us to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

462. What is implied in the words: “our daily bread”?

All things that pertain to the wants and the support of this present life; such as food, raiment, money, goods, house and land, and other property; a believing spouse and good children; trustworthy servants and faithful magistrates; favorable seasons, peace and health; education and honor; true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

463. Why do you pray for daily bread?

Because I must be satisfied with necessary maintenance.

464. Why are the words “this day” added?

Because I must not exercise undue care for the morrow, but let each day bear its own anxiety.

Matt 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

465. Shall not he, who prays for bread, also work?

Yes.

Gen 3:19 *In the seat of thy face shalt thou eat bread.*

II Thess. 3:10 *This we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither shall he eat.*

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

What is meant by this Petition?

We pray in this Petition, that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins, nor deny us our requests on account of them; for we are not worthy of anything for which we pray, and have not merited it; but that He would grant us all things through grace, although we daily commit much sin, and deserve chastisement alone. We will, therefore, on our part, both heartily forgive, and also readily do good to those who may injure or offend us.

466. What trespasses and debt do we pray God to forgive us?

Our sins and their merited punishment.

467. Will God indeed forgive us our debts without payment?

Yes; because Christ has paid it for us.

468. For whose sake must we pray for forgiveness of sins?

For the sake of Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*

Acts 10:43 *Through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.*

469. When God has once bestowed His grace on a sinner, must he still daily pray for the forgiveness of sins?

Yes; as the children of God sin daily through weakness, so they need daily forgiveness of sins.

Ps. 19:12 *Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults.*

470. What do we promise God in this Petition when we seek His forgiveness?

That we will also forgive those who trespass against us.

Luke 6:37 *Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.*

Col. 3:13 *Forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

471. Who are the transgressors whom we also must forgive?

They are our fellow men who may have sinned against us.

472. Can we thereby merit the forgiveness of our sins?

No; for as we daily commit much sin we deserve punishment only. We will, therefore, on our part, both heartily forgive, and readily do good to those who may injure or offend us.

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation

What is meant by this Petition?

God indeed tempts no one to sin; but we pray in this petition that God would so guard and preserve us that the devil, the world, and our own flesh, may not deceive us, nor lead us into error and unbelief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; and that, though we may be thus tempted, we may nevertheless finally prevail and gain the victory.

473. Does God ever tempt any one?

He does not tempt to evil, for that is contrary to His holiness.

Jas. 1:13 *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man.*

474. Are there then more than one kind of temptations or trials?

Yes; some are of God to that which is good, other are of the devil, the world, and our own flesh unto evil.

475. What are really the divine temptations or trials?

They are certain bodily or spiritual circumstances, in which God allows men to be placed, in order to prove them, and make it appear whether there is true faith, love, or patience in their hearts.

476. What enemies tempt us to evil?

They are the devil, the world, and our own flesh.

477. How does the devil tempt us?

By exciting evil thoughts.

John 13:2 *The devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him.*

478. How does the world tempt us?

The children of this world tempt us with threats, allurements, and seductive examples.

479. How does our own flesh and evil nature tempt us?

By the springing up of evil desires.

Jas. 1:14 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

480. What shall he do, who is tempted to evil?

He must watch and pray.

Matt 26:41 *Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.*

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What is meant by this Petition?

We pray in this Petition, as in a summary, that our heavenly Father will deliver us from all manner of evil, whether it affect the body or soul, property or character, and, at last, when the hour of death shall arrive, grant us a happy end, and graciously take us from the world of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

481. Of how many kinds is the evil against which we here pray?

Four kinds; namely: those which affect soul and body, property and reputation; and as the devil is evil, we also pray in this Petition against him.

482. Against which of these evils must we pray most frequently?

The evil affecting the soul.

483. What is the evil affecting the soul?

Sin itself, a gnawing conscience, and the eternal anguish of hell.

484. When is a child of God fully saved from evil?

In death.

485. Who then attains a happy death?

He who dies in the Lord, that is, united by faith with the Lord Jesus.

Rev. 14:13 *Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth.*

486. Are all those happy, who after death are called so?

No.

Matt 7:22, 23 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

487. What is the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer?

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

488. Why do we in prayer call to mind the kingdom, power, and glory of God?

That by remembering the same we may be strengthened in faith and hope that our prayer will be heard.

489. What is the meaning of the word "Amen?"

It means the same as, surely, truly it shall be done.

490. Can we, then, be certain that our prayers will be heard, and that we will receive what we ask for?

Yes; for God Himself has commanded us to pray in this manner, and has promised that He will hear us. Amen, Amen, that is, yea, yea, it shall be so.

Luke 9:11 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

491. Does God always grant us what we pray for?

Yes; unless we pray contrary to His will.

I John 5:14 *If we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.*

Jas. 4:3 *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

492. Does God answer our prayer immediately?

Sometimes, but not always, as He delays help, in order that He may exercise us in faith and hope.

PART IV. Of The Sacrament Of Holy Baptism

493. What is a Sacrament?

A holy ordinance appointed by God, in which, by visible means, He bestows and seals His invisible grace.

494. How many Sacraments were there in the Old Testament?

Two: Circumcision and the Passover.

495. What do you observe in regard to circumcision?

God commanded Abraham that all his male descendents should be circumcised, and thus received into covenant with God. **Gen. 17:1, 19, etc.**

496. On what occasion was the Passover instituted?

The Passover was appointed by God as a memorial of the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt, by which their faith in the coming Messiah was sealed.

