

**The Faith We Confess**

**A Catechism**

Arranged by Jordan Muck

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## A NOTE ON SOURCES AND ADAPTATION

Much of the material in this catechism has been drawn from *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism*, a modern catechetical work developed under the leadership of J. I. Packer and a team of Anglican theologians and pastors. That work itself stands in continuity with the historic patterns of Christian catechesis, seeking to form disciples through careful, Scripture-saturated instruction in the core doctrines of the faith.

It is important to acknowledge that *To Be a Christian* arises from within the Anglican tradition. While I am grateful for its clarity, structure, and commitment to biblical teaching, this work is not an Anglican catechism. It has been adapted and reshaped to reflect a broader evangelical conviction, rooted in the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, and shaped by the doctrinal commitments and ecclesial context of the tradition in which I serve.

Where necessary, language, emphases, and theological framing have been modified to better align with that evangelical conviction. In some cases, material has been simplified, clarified, or restructured so that it may more directly serve the local church in its mission of making disciples who are grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and formed for faithful obedience to Him.

At the same time, I gladly recognize my indebtedness to the careful work of Packer and his colleagues. Their catechetical vision has helped recover a historic and biblical pattern of discipleship—one that joins truth to formation, doctrine to devotion, and knowledge to obedience. My hope is that this adapted work may serve the same end: not merely informing the mind, but forming the heart and shaping the life of the church in faithful love for Christ.

For the Gospel,

Jordan Muck

## PREFACE

Christians stand within the one people of God across all times and places—those redeemed by Christ and called to live under His lordship. This catechism is offered to serve the Church by clearly teaching “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3), so that believers may be grounded, growing, and steadfast in Christ.

At the center of all true doctrine is the Word of God. The Holy Scriptures are God-breathed, fully trustworthy, and sufficient for salvation and for the life of faith. As the apostle Paul writes, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16–17). Therefore, everything taught in the Church must be tested by and submitted to Scripture, which alone is the final authority for faith and practice.

Throughout the history of the Church, believers have sought to summarize and faithfully teach biblical truth. We give thanks for the witness of earlier generations—seen in faithful preaching, historic confessions, and time-tested creeds such as the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds—inasmuch as they rightly reflect the teaching of Scripture. These serve as helpful guides, not as authorities equal to God’s Word, but as testimonies to the gospel once proclaimed and preserved.

God has also used the faithful translation of the Bible into the language of the people, the writing of sound hymns rich in Scripture, and the ordinary life of the local church to form believers in truth. Across cultures and generations, the Spirit has been at work building up the Church through the clear proclamation of the gospel and the discipleship of believers.

This catechism is given in that same spirit—to help articulate biblical truth clearly, to train believers in sound doctrine, and to encourage lives of obedience flowing from the gospel. A catechism is a structured summary of biblical teaching, often

presented in a question-and-answer format, designed to instruct believers in the truth of Scripture. Its purpose is not merely to inform the mind, but to form the heart and life—grounding Christians in the gospel, clarifying sound doctrine, and equipping them to live faithfully under the lordship of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:1; Colossians 1:28). It is designed for use in relationships, where mature believers help others grow in Christ through instruction, prayer, and shared life.

Catechesis is not merely the transfer of information but the formation of disciples. Through it, believers are called to know Christ, to belong to His body, and to participate in His mission—making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18–20).

We pray that God will use this catechism to strengthen His Church, deepen understanding of the gospel, and equip believers to “rightly handle the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), for the glory of Christ and the good of His people.

## INTRODUCTION

Two thousand years ago, in the fullness of time, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ—fully God and fully man—promised in the Scriptures and revealed as the Savior of the world. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and called people into a reconciled relationship with the Father. Though sinless, He was crucified under Roman authority according to God’s redemptive plan. On the third day He rose bodily from the dead, securing victory over sin and death. He then commissioned His followers to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18–20), promising His abiding presence and empowering them by the Holy Spirit.

The message of Christ is not invented but revealed. The Old Testament prepares the way, and the New Testament records the authoritative witness of the apostles—those appointed by Christ to proclaim His gospel. Their teaching, preserved in Scripture, is the foundation of the Church’s faith in every generation (Ephesians 2:20). Christians today believe and live according to this apostolic gospel.

From the earliest days, the Church devoted itself to making disciples (Acts 2:42). New believers were instructed carefully in the truth of the gospel so that their faith would be rooted, understood, and lived out. This intentional training—often called catechesis—served to prepare individuals to publicly identify with Christ and to walk faithfully in His ways.

Over time, however, where instruction weakens, faith often becomes shallow or merely cultural. The Church in every age must return to the clear teaching of God’s Word so that believers are grounded in truth and growing in maturity (Colossians 1:28).

This catechism is offered as a tool for that purpose. It seeks to summarize the essential teachings of Scripture in a clear and faithful way, drawing on foundational biblical themes such as the gospel, the character of God, the work of Christ, the life of prayer, and the call to obedience. Its question-and-answer format is meant

to aid understanding, retention, and discussion, whether used personally or in discipleship relationships.

This resource is designed for both those exploring the Christian faith and those seeking deeper maturity in Christ. Its aim is not only clarity of belief but transformation of life—what Scripture describes as new birth and ongoing sanctification (John 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3).

