



**Graduated Memory Program**

**The  
Heidelberg  
Catechism**

**For All Ages**

Updated to 2016 Catechism Version



## **Graduated Catechism Memory Program for All Ages**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Outline of the Heidelberg Catechism

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

*That I  
belong*

*to                    Jesus Christ.*

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

*Three:*  
*My sin;*  
*how I am delivered;*  
*how I am to thank God.*

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

*That I am not my own,  
but belong*

*to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.  
He has fully paid for all my sins.*

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

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

*Three:*  
*My sin;*  
*how I am delivered;*  
*how I am to thank God.*

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

**That I am not my own,**  
**but belong—**  
*body and soul,*  
*in life and in death—*  
**to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**  
***He has fully paid for all my sins.***

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

*Christ, by his Holy Spirit,  
also assures me of eternal life  
and makes me willing and ready  
to live for him.*

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

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

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

**That I am not my own,**<sup>1</sup>  
**but belong—**  
*body and soul,*  
*in life and in death—*<sup>2</sup>  
**to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.**<sup>3</sup>  
***He has fully paid for all my sins*** with his precious blood,<sup>4</sup>  
and has delivered me from the tyranny of the devil.<sup>5</sup>

***He also watches over me in such a way<sup>6</sup>  
that not a hair can fall from my head  
without the will of my Father in heaven:<sup>7</sup>  
in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.<sup>8</sup>***

Because I belong to him,  
*Christ, by his Holy Spirit,  
also assures me of eternal life<sup>9</sup>  
and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready  
from now on to live for him.<sup>10</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:19-20

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 14:7-9

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14

<sup>4</sup> 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2

<sup>5</sup> John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11

<sup>6</sup> John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

<sup>8</sup> Rom. 8:28

<sup>9</sup> Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14

<sup>10</sup> Rom. 8:1-17

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

**Three:**  
*first, how great **my sin** and misery are;<sup>1</sup>*  
*second, **how I am delivered** from all my sins and misery;<sup>2</sup>*  
*third, **how I am to thank God** for such deliverance.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:9-10; 1 John 1:10

<sup>2</sup> John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 5:16; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 5:8-10; 2Tim.2:15; 1Pet.2:9-10



## **PART I: MISERY**

Lord's Day 2  
Beginner's Version

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

*The law of God tells me.*

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

“*You shall love the Lord your God*

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

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

*No.*

## **PART I: MISERY**

Lord's Day 2  
Intermediate Version

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

*The law of God tells me.*

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

“*You shall love the Lord your God*  
*with all your heart*  
*and with all your soul*  
*and with all your mind*  
*and with all your strength.*

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

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

*No.*

## PART I: MISERY

Lord's Day 2  
Advanced Version

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

*The law of God tells me.*

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

*You shall love the Lord your God*  
*with all your heart*  
*and with all your soul*  
*and with all your mind*  
*and with all your strength.*  
*This is the greatest and first commandment.*

*And a second is like it:*  
*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

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

*No.*  
*I am inclined by nature*  
*to hate God and my neighbor.*

## PART I: MISERY

Lord's Day 2  
Complete Version

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

*The law of God tells me.*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:20; 7:7-25

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

Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22:37-40:

“*You shall love the Lord your God*  
*with all your heart*  
*and with all your soul*  
*and with all your mind*  
*and with all your strength.*”<sup>1</sup>  
*This is the greatest and first commandment.*

“*And a second is like it:*  
*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”<sup>2</sup>

“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:5

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:18

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

*No.*<sup>1</sup>  
*I am inclined by nature*  
*to hate God and my neighbor.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:9-20, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph. 2:1-3; Titus 3:3

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

No.  
God created man good

for His praise and glory.

**Q&A 7 Then where does man's corrupt nature come from?**

From the fall      of  
Adam and Eve.

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

Yes.

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

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

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

**Q&A 7 Then where does man's corrupt nature come from?**

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

We are all      born  
in sin.

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

Yes, unless we are born again.

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

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

**Q&A 7 Then where does man's corrupt nature come from?**

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:31

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 1:26-27

<sup>3</sup> Eph. 4:24

<sup>4</sup> Col. 3:10

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 8

**Q&A 7 Then where does man's corrupt nature come from?**

From the fall and disobedience of our first parents,  
Adam and Eve, in Paradise.<sup>1</sup>  
This fall has so poisoned our nature<sup>2</sup>  
that we are all conceived and born  
in sin.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 3

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 5:12, 18-19

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 51:5

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

Yes,<sup>1</sup> unless we are born again,  
by the Spirit of God.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6

<sup>2</sup> John 3:3-5

Lord's Day 4  
Beginner's Version

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

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

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

*Certainly not.*

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

*God is certainly merciful,  
but he is also just.*

Lord's Day 4  
Intermediate Version

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

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

*robbed himself                      of these gifts.*

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

*Certainly not.*

*He is terribly angry  
about the sin we are born with  
as well as our actual sins.*

*God will punish them by a just judgment.*

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

*God is certainly merciful,  
but he is also just.*

*His justice demands  
that sin  
be punished.*

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

**No, God created man with the ability to keep the law.**  
***Man, however, at the instigation of the devil,  
in willful disobedience,  
robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.***

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

**Certainly not.**  
***He is terribly angry  
about the sin we are born with  
as well as our actual sins.***

***God will punish them by a just judgment  
both now and in eternity.***

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

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

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

**No, God created man with the ability to keep the law.<sup>1</sup>**  
***Man, however, at the instigation of the devil,<sup>2</sup>  
in willful disobedience,<sup>3</sup>  
robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.<sup>4</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:31; Eph. 4:24

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 3:13; John 8:44

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 3:6

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 5:12, 18, 19

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

**Certainly not.**  
***He is terribly angry  
about the sin we are born with  
as well as our actual sins.***

***God will punish them by a just judgment  
both now and in eternity,<sup>1</sup>***

having declared:

"Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey  
all the things written in the book of the law."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 34:7; Ps. 5:4-6; Nah. 1:2; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 9:27

<sup>2</sup> Gal. 3:10; Deut. 27:26

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

**God is certainly merciful,<sup>1</sup>**  
**but he is also just.<sup>2</sup>**  
***His justice demands  
that sin, committed against his supreme majesty,  
be punished with the supreme penalty—  
eternal punishment of body and soul.<sup>3</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 34:6-7; Ps. 103:8-9

<sup>2</sup> Ex. 34:7; Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 5:4-6; Heb. 10:30-31

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 25:35-46

## PART II: DELIVERANCE

Lord's Day 5  
Beginner's Version

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

God  
must be paid in full.

**Q&A 13 Can we make this payment ourselves?**

Certainly not.

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

No.

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

One who is a true and righteous man,  
who is also true God.

## PART II: DELIVERANCE

Lord's Day 5  
Intermediate Version

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

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

**Q&A 13 Can we make this payment ourselves?**

Certainly not.  
*Actually, we increase our debt every day.*

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

No.

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

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

One who is a true and righteous man,  
who is also true God.

## PART II: DELIVERANCE

Lord's Day 5  
Advanced Version

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

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

**Q&A 13 Can we make this payment ourselves?**

*Certainly not.  
Actually, we increase our debt every day.*

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

*No.  
To begin with,  
God will not punish any other creature  
for what a human is guilty of.<sup>1</sup>  
Furthermore,  
no mere creature can bear the weight  
of God's eternal anger against sin.*

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

*One who is a true and righteous man,  
  
who is also true God.*

## PART II: DELIVERANCE

Lord's Day 5  
Complete Version

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

*God requires that His justice be satisfied.<sup>1</sup>  
Therefore the claims of this justice  
must be paid in full,  
either by ourselves or another.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 23:7; Rom. 2:1-11

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 53:11; Rom. 8:3-4

**Q&A 13 Can we make this payment ourselves?**

*Certainly not.  
Actually, we increase our debt every day.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 6:12; Rom. 2:4-5

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

*No.  
To begin with,  
God will not punish any other creature  
for what a human is guilty of.<sup>1</sup>  
Furthermore,  
no mere creature can bear the weight  
of God's eternal anger against sin  
and deliver others from it.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ezek. 18:4, 20; Heb. 2:14-18

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 49:7-9; 130:3

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

*One who is a true<sup>1</sup> and righteous man,<sup>2</sup>  
yet more powerful than all creatures,  
that is, one who is also true God.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:17

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 53:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Jer. 23:6; John 1:1



**Q&A 16 Why must the mediator be a true and righteous man?**

*Because God's justice requires [it]*

**Q&A 17 Why must he also be true God?**

*So that*

*he might bear*          *God's wrath.*

**Q&A 18 Then who is this mediator—  
true God and at the same time  
a true and righteous man?**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

*The holy gospel tells me.*

**Q&A 16 Why must the mediator be a true and righteous man?**

*Because God's justice requires*  
*that human nature, which has sinned,*  
*must pay for its sin.*

**Q&A 17 Why must he also be true God?**

*So that,*

*by the power of his divinity,*  
*he might bear in his humanity the weight of God's wrath*

**Q&A 18 Then who is this mediator—  
true God and at the same time  
a true and righteous man?**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ,*

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

*The holy gospel tells me.*  
*God himself began to reveal the gospel*  
*already in Paradise;*

*finally he fulfilled it*  
*through his own beloved Son.*

**Q&A 16 Why must the mediator be a true and righteous man?**

Because God's justice requires  
*that human nature, which has sinned,  
must pay for its sin;  
but a sinner could never pay for others.*

**Q&A 17 Why must he also be true God?**

So that,  
*by the power of his divinity,  
he might bear in his humanity the weight of God's wrath  
and earn for us  
and restore to us  
righteousness and life.*

**Q&A 18 Then who is this mediator—  
true God and at the same time  
a true and righteous man?**

Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
*who was given to us.*

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

The holy gospel tells me.  
*God himself began to reveal the gospel  
already in Paradise;  
later, he proclaimed it  
and foreshadowed it;  
and finally he fulfilled it  
through his own beloved Son.*

**Q&A 16 Why must the mediator be a true and righteous man?**

Because God's justice requires  
*that human nature, which has sinned,  
must pay for its sin;<sup>1</sup>  
but a sinner could never pay for others.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 5:12, 15; 1 Cor. 15:21; Heb. 2:14-16

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 7:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:18

**Q&A 17 Why must he also be true God?**

So that,  
*by the power of his divinity,  
he might bear in his humanity the weight of God's wrath  
and earn for us  
and restore to us  
righteousness and life.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:21

**Q&A 18 Then who is this mediator—  
true God and at the same time  
a true and righteous man?**

Our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>1</sup>  
*who was given to us  
for our complete deliverance  
and righteousness.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 1:21-23; Luke 2:11; 1 Tim. 2:5

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 1:30

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

The holy gospel tells me.  
*God himself began to reveal the gospel  
already in Paradise;<sup>1</sup>  
later, he proclaimed it  
by the holy patriarchs<sup>2</sup> and prophets,<sup>3</sup>  
and foreshadowed it  
by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law;<sup>4</sup>  
and finally he fulfilled it  
through his own beloved Son.<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 3:15

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 22:18; 49:10

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 53; Jer. 23:5-6; Mic. 7:18-20; Acts 10:43; Heb. 1:1-2

<sup>4</sup> Lev. 1-7; John 5:46; Heb. 10:1-10

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:4-5; Col. 2:17

Lord's Day 7  
Beginner's Version

Q&A 20 Are all people then saved through Christ  
just as they were lost through Adam?  
No. Only through true faith

Q&A 21 What is true faith?  
True faith is  
a sure knowledge

it is also a whole-hearted trust,  
that God has freely granted to me  
salvation.

Q&A 22 What then must a Christian believe?  
All that is promised us in the gospel.

Q&A 23 What are these articles?  
I believe in God, the Father, Almighty,  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Lord's Day 7  
Intermediate Version

Q&A 20 Are all people then saved through Christ  
just as they were lost through Adam?  
No. Only those are saved who through true faith  
accept all his benefits.

Q&A 21 What is true faith?  
True faith is  
not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true  
all that God has revealed to us in His Word;  
it is also a whole-hearted trust,  
which the Holy Spirit works in me by the gospel,  
that God has freely granted to me  
salvation.

Q&A 22 What then must a Christian believe?  
All that is promised us in the gospel,  
a summary is in the articles  
of our Christian faith.

Q&A 23 What are these articles?  
I believe in God, the Father, Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended to heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father, Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen

**Q&A 20** Are all people then saved through Christ  
just as they were lost through Adam?

**No. Only those are saved who through true faith**  
are grafted into Christ  
and accept all his benefits.

**Q&A 21** What is true faith?

**True faith is**

not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true  
all that God has revealed to us in His Word;  
it is also a whole-hearted trust,  
which the Holy Spirit works in me by the gospel,  
that God has freely granted, not only to others, but to me also,  
forgiveness of sins,  
eternal righteousness,  
and salvation.

These gifts are purely of grace,  
only because of Christ's merit.

**Q&A 22** What then must a Christian believe?

**All that is promised us in the gospel,**  
a summary is in the articles  
of our catholic and undoubted Christian faith.

**Q&A 23** What are these articles?

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,**  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended to heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father, Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.