Ex. 12:1-10, etc. I Cor. 5:7 Heb. 11:28

497. What did the Pascal Lamb typify?

It typified Jesus, who should offer Himself as a lamb to be slain.

John 1:29 *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

498. How many Sacraments are there in the New Testament?

Two, namely: the Sacrament of Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar.

499. What is the Sacrament of Baptism?

Baptism is not simply water.

500. What is it, then, more than this?

It is the water comprehended in God's command, and connected with God's Word.

501. How many essential parts are there in Holy Baptism?

Two, namely: water and God's Word, which is connected with the water.

502. What kind of water is it?

The natural and common water.

503. What Word is it that is connected with the water?

The Word of Jesus:

Matt. 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Mark 16:15, 16 Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

504. In whose name were you baptized?

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

505. With what were you baptized?

With water and with the Holy Ghost.

John 3:5 *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

506. Why has Christ commanded the mention of the name of the Holy Trinity at Baptism?

In order to show that the person baptized enters into union with God, belongs to Him, and bears His name.

507. Who should be baptized in this manner?

All who would be saved, even little children. **Matt. 28:19**

[But how do you know that little children should be baptized?

From the following, among other, reasons:

1. Because our Lord commanded His Apostles to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them; and in nations are included, not only men and women but, little children also.
Matt. 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*
2. Because all must, on account of their deprived nature, be born again in order to be saved; and the new birth is effected by Baptism and the Holy Ghost.
Ps. 51:5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
Rom. 7:5 **John 3:5** *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
3. Because infants were made members of the Jewish Church by rite of circumcision, and. In the Christian Church, Baptism has taken the place of circumcision.
Ex. 12:48 **Deut. 29:10-12**
4. Because the Apostles baptized whole households and families, and therefore must have baptized children also.
5. Because Christ and the Apostles nowhere say that infants shall not be baptized, which they would have said if a change was to be made and infant membership to cease in the church.]

508. Who shall administer Baptism?

In case of necessity any Christian may do it; but otherwise Baptism ought to be administered by the minister of the Word. **1 Cor. 4:1**

509. What gifts or benefits does Baptism confer?

It worketh forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and confers everlasting salvation on all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare.

God's Word and promise are as follows:

Mark 16:16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

510. What is the evil, from which Baptism delivers us?

From sin, death, and the devil.

Acts 2:38 *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Eph. 5:25, 26 *Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.*

Tit. 3:5 *According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.*

See Questions 323-326.

511. Since Christ has delivered us from sin, death, and the devil, why then is this deliverance ascribed to Baptism?

Because by Baptism we enter into communion with Christ and enjoy His benefits.

Gal. 3:27 *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Rom. 6:3, 4

512. What is the good of which we become partakers in Baptism?

Eternal life and salvation.

513. Wherein does salvation consist?

In being united with God and enjoying God, for He is the highest good and the essential salvation. **John 17:21-26**

514. Will all be saved who are baptized?

No; not all, but those baptized persons who believe.

Mark 16:16 *Christ says: "He that believeth not shall be damned," although he is baptized.*

515. Can little children have faith?

Yes; Christ says expressly that they believe on Him.

Matt. 18:6 *Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

And of John it is said, **Luke 1:15** *He shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*

516. Are little children condemned, who die before they are baptized?

By no means.

Matt. 18:14 *It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*

517. Since it is so important do deliver men from sin, death, and the devil, and to give them eternal life, tell me how the water can accomplish such great things?

It is not the water indeed that produces these effects, but the Word of God which accompanies and is connected with the water, and our faith, which relies on the Word of God connected with the water. For the water, without the Word of God, is simply water and no Baptism. But when connected with the Word of God, it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a “washing of regeneration” in the Holy Ghost; as St Paul says to Titus, in the third chapter, ver. 5-8: “According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.

518. Why is Baptism called the washing of regeneration in this passage?

Because Baptism is with the young what the Word is with adults, the means of regeneration.

519. Why is Baptism called a washing, or a washing of water by the Word?

Because in Baptism our souls are washed and cleansed from sin.

1 Pet. 3:21 *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Acts 22:16 *Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*

520. Why is Baptism here called a covenant?

Because in Baptism a covenant is entered into, inasmuch as God makes a pledge to man, and man in turn makes a pledge to God.

521. What good does God promise man in the covenant of Baptism?

Deliverance from sin, death and the devil, and participation in eternal life and salvation.

522. What good does man promise God in the covenant of Baptism?

That he will renounce, abandon, and resist the devil, and all his works, and all his way, which are sin and its dominion, and also that he will believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

523. Is it possible to keep one's baptismal covenant?

Yes; by the grace of God it is possible.

Phil. 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

524. By what means on our part, can we be kept in our baptismal covenant?

By spiritual watchfulness and prayer, together with the diligent use of God's Word and the Sacrament of the Altar.

525. How does it come to pass that a person falls from his baptismal covenant?

It may happen:

1. In a subtle manner, and unobserved, when a person does not continually reflect on his baptismal promise, resists the gracious operations of the Holy Ghost, and the mind gradually becomes worldly and vain.
2. In a grosser manner when a person falls into manifest sins of malice.

