

The Christian Catechism

[formerly: The Turner's Catechism]

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Definition

Catechism

1. A book giving a brief summary of the basic principles of Christianity in question-and answer form.
2. A manual giving basic instruction in a subject, usually by rote or repetition.
3. A body of fundamental principles or beliefs, especially when accepted uncritically: *"the core of the catechism of the antinuclear left, the notion that the threat to peace is technological, not political"* (George F. Will).
4. A close questioning or examination, as of a political figure.

Identification

The Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed Christian, Anglican and Scientology faiths are the most prominent religions that have written a catechism of their faiths.

Significance

The Heidelberg Catechism of Reformed Christians, the Lutheran Catechism, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its predecessor, the Baltimore Catechism, played key roles in the history of their respective faiths and are still referred to today by practitioners of these religions.

Time Frame

Components of the Catholic catechism existed as early as 1348. Martin Luther wrote the catechism of the Lutheran church in 1529.

Fun Fact

The Imperial Catechism of 1806 specifically encouraged support of and loyalty to the emperor Napoleon.

Part I. – Doctrines

[All scriptures are New King's James Version, unless otherwise noted.]

Lesson 1

Basic Doctrines

1. **Who made you?** GOD. Geneses 1:26
2. **Who is GOD?** GOD is the creator of all things. *Genesis 1-2*
3. **What is GOD?** GOD is a spirit and the architect of all that exists. HE created us, and made for a us perfect world, loves us, [Eden and has created a way for us to live with HIM forever. John 4:24; Genesis 1-2; John 3:16; Luke 23:43
4. **Where is GOD?** GOD is omnipresent (everywhere). Psalms 139:8
5. What does GOD know? GOD is omniscient (all knowing). Jeremiah 29:11
6. **What can GOD do?** Anything, since GOD is omnipotent. *Genesis 1-2*
7. **How long has GOD existed?** GOD is preexistent and eternal. HE has and will always exist.
8. **What is the character of GOD?** GOD is love. *I John 4:8*
9. Is GOD holy? Yes. Psalms 99:9; I Corinthians 3:17
10. **Is GOD merciful and just?** GOD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. Genesis 15:16
11. **Is GOD true?** GOD is truth. HE cannot lie. *Numbers 23:19*

Lesson 2

The Persons of GOD

1. **Are there more GODS than one?** HE is the GOD of truth. HE cannot lie. Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 6:4-5
2. **Are there more persons in the GODhead than one?** There are three persons in the GODhead. They are: GOD the Father, GOD the Son, and GOD the Holy Spirit.
3. **Is the Father GOD?** Yes. Genesis 1:2; 26.
4. **Is the Son GOD?** Yes. John 1:15; 8:58
5. **Is the HOLY SPIRIT, GOD?** Yes. Genesis 1:2
6. **In what name are Christians baptized?** We are to be baptized only in the name of JESUS. Acts 4:12.

Lesson 3

Creation of the World

1. **Who made the world?** GOD is the creator of all things. *Genesis 1-2*
2. **How long was GOD in making the world?** Six days. Genesis 1; Psalms 90:4; 2 Peter 3:8
3. **On what day did GOD rest?** On the seventh day. Genesis 2:1-2.
4. **What was the day called?** GOD called the light, day. Genesis 1:5.
5. **What do we call the LORD's day?** The Sabbath; for Jews is Saturday and for Christians it is Sunday. We choose Sunday, because JESUS rose on Sunday.
6. **What did GOD make on the first day?** GOD made light.
7. **What did HE call the Light?** Day

8. **What did HE call the darkness?** Night.
9. **What did HE make on the second day?** Heaven.
10. **What is the firmament?** It is a separation of the waters from the waters.
11. **What did GOD make on the third day?** HE made dry land, seas, and plants.
12. **What did GOD make on the fourth day?** HE created the sun, moon, stars, seasons and time
13. **Which was called the greater light?** The Sun.
14. **Which was called the lesser light?** The Moon and the stars.
15. **What did GOD make on the fifth day?** HE created Aquarian [sea animals] and Avian [animals that fly] animals.
16. **What did GOD make on the sixth day?** HE created animals, creeping things and mankind.