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

**Q&A 20** Are all people then saved through Christ  
just as they were lost through Adam?

**No. Only those are saved who through true faith**  
are grafted into Christ  
and accept all his benefits.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:14; John 3:16, 18, 36; Rom. 11:16-21

**Q&A 21** What is true faith?

**True faith is**

not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true  
all that God has revealed to us in His Word;<sup>1</sup>  
it is also a whole-hearted trust,<sup>2</sup>  
which the Holy Spirit works in me<sup>3</sup> by the gospel,<sup>4</sup>  
that God has freely granted, not only to others, but to me also,<sup>5</sup>  
forgiveness of sins,  
eternal righteousness,  
and salvation.<sup>6</sup>

These gifts are purely of grace,  
only because of Christ's merit.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1-3; James 2:19

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 4:18-21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14-16

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 16:15-17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21

<sup>5</sup> Gal. 2:20

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 3:21-26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-10

**Q&A 22** What then must a Christian believe?

**All that is promised us in the gospel,**<sup>1</sup>  
a summary of which is taught us in the articles  
of our catholic and undoubted Christian faith.

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 20:30-31

**Q&A 23** What are these articles?

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,**  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary;  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended to heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father, Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.

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

**Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?**

***Into three parts:***

***God the Father;***

***God the Son;***

***God the Holy Spirit.***

**Q&A 25 Since there is only one divine being,  
why do you speak of three:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

***These three***  
***are one***

***persons***  
***God.***

**Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?**

***Into three parts:***

***God the Father;***

***God the Son;***

***God the Holy Spirit.***

**Q&A 25 Since there is only one divine being,  
why do you speak of three:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

***Because that is how***

***God has revealed himself in his Word:***

***these three***  
***are one***

***persons***  
***God.***

**Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?**

***Into three parts:***

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

**Q&A 25 Since there is only one divine being,  
why do you speak of three:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

***Because that is how***

***God has revealed himself in his Word:  
these three distinct persons  
are one, true, eternal God.***

**Q&A 24 How are these articles divided?**

***Into three parts:***

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

**Q&A 25 Since there is only one divine being,<sup>1</sup>  
why do you speak of three:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

***Because that is how***

***God has revealed himself in his Word:<sup>2</sup>  
these three distinct persons  
are one, true, eternal God.***

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4, 6

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

Lord's Day 9  
Beginner's Version

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

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

is my God and Father  
for the sake of Christ.

Lord's Day 9  
Intermediate Version

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

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

*who still upholds and rules them*  
*by his providence,*

is my God and Father  
for the sake of Christ.

*He will provide*  
*whatever I need,*

*and will turn to my good*  
*whatever adversity he sends upon me.*

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

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

***who still upholds and rules them  
by his providence,  
is my God and Father  
for the sake of Christ the Son.***

***He will provide  
whatever I need  
for body and soul,  
and will turn to my good  
whatever adversity he sends upon me  
in this vale of tears.***

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

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

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

***and everything in them,<sup>1</sup>  
who still upholds and rules them  
by his eternal counsel and providence,<sup>2</sup>  
is my God and Father  
for the sake of Christ the Son.<sup>3</sup>***

I trust God so much that I do not doubt  
***he will provide  
whatever I need  
for body and soul,<sup>4</sup>  
and will turn to my good  
whatever adversity he sends upon me  
in this vale of tears.<sup>5</sup>***

***He is able to do this because he is almighty God;<sup>6</sup>  
he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.<sup>7</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1 & 2; Ex. 20:11; Ps. 33:6; Isa. 44:24; Acts 4:24; 14:15

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 104; Matt. 6:30; 10:29; Eph. 1:11

<sup>3</sup> John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:15-16

<sup>4</sup> Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25-26; Luke 12:22-31

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 8:28

<sup>6</sup> Gen. 18:14; Rom. 8:31-39

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 7:9-11



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

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

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

No creature will separate us from His love.

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

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

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

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

*We can be patient,  
thankful,  
and for the future we can have  
good confidence  
that no creature will separate us from his love.*

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

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

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

*We can be patient in adversity,  
thankful in prosperity,  
and for the future we can have  
good confidence in our faithful God and Father  
that no creature will separate us from his love.*

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

*Providence is  
the almighty and ever present power of God<sup>1</sup>  
by which he upholds, as with his hand,  
heaven  
and earth  
and all creatures,<sup>2</sup>  
and so rules them that  
leaf and blade,  
rain and drought,  
fruitful and lean years,  
food and drink,  
health and sickness,  
prosperity and poverty—<sup>3</sup>  
all things, in fact, come to us  
not by chance<sup>4</sup>  
but by his fatherly hand.<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-28

<sup>2</sup> Heb. 1:3

<sup>3</sup> Jer. 5:24; Acts 14:15-17; John 9:3; Prov. 22:2

<sup>4</sup> Prov. 16:33

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 10:29

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

*We can be patient in adversity,<sup>1</sup>  
thankful in prosperity,<sup>2</sup>  
and for the future we can have  
good confidence in our faithful God and Father  
that no creature will separate us from his love.<sup>3</sup>*

For all creatures are so completely in his hand  
that without his will  
they can neither move nor be moved.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Job 1:21-22; James 1:3

<sup>2</sup> Deut. 8:10; 1 Thess. 5:18

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 55:22; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:38-39

<sup>4</sup> Job 1:12; 2:6; Prov. 21:1; Acts 17:24-28

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

**Because he saves us from our sins.**

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

**No.**

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

**Because he saves us from our sins.  
*Salvation is not  
found in anyone else.***

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

**No.  
*Although they boast of being his,  
by their actions they deny  
the only Savior, Jesus.***

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

**Because he saves us from our sins.**  
*Salvation is not  
found in anyone else.*

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

**No.**  
*Although they boast of being his,  
by their actions they deny  
the only Savior, Jesus.*

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

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

**Because he saves us from our sins.**<sup>1</sup>  
And because *salvation is not* to be sought or  
*found in anyone else.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 43:11; John 15:5; Acts 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 2:5

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

**No.**  
*Although they boast of being his,  
by their actions they deny  
the only Savior, Jesus.*<sup>1</sup>

Either Jesus is not a perfect Savior,  
or *those who in true faith accept this Savior  
have in him all they need for their salvation.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 1:12-13; Gal. 5:4

<sup>2</sup> Col. 1:19-20; 2:10; 1 John 1:7

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

*Because he has been  
anointed  
to be  
our prophet;*

*our priest;*

*and our king.*

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

*Because by faith I am a member of Christ.*

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

*Because he has been ordained by God the Father  
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit  
to be  
our chief prophet and teacher;*

*our only high priest;*

*and our eternal king.*

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

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

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

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

**Because he has been ordained by God the Father  
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit**

**to be**

**our chief prophet and teacher**

*who fully reveals to us  
the will of God  
concerning our deliverance;*

**our only high priest**

*who has delivered us by the one sacrifice,*

*and who continually intercedes for us;*

**and our eternal king**

*who governs us by his Word and Spirit,  
and who guards us and keeps us.*

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

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

**I am anointed**

*to confess his name,  
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,  
to strive with a free conscience against sin and the  
devil in this life,  
and afterward to reign with Christ.*

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

**Because he has been ordained by God the Father  
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit**<sup>1</sup>

**to be**

**our chief prophet and teacher**<sup>2</sup>

*who fully reveals to us  
the secret counsel and will of God  
concerning our deliverance;*<sup>3</sup>

**our only high priest**<sup>4</sup>

*who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his  
body,*<sup>5</sup>  
*and who continually intercedes for us before the  
Father;*<sup>6</sup>

**and our eternal king**<sup>7</sup>

*who governs us by his Word and Spirit,  
and who guards us and keeps us  
in the deliverance he has won for us.*<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 3:21-22; 4:14-19 (Isa. 61:1); Heb. 1:9 (Ps. 45:7)

<sup>2</sup> Acts 3:22 (Deut. 18:15)

<sup>3</sup> John 1:18; 15:15

<sup>4</sup> Heb. 7:17 (Ps. 110:4)

<sup>5</sup> Heb. 9:12; 10:11-14

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9:24

<sup>7</sup> Matt. 21:5 (Zech. 9:9)

<sup>8</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 10:28; Rev. 12:10-11

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

**Because by faith I am a member of Christ**<sup>1</sup>  
**and so I share in his anointing.**<sup>2</sup>

**I am anointed**

*to confess his name,*<sup>3</sup>  
*to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,*<sup>4</sup>  
*to strive with a free conscience against sin and the  
devil in this life,*<sup>5</sup>  
*and afterward to reign with Christ  
over all creation  
for eternity.*<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 12:12-27

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28); 1 John 2:27

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; Heb. 13:15

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9

<sup>5</sup> Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 1:18-19

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 25:34; 2 Tim. 2:12

Lord's Day 13  
Beginner's Version

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

We are adopted children of God.

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

Because

he has purchased us.

Lord's Day 13  
Intermediate Version

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

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

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

Because—

*with his precious blood—  
he has purchased us  
body and soul*

*to be his very own.*

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

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

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

Because—  
*not with gold or silver,  
but **with his precious blood**—  
**he has** delivered and purchased us  
**body and soul**  
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,  
to be his very own.*

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

*Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God.<sup>1</sup> We, however, are adopted children of God—  
adopted by grace for the sake of Christ.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> John 1:1-3, 14, 18; Heb. 1

<sup>2</sup> John 1:12; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5-6

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

Because—  
*not with gold or silver,  
but **with his precious blood**—<sup>1</sup>  
**he has** delivered and purchased us  
**body and soul**  
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,<sup>2</sup>  
to be his very own.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Pet. 1:18-19

<sup>2</sup> Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 2:14-15

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Tim. 2:5-6



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

**That the eternal Son of God,**

**took**

**a true human nature**

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

**He is our mediator.**

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

**That the eternal Son of God,**

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

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

**He is our mediator,  
*and in God's sight,*  
*he covers*  
*my sin.***

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

**That the eternal Son of God,**  
*who is and remains  
true and eternal God,  
took to himself,  
through the working of the Holy Spirit,  
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,  
a true human nature,*  
  
*like his brothers in all things  
except for sin.*

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

**He is our mediator,**  
*and in God's sight,  
he covers  
my sin, in which I was conceived.*

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

**That the eternal Son of God,**  
*who is and remains  
true and eternal God,<sup>1</sup>  
took to himself,  
through the working of the Holy Spirit,<sup>2</sup>  
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,<sup>3</sup>  
a true human nature*  
*so that he might also become David's true descendant,<sup>4</sup>  
like his brothers in all things<sup>5</sup>  
except for sin.<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> John 1:1; 10:30-36; Acts 13:33 (Ps. 2:7); Col. 1:15-17;  
1 John 5:20

<sup>2</sup> Luke 1:35

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 1:18-23; John 1:14; Gal. 4:4; Heb. 2:14

<sup>4</sup> 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Ps. 132:11; Matt. 1:1; Rom. 1:3

<sup>5</sup> Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:17

<sup>6</sup> Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27

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

**He is our mediator,**<sup>1</sup>  
*and in God's sight,  
he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness  
my sin, in which I was conceived.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 9:13-15

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:18-19

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

Christ sustained

the wrath of God.

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

So that he,

might

free us from the judgment of God

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

Yes.

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

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

*the wrath of God.*

*That*

*he might deliver us  
from eternal condemnation.*

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

So that he,

*though innocent,*

might

free us from the judgment of God.

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

Yes,

*since death by crucifixion was cursed by God.*

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

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

*That,  
by his suffering,  
he might deliver us, body and soul,  
from eternal condemnation,  
and gain for us  
God's grace,  
righteousness,  
and eternal life.*

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

*So that he,  
though innocent,  
might be condemned by an earthly judge,  
and so free us from the judgment of God.*

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

Yes.

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

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

*That during his whole life on earth,  
but especially at the end,  
Christ sustained  
in body and soul  
the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human  
race.<sup>1</sup>*

*This he did in order that,  
by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,<sup>2</sup>  
he might deliver us, body and soul,  
from eternal condemnation,<sup>3</sup>  
and gain for us  
God's grace,  
righteousness,  
and eternal life.<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 3:25; Heb. 10:14; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:1-4; Gal. 3:13

<sup>4</sup> John 3:16; Rom. 3:24-26

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

*So that he,  
though innocent,  
might be condemned by an earthly judge,<sup>1</sup>  
and so free us from the severe judgment of God  
that was to fall on us.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Luke 23:13-24; John 19:4, 12-16

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 53:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13

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

Yes.

*By this death I am convinced  
that he shouldered the curse  
which lay on me,  
since death by crucifixion was cursed by God.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Gal. 3:10-13 (Deut. 21:23)

**Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to suffer death?**

Because  
nothing else could pay for our sins.

**Q&A 41 Why was he "buried"?**

He really died.

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

Our death is  
an entering into eternal life.

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

Our old man is crucified.

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

Christ

has delivered me from hell.

**Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to suffer death?**

Because  
nothing else could pay for our sins  
except the death of the Son of God.

**Q&A 41 Why was he "buried"?**

His burial testifies  
that he really died.

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

Our death is not a payment for our sins.  
but  
an entering into eternal life.

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

By his power  
our old man is crucified.

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

To assure me  
that Christ my Lord

has delivered me from hell.

**Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to suffer death?**

**Because** God's justice and truth require it:  
**nothing else could pay for our sins**  
**except the death of the Son of God.**

**Q&A 41 Why was he "buried"?**

***His burial testifies***  
***that he really died.***

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

**Our death is not a payment for our sins,**  
***but only a dying to sins***  
***and an entering into eternal life.***

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

***By his power***  
**our old man is crucified,**  
***so that the evil desires of the flesh***  
***may no longer rule us,***  
***but that instead we may offer ourselves***  
***as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to him.***

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

***To assure me***  
***that Christ my Lord,***  
***by suffering***  
  
***on the cross but also earlier,***  
**has delivered me from hell.**

**Q&A 40 Why did Christ have to suffer death?**

**Because** God's justice and truth require it:<sup>1</sup>  
**nothing else could pay for our sins**  
**except the death of the Son of God.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 2:17

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:3-4; Phil. 2:8; Heb. 2:9

**Q&A 41 Why was he "buried"?**

***His burial testifies***  
***that he really died.***<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53:9; John 19:38-42; Acts 13:29; 1 Cor. 15:3-4

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

**Our death is not a payment for our sins,**<sup>1</sup>  
***but only a dying to sins***  
***and an entering into eternal life.***<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 49:7

<sup>2</sup> John 5:24; Phil. 1:21-23; 1 Thess. 5:9-10

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

***By his power***  
**our old man is crucified,** put to death, and buried with him<sup>1</sup>  
***so that the evil desires of the flesh***  
***may no longer rule us,***<sup>2</sup>  
***but that instead we may offer ourselves***  
***as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to him.***<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:5-11; Col. 2:11-12

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 6:12-14

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:1-2

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

***To assure me*** during attacks of deepest dread and  
temptation ***that Christ my Lord,***  
***by suffering*** unspeakable anguish, pain, and terror of  
soul,  
***on the cross but also earlier,***  
**has delivered me from hellish** anguish and torment.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 53; Matt. 26:36-46; 27:45-46; Luke 22:44; Heb. 5:7-10

Lord's Day 17  
Beginner's Version

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

***He has overcome death.***

Lord's Day 17  
Intermediate Version

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

***He has overcome death,***

***We  
are already raised to a new life.***

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

*First, by his resurrection **he has overcome death,**  
so that he might make us share in the righteousness  
he obtained for us by his death.*

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

*Third, Christ's resurrection  
is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.*

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

*First, by his resurrection **he has overcome death,**  
so that he might make us share in the righteousness  
he obtained for us by his death.<sup>1</sup>*

*Second, by His power **we too**  
**are already raised to a new life.**<sup>2</sup>*

*Third, Christ's resurrection  
is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:16-20; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 6:5-11; Eph. 2:4-6; Col. 3:1-4

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:12-23; Phil. 3:20-21



Lord's Day 18  
Beginner's Version

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

That Christ  
was taken up                      into heaven.

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

In his divinity  
he is never absent from us.

Q&A 48

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

He is our advocate  
in heaven.

Lord's Day 18  
Intermediate Version

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

That Christ, while his disciples watched,  
was taken up from the earth into heaven  
and remains there on our behalf  
until he comes again

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

*In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;*  
*but in his divinity,*  
*he is never absent from us.*

Q&A 48

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

*First, he is our advocate*  
*in heaven.*

*Second, we have our own flesh in heaven.*

*Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth.*

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

That Christ, while his disciples watched,  
was taken up from the earth into heaven  
and remains there on our behalf  
until he comes again  
to judge the living and the dead.

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

*Christ is true man and true God.*

*In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;  
but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit  
he is never absent from us.*

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

*Certainly not.*

*Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of  
the humanity that has been taken on,  
but  
remains personally united to his humanity.*

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

*First, he is our advocate  
in heaven*

*in the presence of his Father.*

*Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—  
a sure pledge that Christ our head  
will also take us, his members,  
up to himself.<sup>2</sup>*

*Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth  
as a corresponding pledge.  
By the Spirit's power  
we seek  
the things above.*

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

That Christ, while his disciples watched,  
was taken up from the earth into heaven<sup>1</sup>  
and remains there on our behalf<sup>2</sup>  
until he comes again  
to judge the living and the dead.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 24:50-51; Acts 1:9-11

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 8:34; Eph. 4:8-10; Heb. 7:23-25; 9:24

<sup>3</sup> Acts 1:11

**Q&A 47** But isn't Christ with us  
until the end of the world  
as he promised us?<sup>1</sup>

*Christ is true man and true God.*

*In his human nature Christ is not now on earth;<sup>2</sup>  
but in his divinity, majesty, grace, and Spirit  
he is never absent from us.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:20

<sup>2</sup> Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:18-20; John 14:16-19

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

*Certainly not.*

*Since divinity is not limited  
and is present everywhere,<sup>1</sup>*

*it is evident that*

*Christ's divinity is surely beyond the bounds of  
the humanity that has been taken on,  
but at the same time his divinity is in  
and remains personally united to his humanity.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 7:48-49 (Isa. 66:1)

<sup>2</sup> John 1:14; 3:13; Col. 2:9

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

*First, he is our advocate  
in heaven*

*in the presence of his Father.<sup>1</sup>*

*Second, we have our own flesh in heaven—  
a sure pledge that Christ our head  
will also take us, his members,  
up to himself.<sup>2</sup>*

*Third, he sends his Spirit to us on earth  
as a corresponding pledge.<sup>3</sup>  
By the Spirit's power  
we seek not earthly things,  
but the things above, where Christ is,  
sitting at God's right hand.<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1

<sup>2</sup> John 14:2; 17:24; Eph. 2:4-6

<sup>3</sup> John 14:16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5

<sup>4</sup> Col. 3:1-4

Lord's Day 19  
Beginner's Version

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

*To show that he is head of his church.*

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

*First,*  
*he pours out gifts from heaven*

*Second,*  
*he defends us and preserves us.*

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

*Christ*  
*will take me and all his chosen ones*  
*into*                      *heaven.*

Lord's Day 19  
Intermediate Version

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

*To show that he is head of his church,*  
*through whom the Father governs all things.*

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

*First, through his Holy Spirit*  
*he pours out gifts from heaven*

*Second, by his power*  
*he defends us and preserves us.*

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

*Christ will cast all his enemies and mine*  
*into everlasting condemnation,*  
*but will take me and all his chosen ones*  
*to himself*  
*into the joy and the glory of heaven.*

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

*To show that he is head of his church,  
through whom the Father governs all things.*

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

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

*Second, by his power  
he defends us and preserves us  
from all enemies.*

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

*I confidently await the very judge  
who has already offered himself to the judgment of God  
in my place.*

*Christ will cast all his enemies and mine  
into everlasting condemnation,  
but will take me and all his chosen ones  
to himself  
into the joy and the glory of heaven.*

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

Christ ascended to heaven,  
there *to show that he is head of his church,*<sup>1</sup>  
*through whom the Father governs all things.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 28:18; John 5:22-23

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

*First, through his Holy Spirit  
he pours out gifts from heaven  
upon us his members.*<sup>1</sup>

*Second, by his power  
he defends us and preserves us  
from all enemies.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:33; Eph. 4:7-12

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 110:1-2; John 10:27-30; Rev. 19:11-16

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

In all my distress and persecution  
with uplifted head

*I confidently await the very judge  
who has already offered himself to the judgment of God  
in my place and removed the whole curse from me.*<sup>1</sup>

*Christ will cast all his enemies and mine  
into everlasting condemnation,  
but will take me and all his chosen ones  
to himself  
into the joy and the glory of heaven.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:22-25; Phil. 3:20-21; Tit. 2:13-14

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:6-10

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

*The Spirit, with the Father and the Son,  
is God.*

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

*First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son,  
is eternal God.*

*Second, that he is given also to me,  
so that  
he makes me share in Christ.*

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

***First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son,  
is eternal God.***

***Second, that he is given also to me,  
so that, through true faith,  
he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits,  
comforts me,  
and will remain with me forever.***

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

***First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son,  
is eternal God.*<sup>1</sup>**

***Second, that he is given also to me,*<sup>2</sup>  
*so that, through true faith,*  
*he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits,*<sup>3</sup>  
*comforts me,*<sup>4</sup>  
*and will remain with me forever.*<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 1:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Gal. 4:6

<sup>3</sup> Gal. 3:14

<sup>4</sup> John 15:26; Acts 9:31

<sup>5</sup> John 14:16-17; 1 Pet. 4:14

Lord's Day 21  
Beginner's Version

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

gathers  
a community chosen for eternal life.

Q&A 55 What do you understand by  
"the communion of saints"?  
That believers  
as members of Christ  
have communion with him

for the service  
of the other members.

Q&A 56 What do you believe  
concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?  
That God  
will no longer remember  
any of my sins.

Lord's Day 21  
Intermediate Version

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

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

Q&A 55 What do you understand by  
"the communion of saints"?  
*First, that believers*  
*as members of Christ*  
*have communion with him*  
*and share in all his treasures and gifts.*  
*Second, that each member*  
*should*  
*use these gifts*

for the service  
of the other members.

Q&A 56 What do you believe  
concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?  
*I believe that God,*  
*because of Christ,*  
*will no longer remember*  
*any of my sins*  
*or my sinful nature.*

*Rather,*  
*God grants me the righteousness of Christ.*

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

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

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

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

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

*First, that believers one and all,  
as members of Christ  
have communion with him  
and share in all his treasures and gifts.*

*Second, that each member  
should consider it a duty  
to use these gifts  
readily and joyfully  
for the service and enrichment  
of the other members.*

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

*I believe that God,  
because of Christ's satisfaction,  
will no longer remember  
any of my sins  
or my sinful nature  
which I need to struggle against all my life.  
Rather, by his grace  
God grants me the righteousness of Christ.*

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

*I believe that the Son of God  
through his Spirit and Word,<sup>1</sup>  
out of the entire human race,<sup>2</sup>  
from the beginning of the world to its end,<sup>3</sup>*

*gathers, protects, and preserves for himself  
a community chosen for eternal life<sup>4</sup>  
and united in true faith.<sup>5</sup>*

*And of this community I am<sup>6</sup> and always will be<sup>7</sup>  
a living member.*

<sup>1</sup> John 10:14-16; Acts 20:28; Rom. 10:14-17; Col. 1:18

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 26:3b-4; Rev. 5:9

<sup>3</sup> Isa. 59:21; 1 Cor. 11:26

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 16:18; John 10:28-30; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-14

<sup>5</sup> Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:1-6

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 3:14, 19-21

<sup>7</sup> John 10:27-28; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

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

*First, that believers one and all,  
as members of Christ the Lord,  
have communion with him  
and share in all his treasures and gifts.<sup>1</sup>*

*Second, that each member  
should consider it a duty  
to use these gifts  
readily and joyfully  
for the service and enrichment  
of the other members.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 6:17; 12:4-7, 12-13; 1 John 1:3

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:20-27; 13:1-7; Phil. 2:4-8

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

*I believe that God,  
because of Christ's satisfaction,  
will no longer remember  
any of my sins<sup>1</sup>  
or my sinful nature  
which I need to struggle against all my life.<sup>2</sup>  
Rather, by his grace  
God grants me the righteousness of Christ  
that I may never come into judgment.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 103:3-4, 10, 12; Mic. 7:18-19; 2 Cor. 5:18-21;  
1 John 1:7; 2:2

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 7:21-25

<sup>3</sup> John 3:17-18; Rom. 8:1-2



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

After this life

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

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

I will have  
perfect blessedness

in which to praise God eternally.

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

*Not only will my soul  
be taken immediately after this life  
to Christ,  
but also my very flesh,  
will be  
made like Christ's glorious body.*

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

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

in which to praise God eternally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 15:20, 42-46, 54; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 14:17

<sup>2</sup> John 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:9

**Q&A 59 But how does it help you  
now that you believe all this?**

**That I am righteous in Christ before God.**

**Q&A 60 How are you righteous before God?**

**Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.**

**Q&A 61 Why do you say that through faith alone you  
are righteous?**

**Only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness  
are my righteousness before God,**

**Q&A 59 But how does it help you  
now that you believe all this?**

**That I am righteous in Christ before God.  
and an heir to life everlasting.**

**Q&A 60 How are you righteous before God?**

**Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.**

***Even though my conscience accuses me***

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

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

**Q&A 61 Why do you say that through faith alone you  
are righteous?**

***Not because I please God  
by the worthiness of my faith,  
for only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness  
are my righteousness before God,***

**Q&A 59 But how does it help you  
now that you believe all this?**

**That I am righteous in Christ before God.  
and an heir to life everlasting.**

**Q&A 60 How are you righteous before God?**

**Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.**

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

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

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

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

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

**– If only I accept this gift with a believing heart.**

**Q&A 61 Why do you say that through faith alone you  
are righteous?**

***Not because I please God  
by the worthiness of my faith,  
for only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness  
are my righteousness before God,***

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

**Q&A 59 But how does it help you  
now that you believe all this?**

**That I am righteous in Christ before God  
and an heir to life everlasting.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> John 3:36; Rom. 1:17 (Hab. 2:4); Rom. 5:1-2

**Q&A 60 How are you righteous before God?**

**Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>**

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

***of never having kept any of them,<sup>2</sup>  
and of still being inclined toward all evil,<sup>3</sup>***

***nevertheless,***

***without any merit of my own,<sup>4</sup>  
out of sheer grace,<sup>5</sup>***

***God grants and credits to me  
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, & holiness of  
Christ,<sup>6</sup>***

***as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner,  
and as if I had been as perfectly obedient  
as Christ was obedient for me.<sup>7</sup>***

**– If only I accept this gift with a believing heart.<sup>8</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:21-28; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil 3:8-11

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 3:9-10

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 7:23

<sup>4</sup> Tit. 3:4-5

<sup>5</sup> Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 4:3-5 (Gen. 15:6); 2 Cor. 5:17-19; 1 John 2:1-2

<sup>7</sup> Rom. 4:24-25; 2 Cor. 5:21

<sup>8</sup> John 3:18; Acts 16:30-31

**Q&A 61 Why do you say that through faith alone you  
are righteous?**

***Not because I please God  
by the worthiness of my faith,  
for only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness  
are my righteousness before God,*<sup>1</sup>**

***and I can receive this righteousness and make it mine  
in no other way  
than by faith alone.<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 1:30-31