526. When a person has violated his baptismal covenant, is there no more grace to be expected by him?

Yes; when he repents.

Is. 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near.

Jer. 3:22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.

527. Must the penitent backslider be baptized again?

No; for the covenant which is violated on the part of man, still remains firm on God's part.

Rom. 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid.

528. What is repentance?

To repent is to be deeply conscious of our sins, sorry on account of them, and by faith to seek the grace of God in Christ.

529. How many kinds of repentance are there?

Two kinds; that of the fallen and that of the faithful.

530. Who are the fallen?

Those who have fallen away from their baptismal covenant.

531. Who are the faithful?

The believing, or those who continue in grace.

532. What is the repentance of the fallen?

When one, who has fallen away from the grace of God and become dead in sin, is again awakened by the power of God to the spiritual life, reconciled to God through faith, and thus fully converted and changed.

II Tim. 2:25,26 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

533. What is the repentance of the faithful?

When the believing daily grieve over their former sins and the faults still adhering to them, as their pardon from God in the name of Jesus, and strive to mortify all evil passions.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

534. Of how many parts does true repentance consist?

Two, namely:

1. Penitence and contrition for sin.
2. Faith in Jesus, whose fruit is a new obedience

535. Can we not believe and comfort ourselves in Christ, without first feeling sorrow for sin?

No; the faith which lays hold on Christ must be awakened in our feeling of sinful misery.

Matt 9:12 *They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.*

536. What are penitence and contrition for sin?

Penitence and contrition imply that we rightly know our sins, painfully feel them and seriously hate them.

II Cor 7:10 *For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

537. Should such sorrow for sin proceed alone from fear of the punishment of sin?

No; but chiefly from hatred of sin itself, as also from the consideration of the love of God, inasmuch as by this we perceive our ingratitude to Him.

538. What remedy is there for a troubled and contrite sinner, that he may not sink into despair?

He must confess his sin and by faith seek the grace of God in Christ.

Ps. 32:5 *I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*

I John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

What is Confession?

Confession consists of two parts: the one is, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness through the pastor as of God Himself, in no wise doubting, but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins ought we confess?

In the presence of God we should acknowledge ourselves guilty of all manner of sins, even of those which we do not ourselves perceive; as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But in the presence of the pastor we should confess those sins alone, of which we have knowledge, and which we feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Here reflect on your condition, according to the Ten Commandments, namely: Whether you are a father or mother, a son or daughter, a master or mistress, a manservant or maidservant – whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful – whether you have injured anyone by words or actions – whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted ought, or done other evil.

539. To whom do we confess our sins?

1. To God.

Ps. 32:5 I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

2. To our fellow-men, if we have sinned against them.
3. To our pastor.

Jas. 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another

540. What is the second part belonging to true repentance?

Faith in Jesus.

541. What are the work and operation of faith in the case of the contrite sinner?

Faith begins in hungering and thirsting, that is, a longing after the righteousness of Christ.

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. See Question 378.

542. How may the sinner strengthen his confidence and the boldness of his faith?

By prayer and contemplation of the friendly invitation of Jesus in the Gospel.

Matt. 11:28 Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

543. May the baptismal covenant also serve to comfort the sinner and strengthen his faith?

Yes, certainly; for since the covenant stands firm on the part of God, He always receives with pleasure the lost sinner, who returns to Him.

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Is. 65:1,2 Rom. 2:4, 5, 20 I Tim. 2:4

544. What does such baptizing with water signify?

It signifies that the old Adam in us is to be drowned and destroyed by daily sorrow and repentance, together with all sins and evil lusts; and that again the new man should daily come forth and rise, that shall live in the presence of God in righteousness and purity forever.

545. What is the old Adam?

This name is applied to original sin with its evil movements and lusts.

Eph. 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.

546. Why is sin called “the old Adam?”

Because we have inherited it from Adam.

547. What must be done with the old Adam?

He must be drowned and destroyed, that is, suppressed by daily sorrow and repentance.

548. What is the new man?

The name implies the new spiritual mind, desires and strength, which are given in regeneration.

549. How shall the new man come forth and rise in us more and more from day to day?

By this, that we daily grow in that which is good and let the image of God and the spirit of Christ increase more and more and be seen in our conduct.

Eph. 4:23, 24 *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Rom. 6:4 *We are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

550. What is the duty of those who act as sponsors?

1. To remember their own baptismal covenant.
2. To pray for those, of whose Baptism they are witnesses.
3. To promote, as far as possible, the child's training in true piety.

PART V.

Of The Sacrament Of The Altar.

551. What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given unto us Christians to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.

552. Where is it so written?

The holy Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do, in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, gave thanks, and gave it unto them, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you, for the remission of sins: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

553. Who instituted the Lord's Supper?

Our Lord Jesus Christ.

554. When did He initiate it?

In the night in which He was betrayed unto death.

555. Is it important to know at what time Jesus instituted the Holy Supper?

Yes, for thence we see the loving solicitude of our Jesus for us, in that He thought more of us than of Himself, when He knew that His death agony was immediately before Him.

556. How many kinds of elements are present in the Sacrament of the Altar?

Two kinds: the earthly and visible, and the heavenly and invisible.

557. What are the earthly elements?

Bread and Wine.

558. What are the heavenly and invisible elements?

The true body and blood of Jesus Christ.