Lesson 4

The Nature of Mankind

1. **Of what did GOD make mankind?** Of the dust of the ground. Genesis 2:7
2. **How did GOD make mankind's soul?** GOD breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and mankind became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7**
3. **Was mankind[Adam] a male only?** No. Mankind was both male and female. **Genesis 1:27-28.**

4. **How does the soul and body differ?** The body is material and mortal; the soul is spiritual and immortal.
5. **Was mankind created good?** Yes *they* were.
6. **In what did the image of GOD consist?** In righteousness, holiness and obedience to the FATHER.
7. **What authority was given to mankind at the creation?** GOD gave mankind dominion over every living thing, except mankind. Genesis 1:26,28
8. **Where did GOD place our first parents?** In the Garden [of Eden].
Genesis 2:8
9. **What law was given them?** GOD gave mankind dominion over every living thing, except mankind, And to eat from every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 1:26,28; 2:17**

Lesson 5

The fall of Mankind

1. **What were they commanded to do?** GOD gave mankind dominion over every living thing, except mankind, And to eat from every tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 1:26,28; 2:17**
2. **What were they allowed to eat?** Everything except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 2:17**
3. **Did they obey this command?** No.
4. **What did they become then?** Sinners.
5. **What then happened to them?** GOD was saddened and HE judged each of them individually.

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return." **Genesis 3:16-19**

6. **For what reason were they driven from the Garden?** So that they would not eat from the tree of life and in so doing live forever.

Genesis 3:22-23

7. **Was any curse put upon them?** Yes. Genesis 3:16-19

8. **Did the curse extend any further?** Yes, even until today.

9. **How?** Women still have childbirth pain and men still have to work.

10. **What is mankind's condition now?** We were dead in our sin and in need of a SAVIOUR.

11. **Is there a WAY to get rid of sin?** Yes, to accept CHRIST as SAVIOUR. Romans 10:9-10

Lesson 6

Salvation through JESUS CHRIST

1. **For what purpose did JESUS CHRIST come from Heaven?**

It was to reconcile sinners with GOD. Ephesians 2:13-22

- 2. Are all men saved through CHRIST?** Yes, if they believe in him.
Romans 10:9-10
- 3. What did CHRIST do to save sinners?** Became a substitutionary sacrifice for all mankind, past, present and future. John 1:29, 36
- 4. How did he become a man?** The HOLY SPIRIT impregnated Mary and she gave birth as all women have. Matthew 1:18
- 5. What did CHRIST suffer for us?** The abuse of the world, and the death on the cross. Matthew 27:28-31;35
- 6. Why did CHRIST thus suffer and die?** To atone for the sin of the world. John 1:29, 36
- 7. How does HIS death atone for the sin of the world?** By satisfying the justice of GOD. Genesis 3:21; Exodus 20:24
- 8. Had CHRIST not died, what would have become of men?** They would have been forever lost. John 3:16
- 9. Did CHRIST make HIS atonement for all mankind?** Yes. For GOD so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16
- 10. What did CHRIST say about HIMSELF?** I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE. John 14:6a
- 11. What else?** No man comes to the FATHER, except by me. John 14:6b

12. **What proves CHRIST to have been man?** He hungered slept, ate, wept and thirsted. Matthew 4:2; Mark 4:38; Luke 24:42-43, John 11:35, John 19:28
13. **What proves that HE was GOD?** In HIS own name HE healed the sick, cast out devils, and raised the dead. Matthew 9:20, Mark 5:7-13, John 11:43-44
14. **What took place when CHRIST was crucified?** The earth quaked, the sun was darkened and the rocks were broken. Matthew 27:51-56.

What did the wicked then say? “Truly this man was the SON of GOD”. Matthew 27:54