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:10; 1 John 5:10-12

**Q&A 62 Why can't our good works  
be our righteousness before God,  
or at least part of our righteousness?**

*Even our best works in this life  
are all  
stained with sin.*

**Q&A 63 How can our good works  
be said to merit nothing  
when God promises to reward them  
in this life and the next?**

*It is a gift of grace.*

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

*No.*

**Q&A 62 Why can't our good works  
be our righteousness before God,  
or at least part of our righteousness?**

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

*But even our best works in this life  
are all imperfect  
and stained with sin.*

**Q&A 63 How can our good works  
be said to merit nothing  
when God promises to reward them  
in this life and the next?**

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

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

*No.  
It is impossible*

*not to produce fruits of gratitude.*

**Q&A 62 Why can't our good works  
be our righteousness before God,  
or at least part of our righteousness?**

*Because the righteousness  
which can pass God's judgment  
must be entirely perfect  
and must in every way measure up to the divine law.  
But even our best works in this life  
are all imperfect  
and stained with sin.*

**Q&A 63 How can our good works  
be said to merit nothing  
when God promises to reward them  
in this life and the next?**

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

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

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

**Q&A 62 Why can't our good works  
be our righteousness before God,  
or at least part of our righteousness?**

*Because the righteousness  
which can pass God's judgment  
must be entirely perfect  
and must in every way measure up to the divine law.<sup>1</sup>  
But even our best works in this life  
are all imperfect  
and stained with sin.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:10 (Deut. 27:26)

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 64:6

**Q&A 63 How can our good works  
be said to merit nothing  
when God promises to reward them  
in this life and the next?<sup>1</sup>**

*This reward is not merited;  
it is a gift of grace.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:12; Heb. 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Luke 17:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8

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

*No.  
It is impossible  
for those grafted into Christ by true faith  
not to produce fruits of gratitude.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Luke 6:43-45; John 15:5

*The Sacraments*

Lord's Day 25  
Beginner's Version

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

*The Holy Spirit works it in our hearts*

**Q&A 66** What are sacraments?

*Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals.*

**Q&A 67** Are both the word and the sacraments then  
intended to focus our faith  
on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross  
as the only ground of our salvation?

*Yes indeed!*

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

*Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.*

*The Sacraments*

Lord's Day 25  
Intermediate Version

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

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

**Q&A 66** What are sacraments?

*Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals.*  
*They were instituted by God so that*

*he might make us understand more clearly*  
*the promise of the gospel,*  
*and seal that promise.*

**Q&A 67** Are both the word and the sacraments then  
intended to focus our faith  
on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross  
as the only ground of our salvation?

*Yes indeed!*

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

*Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.*

## *The Sacraments*

Lord's Day 25  
Advanced Version

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

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

**Q&A 66 What are sacraments?**

**Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals.  
They were instituted by God so that  
by our use of them  
he might make us understand more clearly  
the promise of the gospel,  
and seal that promise.**

*And this is God's gospel promise:  
he grants us forgiveness of sins and eternal life.*

**Q&A 67 Are both the word and the sacraments then  
intended to focus our faith  
on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross  
as the only ground of our salvation?**

**Yes indeed!  
The Holy Spirit teaches  
and confirms  
that our entire salvation  
rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.**

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

**Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.**

## *The Sacraments*

Lord's Day 25  
Complete Version

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

**The Holy Spirit works it in our hearts<sup>1</sup>  
by the preaching of the holy gospel,<sup>2</sup>  
and confirms it  
through the use of the holy sacraments.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> John 3:5; 1 Cor. 2:10-14; Eph. 2:8

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:16

**Q&A 66 What are sacraments?**

**Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals.  
They were instituted by God so that  
by our use of them  
he might make us understand more clearly  
the promise of the gospel,  
and seal that promise.<sup>1</sup>**

*And this is God's gospel promise:  
he grants us forgiveness of sins and eternal life  
by grace  
because of Christ's one sacrifice  
accomplished on the cross.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 17:11; Deut. 30:6; Rom. 4:11

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 26:27-28; Acts 2:38; Heb. 10:10

**Q&A 67 Are both the word and the sacraments then  
intended to focus our faith  
on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross  
as the only ground of our salvation?**

**Yes indeed!  
The Holy Spirit teaches us in the gospel  
and confirms by the holy sacraments  
that our entire salvation  
rests on Christ's one sacrifice for us on the cross.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 3:27

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

**Two: holy baptism and the holy supper.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26



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

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

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

That God, by grace, has forgiven our sins.

That the Holy Spirit has renewed  
us.

**Q&A 71**

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

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

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

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

That the Holy Spirit has renewed  
and sanctified us to be members of Christ.

**Q&A 71**

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

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

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

*That God, by grace, has forgiven our sins  
because of Christ's blood.*

*That the Holy Spirit has renewed  
and sanctified us to be members of Christ  
so that more and more  
we die to sin  
and live holy and blameless lives.*

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

*In the institution of baptism.*

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

In this way:

Christ instituted this outward washing<sup>1</sup>  
and with it promised that,

*as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body,  
so certainly his blood and his Spirit  
wash away* my soul's impurity,  
that is, *all my sins.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Acts 2:38

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 3:11; Rom. 6:3-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

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

To be washed with Christ's blood means  
*that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins  
because of Christ's blood*  
poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross.<sup>1</sup>

To be washed with Christ's Spirit means  
*that the Holy Spirit has renewed  
and sanctified us to be members of Christ  
so that more and more  
we die to sin  
and live holy and blameless lives.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zech. 13:1; Eph. 1:7-8; Heb. 12:24; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:5

<sup>2</sup> Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:5-8; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:11;  
Col. 2:11-12

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

*In the institution of baptism* where he says:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit."<sup>1</sup>

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved;  
but whoever does not believe will be condemned."<sup>2</sup>

This promise is repeated when Scripture calls baptism  
"the washing of regeneration"<sup>3</sup> and  
the washing away of sins.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 28:19

<sup>2</sup> Mark 16:16

<sup>3</sup> Tit. 3:5

<sup>4</sup> Acts 22:16

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

No.

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

God

wants to assure us.

**Q&A 74 Should infants also be baptized?**

Yes.

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

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

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

God

wants to assure us  
*that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually  
as our bodies are washed with water physically.*

**Q&A 74 Should infants also be baptized?**

Yes.

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

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

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

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

God

wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign,  
that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually  
as our bodies are washed with water physically.

**Q&A 74 Should infants also be baptized?**

Yes.

*Infants as well as adults  
are included in God's covenant and people,  
and they, no less than adults, are promised  
deliverance from sin.*

*Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant,  
they too should be incorporated into the Christian church  
and distinguished from the children of unbelievers.*

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

No, only Jesus Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit  
cleanse us from all sins.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 3:11; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 John 1:7

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

God has good reason for these words.

To begin with, he wants to teach us that  
the blood and Spirit of Christ wash away our sins  
just as water removes dirt from the body.<sup>1</sup>

But more importantly,  
he wants to assure us, by this divine pledge and sign,  
that we are as truly washed of our sins spiritually  
as our bodies are washed with water physically.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:11; Rev. 1:5; 7:14

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27

**Q&A 74 Should infants also be baptized?**

Yes.

*Infants as well as adults  
are included in God's covenant and people,<sup>1</sup>  
and they, no less than adults, are promised  
deliverance from sin through Christ's blood  
and the Holy Spirit who works faith.<sup>2</sup>*

*Therefore, by baptism, the sign of the covenant,  
they too should be incorporated into the Christian church  
and distinguished from the children of unbelievers.<sup>3</sup>*

This was done in the Old Testament by circumcision,<sup>4</sup>  
which was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 17:7; Matt. 19:14

<sup>2</sup> Isa. 44:1-3; Acts 2:38-39; 16:31

<sup>3</sup> Acts 10:47; 1 Cor. 7:14

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 17:9-14

<sup>5</sup> Col. 2:11-13

**Q&A 75 How does the holy supper remind  
and assure you that you share in Christ's one  
sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?**

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

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

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

**Q&A 77**

**Q&A 75 How does the holy supper remind  
and assure you that you share in Christ's one  
sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?**

*First,*

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

*Second,*

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

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

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

*But it means more.*

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

**Q&A 77**

**Q&A 75 How does the holy supper remind  
and assure you that you share in Christ's one  
sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?**

*First, as surely as I see with my eyes*

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

*Second, as surely as I  
taste with my mouth*

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

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

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

*But it means more.*

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

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

*In the institution of the Lord's Supper:*

**Q&A 75 How does the holy supper remind  
and assure you that you share in Christ's one  
sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?**

In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him.

With this command come these promises:<sup>1</sup>

*First, as surely as I see with my eyes*

*the bread of the Lord broken for me  
and the cup shared with me, so surely*

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

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

*the bread and cup of the Lord,*

*given me as sure signs of Christ's body and blood, so surely  
he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life*

*with His crucified body and poured-out blood.*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

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

*It means to accept with a believing heart*

*the entire suffering and death of Christ* and in this way  
to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.<sup>1</sup>

*But it means more.*

*Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us,  
we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body.*<sup>2</sup>

And so, although he is in heaven<sup>3</sup> and we are on earth,  
we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone.<sup>4</sup>

And we forever live on and are governed by one Spirit,  
as the members of our body are by one soul.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 6:35, 40, 50-54

<sup>2</sup> John 6:55-56; 1 Cor. 12:13

<sup>3</sup> Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 11:26; Col. 3:1

<sup>4</sup> 1 Cor. 6:15-17; Eph. 5:29-30; 1 John 4:13

<sup>5</sup> John 6:56-58; 15:1-6; Eph. 4:15-16; 1 John 3:24

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

*In the institution of the Lord's Supper:*

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

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

Do this in remembrance of me.'

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

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

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

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."<sup>1</sup>

This promise is repeated by Paul in these words:

"The cup of blessing that we bless,

is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 11:23-26

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16-17

**Q&A 78 Do the bread and wine become  
the real body and blood of Christ?**

No.

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

Christ

wants to assure us,

**Q&A 78 Do the bread and wine become  
the real body and blood of Christ?**

No.

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

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

Christ

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

**Q&A 78 Do the bread and wine become  
the real body and blood of Christ?**

No.

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

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

Christ

*wants to teach us that*

*his crucified body and poured-out blood  
are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.*

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

**Q&A 78 Do the bread and wine become  
the real body and blood of Christ?**

No.

Just as the water of baptism  
is not changed into Christ's blood  
and does not itself wash away sins  
but is simply a divine sign and assurance<sup>1</sup> of these things,  
so too the holy bread of the Lord's Supper  
does not become the body of Christ itself<sup>2</sup>  
even though *it is called the body of Christ*<sup>3</sup>  
*in keeping with the nature and language of  
sacraments.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Eph. 5:26; Tit. 3:5

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 26:26-29

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26-28

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 17:10-11; Ex. 12:11, 13; 1 Cor. 10:1-4

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

Christ has good reason for these words.

He *wants to teach us that*

*just as bread and wine nourish the temporal life,  
so too his crucified body and poured-out blood  
are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.*<sup>1</sup>

But more importantly,

he ***wants to assure us**, by this visible sign and pledge,  
that we, through the Holy Spirit's work,  
share in his true body and blood  
as surely as our mouths  
receive these holy signs in his remembrance,*<sup>2</sup>  
and that all of his suffering and obedience  
are as definitely ours  
as if we personally  
had suffered and made satisfaction for our sins.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 6:51, 55

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:26

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 6:5-11



Q&A 80

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

Those who are displeased with themselves

But trust

Christ,  
and who also desire

to lead a better life.

Q&A 82 Should those be admitted to the Lord's Supper  
who show by what they profess and how they live  
that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

No.

Q&A 80

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

Those who are displeased with themselves

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

by the suffering and death of Christ,  
and who also desire  
to strengthen their faith  
and to lead a better life.

Q&A 82 Should those be admitted to the Lord's Supper  
who show by what they profess and how they live  
that they are unbelieving and ungodly?

No.

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

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

*It also teaches  
that Christ is bodily present  
under the form of bread and wine  
where Christ is therefore to be worshipped.*

*Thus the Mass is basically  
a denial  
of the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ  
and a condemnable idolatry.*

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

*Those who are displeased with themselves  
because of their sins,  
but who nevertheless trust  
that their sins are pardoned*

*by the suffering and death of Christ,  
and who also desire  
to strengthen their faith  
and to lead a better life.*

**Q&A 82 Should those be admitted to the Lord's Supper  
who show by what they profess and how they live  
that they are unbelieving and ungodly?**

**No,**

*the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such people,  
by the official use of the keys of the kingdom.*

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

The Lord's Supper declares to us  
that all our sins are completely forgiven  
through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ,  
which he himself accomplished on the cross once for all.<sup>1</sup>

It also declares to us  
that the Holy Spirit grafts us into Christ,<sup>2</sup>  
who with his true body  
is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father<sup>3</sup>  
where he wants us to worship him.<sup>4</sup>

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

*It also teaches  
that Christ is bodily present  
under the form of bread and wine  
where Christ is therefore to be worshipped.*

*Thus the Mass is basically  
nothing but a denial  
of the one sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ  
and a condemnable idolatry.*

<sup>1</sup> John 19:30; Heb. 7:27; 9:12, 25-26; 10:10-18

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 6:17; 10:16-17

<sup>3</sup> Acts 7:55-56; Heb. 1:3; 8:1

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 6:20-21; John 4:21-24; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-3

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

*Those who are displeased with themselves  
because of their sins,  
but who nevertheless trust  
that their sins are pardoned*

*and that their remaining weakness is covered  
by the suffering and death of Christ,  
and who also desire more and more  
to strengthen their faith  
and to lead a better life.*

Hypocrites and those who are unrepentant, however,  
eat and drink judgment on themselves.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32

**Q&A 82 Should those be admitted to the Lord's Supper  
who show by what they profess and how they live  
that they are unbelieving and ungodly?**

**No,** that would dishonor God's covenant  
and bring down God's wrath upon the entire congregation.<sup>1</sup>  
Therefore, according to the instruction of Christ and his apostles,  
*the Christian church is duty-bound to exclude such people,  
by the official use of the keys of the kingdom,  
until they reform their lives.*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 11:17-32; Ps. 50:14-16; Isa. 1:11-17

Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?