559. What is the heavenly and invisible, which we receive with the bread?

The true body of Jesus Christ, which is united with the bread.

560. How do you know that?

Christ says concerning the bread; *“Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.”*

561. What is the heavenly and invisible, which we receive with the wine?

The true blood of Jesus Christ which is united with the wine.

562. How do you know that?

Christ says: *“Drink ye all of it: this cup is the New Testament in My blood.”*

563. Are the bread and wine, by the consecration, changed into the body and blood of Christ?

No; the bread and wine are not united with the body and blood of Christ longer than whilst it is given and used in Sacrament.

564. Are we, therefore, to understand that the bread and wine only signify the body and blood of Christ?

No; for the Savior does not say: it signifies; but, it is My body, &c.

565. How, then, are bread and wine in the Sacrament of the Altar the body and blood of Christ?

The bread and wine are united with the body and blood of Christ.

I Cor. 10:16 *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*

566. For whom was the Holy Supper instituted?

For true Christians, who have attained such age and understanding that they can examine themselves.

I Cor 11:28 *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

567. Are all those who have understanding and discretion qualified to partake of the Holy Supper?

No; none save the disciples of Christ, that is, His penitent and believing followers.

568. Have the unbelieving and ungodly no right to the Holy Sacrament?

No; none whatever, so long as they do not repent.

I Cor. 10:21 *Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's Table, and of the table of devils.*

569. What must the ungodly one do before he can go to the Lord's Table?

He must first, by the grace of God, repent.

570. Why, then, do many go to God's Table who do not fear Him?

Either because they therein seek a false consolation, and think that by this means they will be reconciled to God, or because they are ashamed to neglect going to Communion more than others.

571. Why is the Sacrament of the Altar called a communion and the guests communicants?

These expressions indicate both the union which believers have with Christ, and also the union of brotherly love, subsisting among themselves, which is confirmed in the Sacrament.

John 6:56 *He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.*

I Cor. 10:17 *For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.* **Chap 12:13**

572. What benefits are derived from such eating and drinking?

They are pointed out in these words: 'given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.' Namely, through these words, the remission of sins, life and salvation are granted unto us in the Sacrament. For where there is remission of sins, there are also life and salvation.

573. What benefit do believers derive from going to the Lord's Table?

They secure the forgiveness of sins, life and eternal salvation.

574. But has not the believer the forgiveness of sins, life, and eternal salvation, before he comes to the Lord's Table?

Yes.

575. How then can these be ascribed to the Sacrament of the Altar?

Very properly; for in this Sacrament they are bestowed upon him and effectually pledged to him.

576. What pledge and assurance does the believer obtain of the forgiveness of his sins in this Sacrament?

It is the body and blood of Christ, by which sin is atoned for, and life and salvation are purchased.

577. What is the nature of the life and salvation which believers obtain in the Sacrament?

They attain an assurance of eternal life, and thereby the spiritual life or faith is strengthened in them.

John 6:54, 55 *Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.*

578. How can the bodily eating and drinking produce such great effects?

The eating and the drinking, indeed, do not produce them, but the words which stand here, namely: "given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words are, besides the bodily eating and drinking, the chief things in the Sacrament: and he who believes these words, has that which they declare and set forth, namely, the remission of sins.

579. What is the most important qualification needed by those who go to the Lord's Table?

Faith in these words of Jesus: *This is MY body, which is given for you;*” again, *“This is My blood, given and shed for you, for the remission of sins.”*

580. What is faith in these words?

That a penitent soul, with yearning confidence, receives and appropriates to itself the satisfaction wrought by Christ.

581. What should we do when we eat Christ's body and drink His blood, and what should be the special object of the Christian in so doing?

To declare and contemplate His death and the shedding of His blood, as He has taught us.

Luke 22:19 *This do in remembrance of Me.*

I Cor. 11:26 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*

582. What is it to remember Christ and show forth His death?

It is devoutly to contemplate the whole passion of Christ, be thereby strengthened in faith, encouraged again to love the Savior, who, out of an incomprehensible love suffered so many pains for us; rejoice in Him, heartily thank Him, and show forth the quickening power of His body and blood in a true sanctification.

583. Why should we think of His death, and show forth the same?

That we may learn to believe that no creature could have made satisfaction for our sins, but only Christ, true God and man, and that we may learn to fear, on account of our sins, and consider how great they are, and that we may rejoice and comfort ourselves in Him alone, and thus be saved by this faith.

584. How often must we go to the Lord's Supper?

Christ has not appointed any definite time, but, that it ought to be done frequently, is inferred from these words:

I Cor. 11:26 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

585. What should admonish and urge a Christian to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper frequently?

On the part of God both the command and promise of the Lord Jesus Christ, and, next to these, his own need, which lies heavily upon him, should urge him thereto, for the sake of which are such prayers, persuasions and promises.

586. What then, shall a man do when he does not feel such a need or hungering and thirsting for the Sacrament?

No better advice can be given him that that he shall look into his own bosom, whether he is not still flesh and blood, and believe all that the Scriptures say about these things.

Gal. 5:17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

Rom. 8:8 *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

587. Is it a sin to keep away from the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper for a long time, when we have free access to it?

Yes; especially when it happens through contempt of grace, indifference or spiritual pride.

588. But is it of no account how this is done, provided it is done often and according to custom?

No; it is far worse to go unprepared and unworthily to the Lord's Table.