The preaching of the holy gospel  
and Christian discipline.

Q&A 84 How does preaching the holy gospel  
open and close the kingdom of heaven?

The kingdom of heaven is opened

to all believers  
as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith,

Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven  
closed and opened by Christian discipline?

Those who, though called Christians,

refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways.

Such persons the church excludes  
from the Christian community.

Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?

The preaching of the holy gospel  
and Christian discipline toward repentance.

Q&A 84 How does preaching the holy gospel  
open and close the kingdom of heaven?

The kingdom of heaven is opened

to all believers  
as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith,

*The kingdom of heaven is closed, however,*

*to unbelievers and hypocrites  
as long as they do not repent,*

Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven  
closed and opened by Christian discipline?

Those who, though called Christians,

refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways.

Such persons the church excludes  
from the Christian community.

*Such persons,  
when promising and demonstrating genuine reform,  
are received again  
as members of Christ  
and of his church.*

**Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?**

*The preaching of the holy gospel  
and Christian discipline toward repentance.*

**Q&A 84 How does preaching the holy gospel  
open and close the kingdom of heaven?**

*The kingdom of heaven is opened*  
by proclaiming and publicly declaring  
*to all believers, each and every one, that,  
as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith,*  
God, because of Christ's merit,  
truly forgives all their sins.  
*The kingdom of heaven is closed, however,*  
by proclaiming and publicly declaring  
*to unbelievers and hypocrites that,  
as long as they do not repent,*  
the wrath of God and eternal condemnation  
rest on them.

**Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven  
closed and opened by Christian discipline?**

*Those who, though called Christians,*  
*who after repeated personal and loving admonitions,  
refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways,*  
and, *who after being reported to the church, that is,  
to those ordained by the church for that purpose,  
fail to respond also to the church's admonitions –*  
*such persons the church excludes  
from the Christian community*  
by withholding the sacraments from them.  
  
*Such persons,*  
*when promising and demonstrating genuine reform,*  
*are received again*  
*as members of Christ*  
*and of his church.*

**Q&A 83 What are the keys of the kingdom?**

*The preaching of the holy gospel  
and Christian discipline toward repentance.*

Both of them  
open the kingdom of heaven to believers  
and close it to unbelievers.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 16:19; John 20:22-23

**Q&A 84 How does preaching the holy gospel  
open and close the kingdom of heaven?**

According to the command of Christ:  
*The kingdom of heaven is opened*  
by proclaiming and publicly declaring  
*to all believers, each and every one, that,  
as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith,*  
God, because of Christ's merit,  
truly forgives all their sins.  
*The kingdom of heaven is closed, however,*  
by proclaiming and publicly declaring  
*to unbelievers and hypocrites that,  
as long as they do not repent,*  
the wrath of God and eternal condemnation  
rest on them.

God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come,  
is based on this gospel testimony.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 16:19; John 3:31-36; 20:21-23

**Q&A 85 How is the kingdom of heaven  
closed and opened by Christian discipline?**

According to the command of Christ:  
*Those who, though called Christians,*  
*profess unchristian teachings or live unchristian lives,*  
and *who after repeated personal and loving admonitions,  
refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways,*  
and, *who after being reported to the church, that is,  
to those ordained by the church for that purpose,  
fail to respond also to the church's admonitions –*  
*such persons the church excludes  
from the Christian community*  
by withholding the sacraments from them,  
and God also excludes them from the kingdom of Christ.<sup>1</sup>  
*Such persons,*  
*when promising and demonstrating genuine reform,*  
*are received again*  
*as members of Christ*  
*and of his church.*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:3-5, 11-13; 2 Thess. 3:14-15

<sup>2</sup> Luke 15:20-24; 2 Cor. 2:6-11

### PART III: GRATITUDE

Lord's Day 32  
Beginner's Version

**Q&A 86** Since we have been delivered  
from our misery  
by grace through Christ  
without any merit of our own,  
why then should we do good works?

*Because Christ*  
*is also renewing us by his Spirit into his image.*

**Q&A 87** Can those be saved  
who do not turn to God  
from their ungrateful  
and unrepentant ways?

*By no means.*

### PART III: GRATITUDE

Lord's Day 32  
Intermediate Version

**Q&A 86** Since we have been delivered  
from our misery  
by grace through Christ  
without any merit of our own,  
why then should we do good works?

*Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood.*  
*is also renewing us by his Spirit into his image,*  
*so that with our whole lives*  
*we may show that we are thankful to God*  
*for his benefits.*

**Q&A 87** Can those be saved  
who do not turn to God  
from their ungrateful  
and unrepentant ways?

*By no means.*

### PART III: GRATITUDE

Lord's Day 32  
Advanced Version

**Q&A 86** Since we have been delivered  
from our misery  
by grace through Christ  
without any merit of our own,  
why then should we do good works?

Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood,  
is also renewing us by his Spirit into his image,  
so that with our whole lives  
we may show that we are thankful to God  
for his benefits,  
and that he may be praised through us,

and further  
so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,  
and so that by our godly living  
our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

**Q&A 87** Can those be saved  
who do not turn to God  
from their ungrateful  
and unrepentant ways?

By no means.

### PART III: GRATITUDE

Lord's Day 32  
Complete Version

**Q&A 86** Since we have been delivered  
from our misery  
by grace through Christ  
without any merit of our own,  
why then should we do good works?

Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood,  
is also renewing us by his Spirit into his image,  
so that with our whole lives  
we may show that we are thankful to God  
for his benefits,<sup>1</sup>  
and that he may be praised through us,<sup>2</sup>

and further  
so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits,<sup>3</sup>  
and by our godly living  
our neighbors may be won over to Christ.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 6:19-20

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 7:17-18; Gal. 5:22-24; 2 Pet. 1:10-11

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 5:14-16; Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-2

**Q&A 87** Can those be saved  
who do not turn to God  
from their ungrateful  
and unrepentant ways?

By no means.

Scripture tells us that  
no unchaste person,  
no idolater, adulterer, thief,  
no covetous person,  
no drunkard, slanderer, robber,  
or the like  
will inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:1-20; 1 John 3:14

**Q&A 88 What is involved  
in genuine repentance or conversion?**

Two things:

the dying-away of the old self,  
and the rising-to-life of the new.

**Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?**

To be genuinely sorry for sin.

**Q&A 90 What is the rising-to-life of the new self?**

Wholehearted joy in God through Christ  
to live  
according to the will of God.

**Q&A 91 But what are good works?**

Only those which

are done for his glory.

**Q&A 88 What is involved  
in genuine repentance or conversion?**

Two things:

the dying-away of the old self,  
and the rising-to-life of the new.

**Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?**

To be genuinely sorry for sin  
and more and more to hate  
it.

**Q&A 90 What is the rising-to-life of the new self?**

Wholehearted joy in God through Christ  
and a love and delight to live  
according to the will of God  
by doing every kind of good work.

**Q&A 91 But what are good works?**

Only those which

are done out of true faith,  
conform to God's law,  
and are done for his glory.

**Q&A 88 What is involved  
in genuine repentance or conversion?**

**Two things:**

**the dying-away of the old self,**  
**and the rising-to-life of the new.**

**Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?**

**To be genuinely sorry for sin**  
**and more and more to hate**  
**and run away from it.**

**Q&A 90 What is the rising-to-life of the new self?**

**Wholehearted joy in God through Christ**  
**and a love and delight to live**  
**according to the will of God**  
**by doing every kind of good work.**

**Q&A 91 But what are good works?**

**Only those which**  
**are done out of true faith,**  
**conform to God's law,**  
**and are done for his glory.**  
**and not those based**  
**on our own opinion.**

**Q&A 88 What is involved  
in genuine repentance or conversion?**

**Two things:**

**the dying-away of the old self,**  
**and the rising-to-life of the new.**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 6:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10

**Q&A 89 What is the dying-away of the old self?**

**To be genuinely sorry for sin**  
**and more and more to hate**  
**and run away from it.**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 51:3-4, 17; Joel 2:12-13; Rom. 8:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:10

**Q&A 90 What is the rising-to-life of the new self?**

**Wholehearted joy in God through Christ**<sup>1</sup>  
**and a love and delight to live**  
**according to the will of God**  
**by doing every kind of good work.**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 51:8, 12; Isa. 57:15; Rom. 5:1; 14:17

<sup>2</sup> Rom. 6:10-11; Gal. 2:20

**Q&A 91 But what are good works?**

**Only those which**  
**are done out of true faith,**<sup>1</sup>  
**conform to God's law,**<sup>2</sup>  
**and are done for his glory;**<sup>3</sup>  
**and not those based**  
**on our own opinion**  
**or human tradition.**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 15:5; Heb. 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 15:22; Eph. 2:10

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 10:31

<sup>4</sup> Deut. 12:32; Isa. 29:13; Ezek. 20:18-19; Matt. 15:7-9



## *The Ten Commandments*

Lord's Day 34 - Introduction  
Beginner's Version

### Q&A 92 What is God's law?

1. *You shall have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make for yourself an idol.*
3. *You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God;*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.*
5. *Honor your father and your mother,*
6. *You shall not murder.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet*

## *The Ten Commandments*

Lord's Day 34 - Introduction  
Intermediate Version

### Q&A 92 What is God's law?

*God spoke all these words:*

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

1. *You shall have no other gods before me.*
2. *You shall not make for yourself an idol,  
whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,  
or that is in the water under the earth.  
you shall not bow down to them or worship them.*
3. *You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God;  
for the LORD will not acquit anyone  
who misuses his name.*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.  
Six days you shall labor and do all your work;  
but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God.  
you shall not do any work.*
5. *Honor your father and your mother,  
so that your days may be long in the land  
that the LORD your God is giving to you.*
6. *You shall not murder.*
7. *You shall not commit adultery.*
8. *You shall not steal.*
9. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's house;  
you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,  
or male or female servant,  
or ox, or donkey,  
or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

## ***The Ten Commandments***

Lord's Day 34 - Introduction  
Advanced Version

### **Q&A 92 What is God's law?**

*God spoke all these words:*

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

1. **You shall have no other gods before me.**
2. **You shall not make for yourself an idol,**  
***whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,  
or that is on the earth beneath,  
or that is in the water under the earth.***  
***you shall not bow down to them or worship them;***  
***for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,***  
***punishing children for the iniquity of parents***  
***to the third and fourth generations***  
***of those who reject me,***  
***but showing love to the thousandth generation***  
***of those who love me and keep my commandments.***
3. **You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God;**  
***for the LORD will not acquit anyone***  
***who misuses his name.***
4. **Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.**  
***Six days you shall labor and do all your work;***  
***but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God.***  
***you shall not do any work –***  
***you, your son or your daughter,***  
***your male or female servant,***  
***your livestock,***  
***or the alien resident in your towns.***  
***For in six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth,***  
***the sea, and all that is in them,***  
***but rested the seventh day;***  
***therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day***  
***and consecrated it.***
5. **Honor your father and your mother,**  
***so that your days may be long in the land***  
***that the LORD your God is giving to you.***
6. **You shall not murder.**
7. **You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **You shall not steal.**
9. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's house;**  
***you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,***  
***or male or female servant,***  
***or ox, or donkey,***  
***or anything that belongs to your neighbor.***

## ***The Ten Commandments***

Lord's Day 34 - Introduction  
Complete Version

### **Q&A 92 What is God's law?**

*God spoke all these words:*

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

1. **You shall have no other gods before me.**
2. **You shall not make for yourself an idol,**  
***whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above,***  
***or that is on the earth beneath,***  
***or that is in the water under the earth.***  
***you shall not bow down to them or worship them;***  
***for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,***  
***punishing children for the iniquity of parents***  
***to the third and fourth generations***  
***of those who reject me,***  
***but showing love to the thousandth generation***  
***of those who love me and keep my commandments.***
3. **You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God;**  
***for the LORD will not acquit anyone***  
***who misuses his name.***
4. **Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.**  
***Six days you shall labor and do all your work;***  
***but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God.***  
***you shall not do any work –***  
***you, your son or your daughter,***  
***your male or female servant,***  
***your livestock,***  
***or the alien resident in your towns.***  
***For in six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth,***  
***the sea, and all that is in them,***  
***but rested the seventh day;***  
***therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day***  
***and consecrated it.***
5. **Honor your father and your mother,**  
***so that your days may be long in the land***  
***that the LORD your God is giving to you.***
6. **You shall not murder.**
7. **You shall not commit adultery.**
8. **You shall not steal.**
9. **You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
10. **You shall not covet your neighbor's house;**  
***you shall not covet your neighbor's wife,***  
***or male or female servant,***  
***or ox, or donkey,***  
***or anything that belongs to your neighbor.***<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21

**Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?**

*Into two tables.*

**Q&A 94 What does the Lord require  
in the first commandment?**

*That I  
avoid and shun  
all idolatry.*

**Q&A 95 What is idolatry?**

*Idolatry is  
having or inventing something in which one trusts  
in place of or alongside of the only true God.*

**Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?**

*Into two tables.*

**Q&A 94 What does the Lord require  
in the first commandment?**

*That I  
avoid and shun  
all idolatry.*

*That I rightly know the only true God,  
trust him alone,*

*and love, fear, and honor him  
with all my heart.*

**Q&A 95 What is idolatry?**

*Idolatry is  
having or inventing something in which one trusts  
in place of or alongside of the only true God.*

**Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?**

*Into two tables.*

**Q&A 94 What does the Lord require  
in the first commandment?**

*That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation,  
avoid and shun*

*all idolatry*, sorcery, superstitious rites,  
and prayer to saints or to other creatures.

*That I rightly know the only true God,  
trust him alone,  
and look to God for every good thing  
humbly and patiently,  
and love, fear, and honor him  
with all my heart.*

*In short,  
that I renounce all created things  
rather than go against God's will in any way.*

**Q&A 95 What is idolatry?**

*Idolatry is*

*having or inventing something in which one trusts  
in place of or alongside of the only true God,  
who has revealed himself in his Word.*

**Q&A 93 How are these commandments divided?**

*Into two tables.*

The first has four commandments,  
teaching us how we should live in relation to God.  
The second has six commandments,  
teaching us what we owe our neighbor.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 22:37-39

**Q&A 94 What does the Lord require  
in the first commandment?**

*That I, not wanting to endanger my own salvation,  
avoid and shun*

*all idolatry*,<sup>1</sup> sorcery, superstitious rites,<sup>2</sup>  
and prayer to saints or to other creatures.<sup>3</sup>

*That I rightly know the only true God,<sup>4</sup>  
trust him alone,<sup>5</sup>  
and look to God for every good thing<sup>6</sup>  
humbly<sup>7</sup> and patiently,<sup>8</sup>  
and love,<sup>9</sup> fear,<sup>10</sup> and honor<sup>11</sup> him  
with all my heart.*

*In short,  
that I renounce all created things  
rather than go against God's will in any way.<sup>12</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 10:5-14; 1 John 5:21

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:31; Deut. 18:9-12

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 4:10; Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9

<sup>4</sup> John 17:3

<sup>5</sup> Jer. 17:5, 7

<sup>6</sup> Ps. 104:27-28; James 1:17

<sup>7</sup> 1 Pet. 5:5-6

<sup>8</sup> Col. 1:11; Heb. 10:36

<sup>9</sup> Matt. 22:37 (Deut. 6:5)

<sup>10</sup> Prov. 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:17

<sup>11</sup> Matt. 4:10 (Deut. 6:13)

<sup>12</sup> Matt. 5:29-30; 10:37-39

**Q&A 95 What is idolatry?**

*Idolatry is*

*having or inventing something in which one trusts  
in place of or alongside of the only true God,  
who has revealed himself in his Word.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Chron. 16:26; Gal. 4:8-9; Eph. 5:5; Phil. 3:19

Lord's Day 35  
Beginner's Version

**Q&A 96 What is God's will for us  
in the second commandment?**

*That we in no way make any image of God  
nor worship him in any other way  
than has been commanded in God's Word.*

**Q&A 97 May we then not make  
any image at all?**

*God cannot and may not  
be visibly portrayed in any way.*

**Q&A 98 But may not images  
as books for the unlearned  
be permitted in churches?**

*No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God.*

Lord's Day 35  
Intermediate Version

**Q&A 96 What is God's will for us  
in the second commandment?**

*That we in no way make any image of God  
nor worship him in any other way  
than has been commanded in God's Word.*

**Q&A 97 May we then not make  
any image at all?**

*God cannot and may not  
be visibly portrayed in any way.*

**Q&A 98 But may not images  
as books for the unlearned  
be permitted in churches?**

*No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God.  
He wants the Christian community instructed  
by the living preaching of his Word –  
not by idols that cannot even talk.*

**Q&A 96 What is God's will for us  
in the second commandment?**

*That we in no way make any image of God  
nor worship him in any other way  
than has been commanded in God's Word.*

**Q&A 97 May we then not make  
any image at all?**

*God cannot and may not  
be visibly portrayed in any way.*

*Although creatures may be portrayed,  
yet God forbids making or having such images  
in order to worship them  
or serve God through them.*

**Q&A 98 But may not images  
as books for the unlearned  
be permitted in churches?**

*No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God.  
He wants the Christian community instructed  
by the living preaching of his Word –  
not by idols that cannot even talk.*

**Q&A 96 What is God's will for us  
in the second commandment?**

*That we in no way make any image of God<sup>1</sup>  
nor worship him in any other way  
than has been commanded in God's Word.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 4:15-19; Isa. 40:18-25; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:22-23

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 10:1-7; 1 Sam. 15:22-23; John 4:23-24

**Q&A 97 May we then not make  
any image at all?**

*God cannot and may not  
be visibly portrayed in any way.*

*Although creatures may be portrayed,  
yet God forbids making or having such images  
in order to worship them  
or serve God through them.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 34:13-14, 17; 2 Kings 18:4-5

**Q&A 98 But may not images  
as books for the unlearned  
be permitted in churches?**

*No, we should not try to be wiser than God.  
He wants the Christian community instructed  
by the living preaching of his Word – <sup>1</sup>  
not by idols that cannot even talk.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 10:14-15, 17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19

<sup>2</sup> Jer. 10:8; Hab. 2:18-20

Lord's Days 36 and 37

Beginner's Version

**Q&A 99 What is God's will for us  
in the third commandment?**

**That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God  
nor share in such horrible sins  
by being silent bystanders.**

**Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and  
cursing really such serious sin that God is angry  
also with those who do not do all they can  
to help prevent and forbid it?**

**Yes, indeed.**

Lord's Day 37

**Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name  
if we do it reverently?**

**Yes.**

**Q&A 102 May we also swear by saints  
or other created things?**

**No.**

Lord's Days 36 and 37

Intermediate Version

**Q&A 99 What is God's will for us  
in the third commandment?**

**That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God  
by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths,  
nor share in such horrible sins  
by being silent bystanders.**

***In summary,***

***we must use the holy name of God  
only with reverence and awe.***

**Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and  
cursing really such serious sin that God is angry  
also with those who do not do all they can  
to help prevent and forbid it?**

**Yes, indeed. No sin is greater.**

***That is why he commanded it to be punished with death.***

Lord's Day 37

**Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name  
if we do it reverently?**

**Yes, when the government demands it,  
or when necessity requires it,**

***for God's glory and our neighbor's good.***

**Q&A 102 May we also swear by saints  
or other created things?**

**No.**

***No created thing is worthy of such honor.***

**Q&A 99 What is God's will for us  
in the third commandment?**

**That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God  
by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths,  
nor share in such horrible sins  
by being silent bystanders.**

***In summary,***

***we must use the holy name of God  
only with reverence and awe,  
so that we may properly  
confess him,  
call upon him,  
and praise him in everything we do and say.***

**Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and  
cursing really such serious sin that God is angry  
also with those who do not do all they can  
to help prevent and forbid it?**

**Yes, indeed. No sin is greater,**

***That is why he commanded it to be punished with death.***

**Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name  
if we do it reverently?**

**Yes, when the government demands it,  
or when necessity requires it,  
*in order to maintain and promote truth and  
trustworthiness  
for God's glory and our neighbor's good.*  
*Such oath-taking is grounded in God's Word.***

**Q&A 102 May we also swear by saints  
or other created things?**

**No. A legitimate oath is calling upon God  
as the one who knows my heart**

***No created thing is worthy of such honor.***

**Q&A 99 What is God's will for us  
in the third commandment?**

**That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God  
by cursing,<sup>1</sup> perjury,<sup>2</sup> or unnecessary oaths,<sup>3</sup>  
nor share in such horrible sins  
by being silent bystanders.<sup>4</sup>**

***In summary,***

***we must use the holy name of God  
only with reverence and awe,<sup>5</sup>  
so that we may properly  
confess him,<sup>6</sup>  
call upon him,<sup>7</sup>  
and praise him in everything we do and say.<sup>8</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Lev. 24:10-17

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:12

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 5:37; James 5:12

<sup>4</sup> Lev. 5:1; Prov. 29:24

<sup>5</sup> Ps. 99:1-5; Jer. 4:2

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

<sup>7</sup> Ps. 50:14-15; 1 Tim. 2:8

<sup>8</sup> Col. 3:17

**Q&A 100 Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and  
cursing really such serious sin that God is angry  
also with those who do not do all they can  
to help prevent and forbid it?**

**Yes, indeed.<sup>1</sup> No sin is greater  
*or provokes God's wrath more  
than blaspheming his name.***

***That is why he commanded it to be punished with death.*<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Lev. 5:1

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 24:10-17

**Q&A 101 But may we swear an oath in God's name  
if we do it reverently?**

**Yes, when the government demands it,  
or when necessity requires it,  
*in order to maintain and promote truth and  
trustworthiness  
for God's glory and our neighbor's good.*  
*Such oath-taking is grounded in God's Word<sup>1</sup>  
and was rightly used by the saints  
in the Old and New Testaments.<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:13; 10:20; Jer. 4:1-2; Heb. 6:16

<sup>2</sup> Gen. 21:24; Josh. 9:15; 1 Kings 1:29-30; Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23

**Q&A 102 May we also swear by saints  
or other created things?**

**No. A legitimate oath is calling upon God  
as the one who knows my heart  
to witness to the truth  
and to punish me if I swear falsely.<sup>1</sup>**

***No created thing is worthy of such honor.*<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 9:1; 2 Cor. 1:23

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 5:34-37; 23:16-22; James 5:12



**Q&A 103 What is God's will for you  
in the fourth commandment?**

that

especially on the festive day of rest,  
I diligently attend the assembly of God's people.

**Q&A 103 What is God's will for you  
in the fourth commandment?**

that

especially on the festive day of rest,  
I diligently attend the assembly of God's people  
*to learn what God's Word teaches,*  
*to participate in the sacraments,*  
*to pray to the Lord publicly,*  
*and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.*

**Q&A 103 What is God's will for you  
in the fourth commandment?**

*First,*

***that** the gospel ministry and schools for it be  
maintained,  
and that, **especially on the festive day of rest,**  
**I diligently attend the assembly of God's people**  
to learn what God's Word teaches,  
to participate in the sacraments,  
to pray to the Lord publicly,  
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.*

*Second,*

*that every day of my life  
I rest from my evil ways,  
let the Lord work in me through his Spirit,  
and so begin in this life  
the eternal Sabbath.*

**Q&A 103 What is God's will for you  
in the fourth commandment?**

*First,*

***that** the gospel ministry and schools for it be  
maintained,<sup>1</sup>  
and that, **especially on the festive day of rest,**  
**I diligently attend the assembly of God's people**<sup>2</sup>  
to learn what God's Word teaches,<sup>3</sup>  
participate in the sacraments,<sup>4</sup>  
to pray to the Lord publicly,<sup>5</sup>  
and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.<sup>6</sup>*

*Second,*

*that every day of my life  
I rest from my evil ways,  
let the Lord work in me through his Spirit,  
and so begin in this life  
the eternal Sabbath.<sup>7</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4-9, 20-25; 1 Cor. 9:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:13-17;  
Tit. 1:5

<sup>2</sup> Deut. 12:5-12; Ps. 40:9-10; 68:26; Acts 2:42-47;  
Heb. 10:23-25

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Cor. 14:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:13

<sup>4</sup> 1 Cor. 11:23-25

<sup>5</sup> Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:1

<sup>6</sup> Ps. 50:14; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9

<sup>7</sup> Isa. 66:23; Heb. 4:9-11

Lord's Day 39  
Beginner's Version

**Q&A 104 What is God's will for you  
in the fifth commandment?**

**That I show honor, love, and faithfulness to  
my father and mother  
and all those in authority over me.**

Lord's Day 39  
Intermediate Version

**Q&A 104 What is God's will for you  
in the fifth commandment?**

**That I show honor, love, and faithfulness to  
my father and mother  
and all those in authority over me;  
submit myself with proper obedience  
to all their good teaching and discipline.**

**Q&A 104 What is God's will for you  
in the fifth commandment?**

**That I show honor, love, and faithfulness to  
my father and mother  
and all those in authority over me;  
submit myself with proper obedience  
to all their good teaching and discipline;  
and also that I be patient with their failings—  
for by their hand God wills to rule us.**

**Q&A 104 What is God's will for you  
in the fifth commandment?**

**That I show honor, love, and faithfulness to  
my father and mother  
and all those in authority over me;  
submit myself with proper obedience  
to all their good teaching and discipline;<sup>1</sup>  
and also that I be patient with their failings—<sup>2</sup>  
for by their hand God wills to rule us.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 21:17; Prov. 1:8; 4:1; Rom. 13:1-2;  
Eph. 5:21-22; 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-4:1

<sup>2</sup> Prov. 20:20; 23:22; 1 Pet. 2:18

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-8; Eph. 6:1-9; Col. 3:18-21

**Q&A 105 What is God's will for you  
in the sixth commandment?**

**I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor.**

**Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to murder?**

**God  
hates the root of murder:  
envy, hatred, anger, vengeance.**

**Q&A 107 Is it enough then  
that we do not murder our neighbor  
in any such way?**

**No.**

**God wants us  
to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Q&A 105 What is God's will for you  
in the sixth commandment?**

**I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor –  
not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture,  
and certainly not by actual deeds.**