589. Who go unworthily to the Lord's Table?

Those, who do not feel and regret their sins, nor turn heartily, with faith and confidence, to the merits of Jesus Christ, nor purpose to fear God, and strive against sin.

590. What injury do such persons suffer by going unworthily to the Lord's Supper?

Great injury;

I Cor. 11:29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

591. What must we do, then, before going to the Lord's Table, in order to avoid such danger?

We must examine ourselves.

I Cor. 11:28 Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

592. What is it to examine ourselves?

It is by prayer and meditation rightly to enter into our own hearts, minutely and as in the sight of God examine the condition of our souls, our whole life and Christian character, alone according to God's Word, the Law and the Gospel.

593. What particulars must we examine?

Three:

1. Sorrow and contrition for sin.
2. Faith in Christ.
3. The new purpose.

594. How must we examine our sorrow and contrition?

We must examine whether we rightly know our sins, whether we are inwardly bowed down and ashamed of our many faults, and whether from our hearts we hate all sins.

595. How must we examine our faith?

Whether we have living faith, which changes the heart, and is wrought by the Holy Spirit; whether we have a true yearning after the grace of God in Christ, a hearty confidence in Christ's satisfaction for us, and whether we seek all our salvation alone in the blood of Christ.

II Cor. 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

596. How must we examine our new purpose?

Whether we have the fixed purpose that by the grace of God we will keep the faith, abstain from all, even the most cherished besetting, sins, and be more true in our love to God and our neighbor.

597. Is any one worthy to receive this heavenly feast?

No one is worthy of it in himself, since we are all sinners.

598. Who, then, are worthy of it?

Those, who with humble, penitent and yearning heart seek grace, without merit, and alone by faith in Christ.

599. Who is it then, that receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a good external discipline; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who believes these words: "given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins." But he who does not believe these words, or who doubts, is unworthy and unfit; for the words: "FOR YOU," require truly believing hearts.

600. What must be the conduct of a Christian when receiving the Holy Sacrament?

He must reverently place before his mind God's holiness and incomprehensible love to man, acknowledge his own unworthiness, turn his mind and thoughts from earthly things, lift up his soul to God, contemplate Christ's passion, death and atonement, long for a more intimate union with Him, and thus receive the Sacrament in prayer and faith with humility, joy and thanksgiving.

601. What must be the conduct of a Christian after partaking of the Holy Supper of the Lord?

He must not only for a few days, but constantly cling closely to Jesus, the bridegroom of his soul, thank Him for this great grace, proclaim His death by words and deeds, and in the power of His death mortify and destroy sin.

II Cor. 5:15 He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.

I Pet. 2:24 Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

602. Can he be certain of a blessed death, who thus believes in the fellowship of Jesus?

Yes; if he remain steadfast in the faith until death.

Jesus says,

Rev. 2:10 Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Matt. 24:13 He that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.

A SHORT STATEMENT
Of the Saving Truth of Our Holy Religion
Set forth in the natural connection of its
several parts, for the easier
comprehension of the young.

1. There is one only true God in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
2. This Triune God created the whole world, even as He now upholds and governs it.
3. All the angels were by God created good and holy, but some, by disobedience, fell away from God, and are called devils.
4. Man was also created by God without sin after the image of God, that he might serve Him.
5. The image of God consisted in a resemblance of God and harmony with Him, or in true wisdom, righteousness, and holiness.
6. In this innocence, man was happy, inasmuch as he lived in union with God, which is the highest good.
7. But our first parents, Adam and Eve, suffered themselves to be seduced by the devil inwardly to turn their hearts away from God and outwardly to eat of the forbidden fruit of the tree.
8. Thereby they lost the image of God, instead of which came the image of the devil, or a semblance to this enemy of God: the reason became darkened, the will perverted and dead to that which is good, but inclined to, and apt in, all that is evil.
9. Thereby they lost also their happy fellowship with God, fell under the wrath of God, and became guilty unto death, temporal, spiritual, and eternal
10. And as Adam and Eve are the progenitors from whom all men have their origin, so did these first parents bear children after their own image, and together with the human nature transmitted sin and death to all their descendants.
11. Hence all men are by nature destitute of the image of God and its original wisdom and holiness, and in its stead they are born with original sin, blind, unholy, and rebellious.
12. From this inborn, original sin, proceed all actual sins in thoughts, desires, words, and deeds.
13. In this unhappy state of sin, therefore, all men are by nature under the wrath of God, deserving all punishment, temporal, spiritual, and eternal.
14. From such eternal misery no creature could deliver us.
15. But God, who from eternity saw the deepest misery and need of mankind, was moved through unmerited love, to a tender compassion, and determined to send His Only Begotten Son as a Savior unto all people.
16. This Savior, who is called Jesus Christ, was promised to the world immediately after the fall, and His bitter and bloody death was set forth and typified in the Old Testament by the sacrifice of many thousand animals.
17. Finally, in the fullness of time, this Eternal Son of God was, by the over-shadowing of the Holy Ghost, conceived and born into the world, without sin, by His mother, the Holy Virgin Mary.
18. This our Blessed Redeemer has, therefore, in one Person two natures, the divine and the human, so that He is both God and man.
19. According to His office He is the only Mediator between God and man, our High Priest, Prophet, and king, in a two-fold state, that of humiliation and that of exaltation.
20. By His holy life and perfect obedience He has fulfilled the Law in our stead, by His bitter suffering He bore our chastisement, and tasted in body and soul the condemnation of

the Law, temporal and eternal death for our sins, which in God's judgment we imputed to Him.