***I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.***

**Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to murder?**

**God  
hates the root of murder:  
envy, hatred, anger, vengeance.**

***In God's sight all such are disguised forms of murder.***

**Q&A 107 Is it enough then  
that we do not murder our neighbor  
in any such way?**

**No.**

**God wants us  
to love our neighbors as ourselves,**

***to protect them from harm as much as we can,*  
*and to do good even to our enemies.***

**Q&A 105 What is God's will for you  
in the sixth commandment?**

**I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor –  
not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture,  
and certainly not by actual deeds—**  
*and I am not to be party to this in others;  
rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.*

***I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.***

*Prevention of murder is also why  
government is armed with the sword.*

**Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to murder?**

**God  
hates the root of murder:  
envy, hatred, anger, vengeance.**

***In God's sight all such are disguised forms of murder.***

**Q&A 107 Is it enough then  
that we do not murder our neighbor  
in any such way?**

**No.**

**God wants us  
to love our neighbors as ourselves,  
*to be patient, peace-loving, gentle,  
merciful, and friendly toward them,*  
***to protect them from harm as much as we can,  
and to do good even to our enemies.*****

**Q&A 105 What is God's will for you  
in the sixth commandment?**

**I am not to belittle, hate, insult, or kill my neighbor –  
not by my thoughts, my words, my look or gesture,  
and certainly not by actual deeds—**  
*and I am not to be party to this in others;<sup>1</sup>  
rather, I am to put away all desire for revenge.<sup>2</sup>*

***I am not to harm or recklessly endanger myself either.<sup>3</sup>***

*Prevention of murder is also why  
government is armed with the sword.<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Gen. 9:6; Lev. 19:17-18; Matt. 5:21-22; 26:52

<sup>2</sup> Prov. 25:21-22; Matt. 18:35; Rom. 12:19; Eph. 4:26

<sup>3</sup> Matt. 4:7; 26:52; Rom. 13:11-14

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:14; Rom. 13:4

**Q&A 106 Does this commandment refer only to murder?**

By forbidding murder **God** teaches us  
that he **hates the root of murder:**  
**envy, hatred, anger, vengeance.**<sup>1</sup>

***In God's sight all such are disguised forms of murder.<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Prov. 14:30; Rom. 1:29; 12:19; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 John 2:9-11

<sup>2</sup> 1 John 3:15

**Q&A 107 Is it enough then  
that we do not murder our neighbor  
in any such way?**

**No.**

By condemning envy, hatred, and anger

**God wants us  
to love our neighbors as ourselves,<sup>1</sup>  
*to be patient, peace-loving, gentle,  
merciful, and friendly toward them,<sup>2</sup>*  
***to protect them from harm as much as we can,  
and to do good even to our enemies.<sup>3</sup>*****

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:12; 22:39; Rom. 12:10

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 5:3-12; Luke 6:36; Rom. 12:10, 18; Gal. 6:1-2;  
Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Pet. 3:8

<sup>3</sup> Ex. 23:4-5; Matt. 5:44-45; Rom. 12:20-21 (Prov. 25:21-22)

**Q&A 108 What is God's will for us  
in the seventh commandment?**

**That God condemns all unchastity.**

**Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment,  
forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?**

**We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul,  
and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.**

**Q&A 108 What is God's will for us  
in the seventh commandment?**

**That God condemns all unchastity.  
*and that we should therefore detest it wholeheartedly.***

**Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment,  
forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?**

**We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul,  
and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.  
*That is why God forbids  
all unchaste actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.***

**Q Q&A 108 What is God's will for us  
in the seventh commandment?**

**That God condemns all unchastity.**

*and that we should therefore detest it wholeheartedly  
and live decent and chaste lives,  
within or outside the holy state of marriage.*

**Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment,  
forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?**

**We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul,  
and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.**

**That is why God forbids**

*all unchaste actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.  
and whatever may incite someone to them.*

**Q&A 108 What is God's will for us  
in the seventh commandment?**

**That God condemns all unchastity.**<sup>1</sup>

*and that we should therefore detest it wholeheartedly<sup>2</sup>  
and live decent and chaste lives,<sup>3</sup>  
within or outside the holy state of marriage.*

<sup>1</sup> Lev. 18:30; Eph. 5:3-5

<sup>2</sup> Jude 22-23

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 7:1-9; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb. 13:4

**Q&A 109 Does God, in this commandment,  
forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?**

**We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul,  
and God wants both to be kept clean and holy.**

**That is why God forbids**

*all unchaste actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.<sup>1</sup>  
and whatever may incite someone to them.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 5:27-29; 1 Cor. 6:18-20; Eph. 5:3-4

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 15:33; Eph. 5:18



**Q&A 110 What does God forbid  
in the eighth commandment?**

*He forbids theft and robbery.*

*In addition he forbids all greed  
and pointless squandering of His gifts.*

**Q&A 111 What does God require of you  
in this commandment?**

*That I do whatever I can and may  
for my neighbor's good.*

**Q&A 110 What does God forbid  
in the eighth commandment?**

*He forbids not only outright theft and robbery,  
which governing authorities punish,*

*but in God's sight theft also includes  
all evil tricks and schemes  
designed to get our neighbor's goods for ourselves.*

*In addition he forbids all greed  
and pointless squandering of His gifts.*

**Q&A 111 What does God require of you  
in this commandment?**

*That I do whatever I can and may  
for my neighbor's good,*  
*that I treat others  
as I would like them to treat me.*

**Q&A 110 What does God forbid  
in the eighth commandment?**

*He forbids not only outright theft and robbery,  
which governing authorities punish,*

*but in God's sight theft also includes  
all evil tricks and schemes  
designed to get our neighbor's goods for ourselves,  
whether by force or means that appear legitimate,  
such as  
inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume;  
fraudulent merchandising;  
counterfeit money;  
excessive interest;  
or any other means forbidden by God.*

*In addition God forbids all greed  
and pointless squandering of his gifts.*

**Q&A 111 What does God require of you  
in this commandment?**

*That I do whatever I can and may  
for my neighbor's good,*  
*that I treat others  
as I would like them to treat me,  
and that I work faithfully  
so that I may help the needy in their hardship.*

**Q&A 110 What does God forbid  
in the eighth commandment?**

*He forbids not only outright theft and robbery,  
which governing authorities punish,<sup>1</sup>*

*but in God's sight theft also includes  
all evil tricks and schemes  
designed to get our neighbor's goods for ourselves,  
whether by force or means that appear legitimate,<sup>2</sup>  
such as  
inaccurate measurements of weight, size, or volume;  
fraudulent merchandising;  
counterfeit money;  
excessive interest;  
or any other means forbidden by God.<sup>3</sup>*

*In addition God forbids all greed<sup>4</sup>  
and pointless squandering of his gifts.<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ex. 22:1; 1 Cor. 5:9-10; 6:9-10

<sup>2</sup> Mic. 6:9-11; Luke 3:14; James 5:1-6

<sup>3</sup> Deut. 25:13-16; Ps. 15:5; Prov. 11:1; 12:22; Ezek. 45:9-12;  
Luke 6:35

<sup>4</sup> Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:5

<sup>5</sup> Prov. 21:20; 23:20-21; Luke 16:10-13

**Q&A 111 What does God require of you  
in this commandment?**

*That I do whatever I can and may  
for my neighbor's good,*  
*that I treat others  
as I would like them to treat me,  
and that I work faithfully  
so that I may help the needy in their hardship.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 58:5-10; Matt. 7:12; Gal. 6:9-10; Eph. 4:28

**Q&A 112 What is God's will for you  
in the ninth commandment?**

**I should avoid  
every kind of lying and deceit.**

**I should love the truth.**

**Q Q&A 112 What is God's will for you  
in the ninth commandment?**

***That I  
never give false testimony against anyone,  
twist no one's words,  
not gossip or slander.***

**I should avoid  
every kind of lying and deceit.**

**I should love the truth.**

***And I should do what I can  
to defend and advance my neighbor's  
honor and reputation.***

**Q&A 112 What is God's will for you  
in the ninth commandment?**

***That I***

*never give false testimony against anyone,  
twist no one's words,  
not gossip or slander,  
nor join in condemning anyone  
rashly or without a hearing.*

**I should avoid**  
**every kind of lying and deceit;**

*and, in court and everywhere else,*

**I should love the truth,**

*speak it candidly,  
and openly acknowledge it.*

***And I should do what I can***

***to defend and advance my neighbor's  
honor and reputation.***

**Q&A 112 What is God's will for you  
in the ninth commandment?**

***That I***

*never give false testimony against anyone,  
twist no one's words,  
not gossip or slander,  
nor join in condemning anyone  
rashly or without a hearing.<sup>1</sup>*

Rather, **I should avoid,** under penalty of God's wrath,<sup>2</sup>

**every kind of lying and deceit**  
as the very works of the devil;

*and, in court and everywhere else,*

**I should love the truth,**

*speak it candidly,  
and openly acknowledge it.<sup>3</sup>*

***And I should do what I can***

***to defend and advance my neighbor's  
honor and reputation.<sup>4</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 15; Prov. 19:5; Matt. 7:1; Luke 6:37; Rom. 1:28-32

<sup>2</sup> Lev. 19:11-12; Prov. 12:22; 13:5; John 8:44; Rev. 21:8

<sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 13:6; Eph. 4:25

<sup>4</sup> 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 4:8

**Q&A 113 What is God's will for you  
in the tenth commandment?**

**That not even the slightest desire or thought  
contrary to any one of God's commandments  
should ever arise in our hearts.**

**Q&A 114 But can those converted to God  
keep these commandments perfectly?**

**No.**

**Q&A 115 Since no one in this life  
can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly:  
why does God want them  
preached so pointedly?**

**So that  
we may                      come to know our sinful nature  
and                      seek forgiveness  
in Christ.**

**Q&A 113 What is God's will for you  
in the tenth commandment?**

**That not even the slightest desire or thought  
contrary to any one of God's commandments  
should ever arise in our hearts.**

***Rather, with all our hearts  
we should always hate sin.***

**Q&A 114 But can those converted to God  
keep these commandments perfectly?**

**No.**

***In this life even the holiest  
have only a small beginning of this obedience.***

**Q&A 115 Since no one in this life  
can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly:  
why does God want them  
preached so pointedly?**

**First, so that  
we may                      come to know our sinful nature  
and                      seek forgiveness  
in Christ.**

***Second, so that,  
we may never stop striving***

***so that we may be renewed more and more  
after God's image.***

**Q&A 113 What is God's will for you  
in the tenth commandment?**

**That not even the slightest desire or thought  
contrary to any one of God's commandments  
should ever arise in our hearts.**

***Rather, with all our hearts  
we should always hate sin  
and delight in all righteousness.***

**Q&A 114 But can those converted to God  
keep these commandments perfectly?**

**No.  
*In this life even the holiest  
have only a small beginning of this obedience.***

*Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose,  
they do begin to live  
according to all, not only some,  
of God's commandments.*

**Q&A 115 Since no one in this life  
can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly:  
why does God want them  
preached so pointedly?**

***First, so that all our life long  
we may more and more come to know our sinful nature  
and thus more eagerly seek the forgiveness of sins and  
righteousness in Christ.***

***Second, so that,  
we may never stop striving  
and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
so that we may be renewed more and more  
after God's image.***

**Q&A 113 What is God's will for you  
in the tenth commandment?**

**That not even the slightest desire or thought  
contrary to any one of God's commandments  
should ever arise in our hearts.**

***Rather, with all our hearts  
we should always hate sin  
and delight in all righteousness.<sup>1</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 19:7-14; 139:23-24; Rom. 7:7-8

**Q&A 114 But can those converted to God  
keep these commandments perfectly?**

**No.  
*In this life even the holiest  
have only a small beginning of this obedience.<sup>1</sup>***

*Nevertheless, with all seriousness of purpose,  
they do begin to live  
according to all, not only some,  
of God's commandments.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Eccles. 7:20; Rom. 7:14-15; 1 Cor. 13:9; 1 John 1:8-10

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 7:22-25; Phil. 3:12-16

**Q&A 115 Since no one in this life  
can keep the Ten Commandments perfectly:  
why does God want them  
preached so pointedly?**

***First, so that all our life long  
we may more and more come to know our sinful nature  
and thus more eagerly seek the forgiveness of sins and  
righteousness in Christ.<sup>1</sup>***

***Second, so that,  
we may never stop striving  
and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
so that we may be renewed more and more  
after God's image,  
until after this life we reach our goal:  
perfection.<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 32:5; Rom. 3:19-26; 7:7, 24-25; 1 John 1:9

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 9:24; Phil. 3:12-14; 1 John 3:1-3

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Lord's Day 45  
Beginner's Version

### Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

*Because prayer is the most important part  
of the thankfulness God requires of us.*

### Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

*We must pray from the heart  
to no other than the one true God.*

### Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

*Everything we need,  
as  
Christ our Lord himself taught us.*

### Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
    as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom  
    and the power,  
    and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Lord's Day 45  
Intermediate Version

### Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

*Because prayer is the most important part  
of the thankfulness God requires of us.*  
*And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit  
only to those who continually and with heartfelt longing,  
ask God for these gifts.*

### Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

*First, we must pray from the heart  
to no other than the one true God.*

*Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery.*

*Third,  
even though we do not deserve it,  
God will surely listen to our prayer  
because of Christ our Lord.*

### Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

*Everything we need,  
as embraced in the prayer  
Christ our Lord himself taught us.*

### Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
    as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom  
    and the power,  
    and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Lord's Day 45  
Advanced Version

### Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

*Because prayer is the most important part  
of the thankfulness God requires of us.*

*And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit  
only to those who continually and with heartfelt longing,  
ask God for these gifts  
and thank him for them.*

### Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

*First, we must pray from the heart  
to no other than the one true God.*

*asking for everything he has commanded us to ask of him.*

*Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery,  
So that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence.<sup>2</sup>*