21. By His obedience and suffering He has satisfied the righteousness of God, reconciled us to God, secured us deliverance from sin and all evil, together with a right to union with God and all the blessedness flowing therefrom, and has thus fully completed the great work of redemption.
22. After His death Jesus did not remain in the grave longer than the third day, when the Father awakened Him, and He Himself with a mighty power of victory over His and our enemies arose from the dead, showing that He had paid the penalty of sin for us to the uttermost farthing.
23. After the resurrection, Christ ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, where He intercedes for us, and sends us His Holy Spirit, that we may enjoy the benefit of the salvation which He has wrought.
24. The Holy Ghost seriously calls all men to this salvation, and operates powerfully by the means of grace, the Word and the two Sacraments; but He points out at the same time a certain Order, in which alone men obtain the salvation wrought out.
25. This Order is called the Order of Salvation, and consists in true Repentance toward God.
26. Repentance has two parts, contrition and faith.
27. Penitence and contrition denote that we have, through the Law, a knowledge of our natural depravity and actual sins, and that we painfully feel them and earnestly hate them.
28. In this feeling of our own misery there arises, through the Gospel, faith's longing after the grace of God in Christ.
29. This faith reaches forth after its Savior, and embraces, with great eagerness, His precious worth and merit as the only ground of salvation.
30. The true nature of this faith is, that it immediately shows itself active in love to God and man, together with the daily cleansing of the heart.
31. Whoever does not resist the grace of the Holy Spirit, but allows himself to be led into this Order of Salvation, is awakened from his spiritual death, is born again unto new life, regains the lost image of God, new light in the understanding, new desire and power in the will, a change of mind and heart. He is justified, that is, is clothed in Christ's righteousness, delivered from the guilt and punishment of sin, as the dominion of sin is also taken away.
32. He now by faith enters anew into union with God, and obtains part in all those inestimable gifts of grace which have been secured by Christ.
33. Now he is a true and happy child of God, and has a living hope of the eternal inheritance of heaven.
34. Now he obtains divine light and power both to overcome evil, so that he no longer purposely sins against conscience, and to follow that which is good with the whole heart, so that he now continually seeks the kingdom of God and His righteousness, wandering in the world with a heavenly mind and as in the presence of God.
35. Now he has true consolation in suffering, since the kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, dwells in his heart, although often hidden under weakness and conflict.
36. But, if he would not lose his happy state of grace, he must by faith abide in Christ, and allow himself to be governed by His Spirit.
37. He must now with heartfelt prayer and devotion industriously use the means by which his faith can be maintained and strengthened, namely, God's Holy Word and the Sacraments.
38. He must rightly watch, pray, and strive against the devil, the world and sin, whose remnants still cling to him, but must be more and more cleansed away by renewal, and,

on the other hand, the image of God more and more restored to him so that he clearly evinces in his daily life, that, as a regenerated child of God, he is closely related to his heavenly Father, loves all that He loves, but hates all that He hates, and that of which the world is full, namely, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and a prodigal life.

39. He must now daily deny himself and patiently bear his cross after his Savior in the narrow way.
40. To him, who perseveres in this way during all his life, death will finally be a gain and a perfect deliverance.
41. For in the last day he shall rise, not to condemnation, but, to an eternal, glorious life, and an indissoluble union with God.
42. But he who will not receive and use the grace of God, according to this Order of Salvation, remains in his natural state of sin, separated from God, and must expect part with the devil and his angels in eternal condemnation.

QUESTIONS ON THE REFORMATION

1. What is the Festival is the Lutheran Church accustomed to celebrate on the 31st of October?

The Festival of the Reformation.

2. What is the meaning of the Reformation?

The improvement and purification of the Church.

3. Why is this Festival called the Festival of the Reformation

In grateful remembrance of the Reformation of the Church.

4. How often is this Festival celebrated with special solemnity?

At the end of every half century that elapses since the Reformation.

5. What is a Festival called which is celebrated at the close of every half century?

A Jubilee Festival.

6. From what is the name derived?

From the fact that, in the old Covenant, every fiftieth year is called the year of Jubilee.

Lev. 25th chap.

7. When did the Reformation begin?

On the 31st of October, 1517

8. When was the last Jubilee of the Reformation celebrated?

On the 31st of October, 1867

9. Who was God's chief instrument in this Reformation?

Dr. Martin Luther

10. When and where was Luther born?

On the 10th of November, 1483, in Eisleben, Germany.

11. How did God prepare him for the great work?

First by a pious education and diligent attendance at school, and afterwards by many outward trials and inward conflicts.

12. Whereby did God especially qualify him for his work?

By this, that God led him to the finding of the Bible, which the Pope and his priests did not allow Christians to see or hear.

13. What effect did the reading of the Bible have on Luther?

It brought him to the knowledge of the truth.

14. What did Luther regard as the sum and substance of the whole Bible?

The great truth, that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation to all believing souls.

15. And did not the people know this?

No; for centuries the Church had been full of errors and falsehoods.

16. What did Luther do when he had learned from the bible to discern between truth and falsehood?

He went forth, and with humility and boldness testified against falsehood.