*Third,  
even though we do not deserve it,  
God will surely listen to our prayer  
because of Christ our Lord.  
as he has promised us in his Word.*

### Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

*Everything we need, spiritually and physically,  
as embraced in the prayer  
Christ our Lord himself taught us.*

### Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Lord's Day 45  
Complete Version

### Q&A 116 Why do Christians need to pray?

*Because prayer is the most important part  
of the thankfulness God requires of us.<sup>1</sup>*

*And also because God gives his grace and Holy Spirit  
only to those who continually and with heartfelt longing,  
ask God for these gifts  
and thank him for them.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 50:14-15; 116:12-19; 1 Thess. 5:16-18

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13

### Q&A 117 How does God want us to pray so that he will listen to us?

*First, we must pray from the heart  
to no other than the one true God,*

*who has revealed himself to us in his Word,*

*asking for everything he has commanded us to ask of him.<sup>1</sup>*

*Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery,  
So that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence.<sup>2</sup>*

*Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation:  
even though we do not deserve it,  
God will surely listen to our prayer  
because of Christ our Lord,  
as he has promised us in his Word.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 145:18-20; John 4:22-24; Rom. 8:26-27; James 1:5;  
1 John 5:14-15

<sup>2</sup> 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 2:11; 34:18; 62:8; Isa. 66:2; Rev. 4

<sup>3</sup> Dan. 9:17-19; Matt. 7:8; John 14:13-14; 16:23; Rom. 10:13;  
James 1:6

### Q&A 118 What did God command us to pray for?

*Everything we need, spiritually and physically,<sup>1</sup>  
as embraced in the prayer  
Christ our Lord himself taught us.*

<sup>1</sup> James 1:17; Matt. 6:33

### Q&A 119 What is this prayer?

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom  
and the power,  
and the glory, forever.  
Amen.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4



**Q&A 120 Why has Christ commanded us  
to address God "our Father"?**

**Through Christ God has become our Father,**

**Q&A 121 Why the words  
"who is in heaven"?**

**These words teach us**

**to expect from his almighty power  
everything needed for body and soul.**

**Q&A 120 Why has Christ commanded us  
to address God "our Father"?**

**Through Christ God has become our Father,  
*and will much less refuse to give us  
what we ask in faith  
than will our parents refuse us  
the things of this life.***

**Q&A 121 Why the words  
"who is in heaven"?**

**These words teach us**

**to expect from his almighty power  
everything needed for body and soul.**

**Q&A 120 Why has Christ commanded us  
to address God "our Father"?**

*To awaken in us*

*a childlike reverence and trust  
that through Christ God has become our Father,  
and will much less refuse to give us  
what we ask in faith  
than will our parents refuse us  
the things of this life.*

**Q&A 121 Why the words  
"who is in heaven"?**

*These words teach us*  
*not to think of God's heavenly majesty  
in an earthly way,<sup>1</sup>  
and to expect from his almighty power  
everything needed for body and soul.*

**Q&A 120 Why has Christ commanded us  
to address God "our Father"?**

*To awaken in us*

*at the very beginning of our prayer  
what should be basic to our prayer –  
a childlike reverence and trust  
that through Christ God has become our Father,  
and will much less refuse to give us  
what we ask in faith  
than will our parents refuse us  
the things of this life.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13

**Q&A 121 Why the words  
"who is in heaven"?**

*These words teach us*  
*not to think of God's heavenly majesty  
in an earthly way,<sup>1</sup>  
and to expect from his almighty power  
everything needed for body and soul.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 23:23-24; Acts 17:24-25

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 6:25-34; Rom. 8:31-32

**Q&A 122 What does the first petition mean?**

**“Hallowed be your name” means:**

**Help us to truly know you,**  
**to honor, glorify, and praise you**

**Help us to direct all our living –**  
**so that your name will be**  
**always honored and praised.**

**Q&A 122 What does the first petition mean?**

**“Hallowed be your name” means:**

**Help us to truly know you,**  
**to honor, glorify, and praise you**  
**for all your works.**

***And it means,***

**Help us to direct all our living –**  
**what we think, say, and do –**  
**so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us**  
**but always honored and praised.**

**Q&A 122 What does the first petition mean?**

**“Hallowed be your name” means:**

**Help us to truly know you,**  
**to honor, glorify, and praise you**  
***for all your works***  
***and for all that shines forth from them:***  
***your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,***  
***justice, mercy, and truth.***

***And it means,***

**Help us to direct all our living –**  
***what we think, say, and do –***  
**so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us**  
**but always honored and praised.**

**Q&A 122 What does the first petition mean?**

**“Hallowed be your name” means:**

**Help us to truly know you,<sup>1</sup>**  
**to honor, glorify, and praise you**  
***for all your works***  
***and for all that shines forth from them:***  
***your almighty power, wisdom, kindness,***  
***justice, mercy, and truth.<sup>2</sup>***

***And it means,***

**Help us to direct all our living –**  
***what we think, say, and do –***  
**so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us**  
**but always honored and praised.<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Jer. 9:23-24; 31:33-34; Matt. 16:17; John 17:3

<sup>2</sup> Ex. 34:5-8; Ps. 145; Jer. 32:16-20; Luke 1:46-55, 68-75;  
Rom. 11:33-36

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 115:1; Matt. 5:16

**Q&A 123 What does the second petition mean?**

**"Your kingdom come" means:**

**Rule us by Your Word and Spirit.**

**Preserve and increase your church.**

**Destroy the devil's work.**

**Q&A 123 What does the second petition mean?**

**"Your kingdom come" means:**

**Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way  
that more and more we submit to you.**

**Preserve and increase your church.**

**Destroy the devil's work;  
*destroy every force which revolts against you  
and every conspiracy against your holy Word.***

**Q&A 123 What does the second petition mean?**

**“Your kingdom come” means:**

**Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way**  
***that more and more we submit to you.***

**Preserve and increase your church.**

**Destroy the devil's work;**  
***destroy every force which revolts against you***  
***and every conspiracy against your holy Word.***

*Do all this until your kingdom fully comes,*  
*when you will be*  
*all in all.*

**Q&A 123 What does the second petition mean?**

**“Your kingdom come” means:**

**Rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way**  
***that more and more we submit to you.***<sup>1</sup>

**Preserve and increase your church.**<sup>2</sup>

**Destroy the devil's work;**  
***destroy every force which revolts against you***  
***and every conspiracy against your holy Word.***<sup>3</sup>

*Do all this until your kingdom fully comes,*  
*when you will be*  
*all in all.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 119:5, 105; 143:10; Matt. 6:33

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 122:6-9; Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:42-47

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 16:20; 1 John 3:8

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:28; Rev. 22:17, 20

**Q&A 124 What does the third petition mean?**

**“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” means:**

**Help us and all people**

**to obey your will.**

**Q&A 124 What does the third petition mean?**

**“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” means:**

**Help us and all people**

***to renounce our own wills  
and without any back talk to obey your will,  
for it alone is good.***

**Q&A 124 What does the third petition mean?**

***“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” means:***

***Help us and all people***

*to renounce our own wills  
and without any back talk to obey your will,  
for it alone is good.*

*Help everyone carry out his office and calling  
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.*

**Q&A 124 What does the third petition mean?**

***“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” means:***

***Help us and all people***

*to renounce our own wills  
and without any back talk to obey your will,  
for it alone is good.<sup>1</sup>*

*Help everyone carry out his office and calling<sup>2</sup>  
as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1-2; Tit.2:11-12

<sup>2</sup> 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9

<sup>3</sup> Ps. 103:20-21



**Q&A 125 What does the fourth petition mean?**

**“Give us this day our daily bread” means:**

**Provide for all our physical needs**  
**so that we may recognize**  
**that you are the only source of everything good.**

**Q&A 125 What does the fourth petition mean?**

**“Give us this day our daily bread” means:**

**Provide for all our physical needs**  
**so that we may recognize**  
**that you are the only source of everything good,**  
**and that neither our care and work**  
**nor your gifts**  
**can do us any good without your blessing.**

**Q&A 125 What does the fourth petition mean?**

**“Give us this day our daily bread” means:**

**Provide for all our physical needs**

**so that we may recognize**

**that you are the only source of everything good,**  
**and that neither our care and work**  
**nor your gifts**  
**can do us any good without your blessing.**

*Therefore may we withdraw our trust from all creatures  
and place it in you alone.*

**Q&A 125 What does the fourth petition mean?**

**“Give us this day our daily bread” means:**

**Provide for all our physical needs**<sup>1</sup>

**so that we may recognize**

**that you are the only source of everything good,**<sup>2</sup>  
**and that neither our care and work**  
**nor your gifts**  
**can do us any good without your blessing.**<sup>3</sup>

*Therefore may we withdraw our trust from all creatures  
and place it in you alone.*<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 104:27-30; 145:15-16; Matt. 6:25-34

<sup>2</sup> Acts 14:17; 17:25; James 1:17

<sup>3</sup> Deut. 8:3; Ps. 37:16; 127:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58

<sup>4</sup> Ps. 55:22; 62; 146; Jer. 17:5-8; Heb. 13:5-6

**Q&A 126 What does the fifth petition mean?**

*“Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors” means:*

*Do not impute to us  
any of the transgressions we do  
or the evil that constantly clings to us.*

**Q&A 126 What does the fifth petition mean?**

*“Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors” means:*

*Because of Christ's blood,  
do not impute to us, poor sinners that we are,  
any of the transgressions we do  
or the evil that constantly clings to us.*

*Just as we are fully determined,  
to forgive our neighbors.*

**Q&A 126 What does the fifth petition mean?**

**“Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors” means:**

***Because of Christ's blood,  
do not impute to us, poor sinners that we are,  
any of the transgressions we do  
or the evil that constantly clings to us.***

***Forgive us just as we are fully determined,  
as evidence of your grace in us,  
wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbors.***

**Q&A 126 What does the fifth petition mean?**

**“Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors” means:**

***Because of Christ's blood,  
do not impute to us, poor sinners that we are,  
any of the transgressions we do  
or the evil that constantly clings to us.<sup>1</sup>***

***Forgive us just as we are fully determined,  
as evidence of your grace in us,  
wholeheartedly to forgive our neighbors.<sup>2</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 51:1-7; 143:2; Rom. 8:1; 1 John 2:1-2

<sup>2</sup> Matt. 6:14-15; 18:21-35

Q&A 127 What does the sixth petition mean?

“And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil” means:

The devil, the world, and our own flesh—  
never stop attacking us.  
And so, Lord,  
uphold us and make us strong.

Q&A 128 How do you conclude this prayer?

“For yours is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory forever.”

This means

your holy name  
should receive all the praise, forever.

Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?

“Amen” means:

God has heard my prayer.

Q&A 127 What does the sixth petition mean?

“And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil” means:

Our sworn enemies—  
the devil, the world, and our own flesh—  
never stop attacking us.  
And so, Lord,  
uphold us and make us strong  
by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Q&A 128 How do you conclude this prayer?

“For yours is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory forever.”

This means

As our all-powerful king,  
you are both willing and able  
to give us all that is good;  
and because your holy name  
should receive all the praise, forever.

Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?

“Amen” means:

This shall truly and surely be!

God has heard my prayer.

**Q&A 127 What does the sixth petition mean?**

**“And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil” means:**

*We are so weak that we cannot stand  
on our own for a moment,  
and our sworn enemies—  
the devil, the world, and our own flesh—  
never stop attacking us.*

**And so, Lord,**  
**uphold us and make us strong**  
*by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may not be defeated  
in this spiritual fight.*

**Q&A 128 How do you conclude this prayer?**

**“For yours is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory forever.”**

**This means**

*As our all-powerful king,  
you are both willing and able  
to give us all that is good;  
and because your holy name,  
and not we ourselves,  
should receive all the praise, forever.*

**Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?**

**“Amen” means:**

***This shall truly and surely be!***

*For it is much more certain  
that God has heard my prayer,  
than I feel in my heart  
that I desire such things from him.*

**Q&A 127 What does the sixth petition mean?**

**“And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil” means:**

*We are so weak that we cannot stand  
on our own for a moment,<sup>1</sup>  
and our sworn enemies—  
the devil,<sup>2</sup> the world,<sup>3</sup> and our own flesh—<sup>4</sup>  
never stop attacking us.*

**And so, Lord,**  
**uphold us and make us strong**  
*by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may not be defeated  
in this spiritual fight,<sup>5</sup>  
but may firmly resist our enemies  
until we finally win the complete victory.<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Ps. 103:14-16; John 15:1-5

<sup>2</sup> 2 Cor. 11:14; Eph. 6:10-13; 1 Pet. 5:8

<sup>3</sup> John 15:18-21

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 7:23; Gal. 5:17

<sup>5</sup> Matt. 10:19-20; 26:41; Mark 13:33; Rom. 5:3-5

<sup>6</sup> 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thess. 3:13; 5:23

**Q&A 128 How do you conclude this prayer?**

**“For yours is the kingdom  
and the power  
and the glory forever.”**

**This means**

*we have made all these petitions of you  
because, as our all-powerful king,  
you are both willing and able  
to give us all that is good;<sup>1</sup>  
and because your holy name,  
and not we ourselves,  
should receive all the praise, forever.<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 10:11-13; 2 Pet. 2:9

<sup>2</sup> Ps. 115:1; John 14:13

**Q&A 129 What does that little word "Amen" express?**

**“Amen” means:**

***This shall truly and surely be!***

*For it is much more certain  
that God has heard my prayer,  
than I feel in my heart  
that I desire such things from him.<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 65:24; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:13