17. What was his first public testimony against falsehoods?

The 95 Theses (Propositions), which he nailed to the door of the Church in Wittenberg.

18. Of what did these Theses treat?

They protested against the sale of Indulgences, that is, the sale of the forgiveness of sins for money.

19. When did Luther do this?

On the 31st of October, 1517

20. What was he at that time?

An Augustinian Monk and a Theological Professor in Wittenberg.

21. What effect did Luther's Theses have?

They caused a great movement throughout Christian lands, and paved the way for many to the knowledge of truth, but greatly embittered the enemies of the truth.

22. How did Luther testify later?

He testified in many excellent writings, especially in regard to the two principal truths of Christianity.

23. Which are these?

1. That the Word of God, contained in the Holy Scriptures, is the only source and rule of our faith and doctrine.
2. That a person is justified by grace alone, through faith in Jesus Christ, without the deeds of the Law.

24. What did the false teachers now seek to do?

They sought to persuade or threaten Luther into denying the truth and recalling his doctrine.

25. Where did they especially seek to do this?

At the Diet at Worms in 1521.

26. Who were there assembled?

The Emperor and numerous Princes and great dignitaries together with many of the false teachers, who were the Pope's adherents.

27. What did these powerful enemies demand of him?

That he should deny the truth, which he had found in the Word of God.

28. What answer did they receive?

Luther said: "Unless I am convinced by the Holy Scriptures, or by cogent reasons, that I have erred, I cannot retract, for it is not advisable to do anything against conscience. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

29. What would Luther's enemies have liked to do with him?

They would have taken his life, as they did to John Huss and many other Confessors of the Word of God.

30. How then was Luther's life saved?

God enabled his friends to take him in safety to a palace called Wartburg.

31. What remarkable work did Luther accomplish at Wartburg?

He translated the Bible into the mother-tongue, so that every man could read it.

32. What were Luther and his friends called?

Protestants.

33. Why was this name given them?

Because, they protested against, that is, opposed the action of the Romish church in abridging religious liberty.

34. Who was Luther's chief co-laborer in the Reformation?

Philip Melancthon

35. Who was he?

A learned and pious man, and Professor in Wittenberg.

36. Which public Confession did he prepare?

The Augsburg Confession

37. Why did it receive this name?

Because it was presented to the Emperor at the diet of Augsburg, June 25th, 1530.

38. What other Confessions of Faith did Luther and his friends prepare?

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Small Catechism, Luther's Larger Catechism, and the Formula of Concord.

39. Did Luther found a new Church?

No; but by the Word of God he reformed, that is, purified the church from the doctrines of men.

40. Is not the Lutheran church, therefore, a party or a sect, as many say?

No; it is the true Church, to which all Christians, who desire to obey the Word of God, ought to belong.

41. But are there not new doctrines in the Confession of the Lutheran Church?

No; it teaches only what was taught in the Apostolic church.

42. By what means can this be proven?

By testing the Lutheran Confessional Writings by the Bible.

43. Why, then, is it called the Lutheran Church?

Those, who with Luther confessed the truth, called themselves EVANGELICAL, but their enemies called them LUTHERANS in derision.

44. Why, then, did they retain this name?

They retained it, to the honor of God, because they were not ashamed of His chosen instrument, Martin Luther.

45. Which are now the Lutheran Confessional Writings?

1. The General Confessions, namely, the Apostle's, the Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds.
2. The Augsburg Confession, the Apology or Defence of the same, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Small Catechism, Luther's Larger Catechism, and the Formula of Concord.

46. What are all these Confessional writings jointly called?

The Symbolical Books or the Book of Concord of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

47. Which are the most important false doctrines of the Papal church, from which God purified His Church by the Reformation?

1. That the laity must not read the Bible.
2. That Christians should believe all that the Pope teaches, even though it be not taught in the Bible.
3. That the forgiveness of sins could be bought for money.
4. That salvation could only be merited by good works.
5. That the laity must not receive the cup, but only the bread, in the Sacrament of the Altar.
6. That Christians should trust in the help of departed saints and pray to them.
7. That the Priests could demand obedience in the congregation in all things, even in that which was not commanded in God's Word or was in conflict with it.

48. Which are the most important truths of the Bible Which God brought to light by the Reformation?

1. That we cannot be justified before God by our own strength, merits, or deeds, but that we are justified, without merit, through Christ by faith.
2. That the Word and Sacraments are effectual means, by which the Holy Spirit worketh faith in us.

49. With what other enemies did Luther have to contend besides the papists?

The Reformed and the Anabaptists.

50. Why could not Luther acknowledge these as Christians holding the true faith?

Because they would not on all subjects believe and obey the Word of God.

51. How did this manifest itself?

1. In this, that they would not acknowledge that the Word is in itself a power of God, which worketh faith and thereby salvation.
2. They denied that Baptism is the washing of regeneration. *Tit. 3:5-8*
3. They denied that the Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and the true blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine.

52. Are there still such Reformed?

Yes; but they are split up into many sects and parties.

53. Why are the Reformed divided into so many sects and parties?

Because they wanted to explain the Bible according to their own reason, and would not subject their reason to the Bible; therefore they could not harmonize, for there were as many opinions as there were persons.

54. Who were the Anabaptists?

A body of fanatics, who gave out, that they had obtained new revelations, who taught many horrible errors, and this among others, that it was right to excite riot against the civil authorities.

55. From what circumstances did they derive their name?

From the fact, that they rejected the Baptism of infants, and said that those who were baptized in childhood, must be baptized again.

56. Are there still those who teach concerning Baptism as the Anabaptists did?

Yes; the Baptists.

57. When did Luther die?

On the 18th of February, 1546. Shortly before he died he repeated three times the words: "Father, into Thy hands do I commend my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, Thou Faithful God." One of his friends asked him, "Venerable father, do you die trusting in Christ and the doctrine which you have preached?" He answered, "YES;" and then his spirit passed away.

58. How should he be remembered by us?

As a great light in the Church of Christ, a man, distinguished of God by faith and power in His service, and one whom we should be eager to follow.

59. When are we his followers?

When we remain faithful to the Word of God, which was Luther's shield and defence.

60. How should we show this faithfulness?

1. By an honest and firm confession of the truth in opposition to all error.
2. By a pious and godly life, by which such confession is sealed.

61. How should we be encouraged to do this?

By a diligent remembrance of the unspeakable favor which God bestowed on Christians, when through Luther He purified the Church of papal falsehoods, and again showed us the true way to salvation.

62. In what spirit, therefore, ought we to celebrate the Festival of the Reformation?

1. With hearty joy and thanks to god.
2. With the prayer that He will always preserve to us the blessings of the Reformation.
3. With a firm purpose to labor for the confirmation and spread of the truth of God in the world.

A Believer's Morning Prayer

O eternal and almighty God, merciful, beloved, heavenly Father, I praise Thee this morning from my inmost soul and spirit, that during the night that is past Thou wast a Sun and a Shield over me, and didst turn away all danger and harm from my body and soul. Let me still farther, during this day and always, experience Thy fatherly blessings, help, and assistance in all my ways and in all my works. Save my poor soul from temptation, my body from sickness, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. But, in that sin is the greatest evil, help me, O God, above all things, to resist it by the power of faith. Let Thy hand be over me, Thy Spirit within me, Thy peace round about me. Let me not live unto myself, but in the faith of the Son of God, so that all my thoughts, words, and deeds I may please Thee, and in all future need find refuge with Thee by my prayers.

O most tender Father! Mercifully forgive, for Jesus' sake, all that I have hitherto done against Thy will, and furthermore give grace to better my sinful life by a true renewal after Thine image, so that the gentle, humble, loving, and pure mind of my Jesus may be seen more and more in all my conduct. Uphold, O heavenly Father, Thy believing church on earth, and let it daily grow by the conversion of sinners. Bless Thou all who are in authority in the land, promote the general welfare, make the earth fruitful, preserve us from public calamity, do good unto my kindred and friends, provide for the poor, console all the anxious and sorrowful, especially the dying; and, finally, prepare me every day for a blessed death and a glorious resurrection. Amen.

Evening Prayer

This evening I again bend my knees in Thy most holy presence, O heavenly Father! And think with gratitude of the bountiful grace and the many favors which I this day have received, without any merit on my part. O Lord! What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? And, above all, who am I, a poor unworthy sinner, that Thou dost overwhelm me with favors day by day? My heart is fully persuaded, that if Thou shouldst deal with me after my sins, and reward me according to mine iniquities, I could look for nought else than to be cast out from Thy presence into outer darkness and the eternal night of the lost. Yea, if Thou wert to impute unto me this day's sins in thought, words, and deeds against Thee, myself, and my neighbor, I could not answer Thee one in a thousand. If I have this day been kept from deliberate transgressions and false security, I do by no means ascribe it to my depraved nature, but alone to Thy correcting and preserving grace. From this fountain of unmerited goodness I have also this day found many bodily favors, especially health, peace, necessary support, and deliverance from many unhappy accidents which may have befallen many others to-day throughout the wide world, and might as well have come upon me, if Thy fatherly providence had not been over me, and turned all evil away from me. And now, my God! I have made proof of Thy faithfulness in a thousand instances, and henceforth Thou alone shalt be the Refuge of my heart, my Rock, and my abiding Palace. Preserve me then, O God! During this night from all danger and harm to body and soul. Let me rest under the shadow of Thy wings to the quickening of my body, and awake me in the morning refreshed and in good health, and ready for my labors. O God! Whether I sleep or wake, yea, whether I live or die, let me be Thine and unceasingly cling to Thee with the deep yearnings of my soul. Thou art more unto me than all besides, and if only I have Thee, I

am not concerned for heaven or earth; though my flesh and my heart fail, yet art Thou the Strength of my heart and my Portion forever. O Lord! Let the Sun of Thy grace never go down upon me; let it always light up my dark heart, warm my cold heart, move my hard heart, and cheer my heavy heart. Ah, sweetest Jesus! Let me unceasingly abide in fellowship with Thee, by a living faith, and draw from the Cross the strength to press through the narrow way and the strait gate. Now my God, I hope in Thee; forsake me not, neither any of mine this night. Let the candlestick of Thy Word never be removed from us. Uphold the Government which thou hast ordained, that under it we may live quietly and in Thy fear. Graciously turn away from the land both war, pestilence, trying times, and all merited afflictions. Bestow Thy blessing upon us through all our life. And finally grant us a happy death, the eternal quiet and rest in Abraham's bosom. Amen.