We offer this catechism with prayer that God will use it to bring people to saving faith in Christ and to establish believers in steadfast, fruitful discipleship, for the building up of His Church and the glory of His name.

## CONCERNING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Each question and answer in this catechism is accompanied by selected Scripture references drawn from both the Old and New Testaments. These passages are intended to anchor every teaching in the authority and sufficiency of God’s Word, which alone is the final standard for faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16–17).

The references are intentionally drawn from across the whole canon of Scripture—Law, Prophets, Psalms, Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles—to reflect the unified testimony of the Bible. They are not provided as isolated “proof texts,” but as invitations to read, reflect on, and interpret Scripture in context.

Alongside direct commands and clear doctrinal statements, these passages often include redemptive patterns, promises, and narratives that point forward to Christ and are fulfilled in Him. In this way, Scripture is read as one unified story centered on Jesus Christ, who is the fulfillment of God’s promises and the focus of all biblical revelation (Luke 24:27, 44).

The goal is not only to show that a doctrine can be supported by Scripture, but to form readers in a way of seeing the whole Bible as God’s living Word—faithfully revealing Christ, shaping His people, and calling them into obedient faith.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Part I: CHRIST**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This catechism is intended to help you understand what it means to belong to Jesus Christ. It sets forth the essential truths of the Christian faith and life, drawn from Scripture, so that you may come to know God truly and live in faithful response to Him.

At its heart, Christianity is not merely information but a relationship with the living God through His Son. Jesus Christ makes the Father known and brings sinners into fellowship with Him by grace. As you work through this catechism, the aim is that you would be led to see the beauty of Christ, trust Him more deeply, and grow in the joy of knowing God—both now and forever (John 17:3).

But understanding truth is not the same as belonging to Christ. One may become familiar with Christian teaching and yet remain unchanged. To know the love of God personally, you must come to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith, entrusting yourself to Him as Savior and Lord, and joining His people, the Church, as His disciple.

This opening section is meant to help you take that step if you have not yet done so.

Becoming a Christian is not cultural inheritance or intellectual agreement—it is a personal turning to Christ. Scripture often describes this as new birth and a life of ongoing discipleship. It is a decisive commitment that reshapes the whole direction of life, much like entering into a covenant relationship.

To follow Christ, then, you must come to know who He is and what He has done: that He is the eternal Son of God who became man, lived in perfect obedience, died for our sins, and rose again for our salvation. This is the gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

## THE GOSPEL

God created the world and made humanity to live in joyful fellowship with Him. Though creation was originally good, humanity fell into sin through disobedience, and every person now lives under its brokenness. Scripture describes this condition as sin—real moral guilt before a holy God—and spiritual separation from Him.

The good news of the gospel is that God has acted in mercy to rescue us through Jesus Christ. The Father sent His eternal Son into the world to reconcile sinners to Himself, to restore what was lost, and to bring us into new life with Him. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died in our place for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead. Through His death and resurrection, He accomplishes salvation and restores sinners to God.

Exalted at the right hand of the Father, Jesus Christ now reigns as Lord over all creation. He is advancing God’s kingdom and gathering a people for Himself from every nation. In His appointed time, He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead and to renew all things in the fullness of His kingdom.

Jesus continues His saving work by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit opens blind hearts, calling sinners to repentance and faith. Repentance is a turning away from sin; faith is trusting in Christ alone for salvation and life. The way of sin leads to death, but union with Christ brings true and eternal life.

### **Turning to Christ**

Turning to Christ brings a person into reconciled fellowship with God. Baptism, given by Christ to His Church, is the public sign of entering this new life of faith. As Peter proclaimed, “Repent and be baptized... for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

Through repentance, faith, and baptism, believers are united to Christ, adopted as children of God, and brought into His Church. Jesus Himself said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit then dwells within believers, giving new life, opening the Scriptures, and empowering obedience.

To follow Christ is to submit to Him fully as Lord, as Thomas confessed, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Christian faith is not partial assent but a whole-life surrender to Jesus Christ in trust and obedience.

A fitting response to this gospel is a prayer of repentance and faith, including confession of sin, gratitude for Christ’s atonement, surrender to His lordship, and dependence on the Holy Spirit for new life and ongoing transformation.

### **Next Steps**

To belong to Christ is also to belong to His people, the Church. The Christian life is never meant to be lived in isolation. Those coming to faith should:

- Share their decision with mature believers and church leadership for prayer and encouragement.
- Join a faithful local church and participate in its life and teaching.
- Seek baptism if they have not been baptized.
- Confess sin and renew faith if they have been drifting from Christ.
- Commit to worship, Scripture, prayer, and fellowship for ongoing growth.

Faith in Christ is a serious and life-shaping decision that should be approached with sincerity and humility. Those still seeking are encouraged to pray for God’s light and guidance, trusting that He hears those who earnestly seek Him.

The following sections will now present these truths more clearly in a question-and-answer format for instruction and discipleship.

# SALVATION

## 1. What is the human condition?

Humanity was created good and made for fellowship with God, yet through the rebellion of Adam and Eve, sin entered the world and fractured that relationship (Genesis 3:1–13). Scripture describes this condition as universal and inwardly rooted: all humanity stands guilty before God and unable to live righteously on its own (Psalm 14:1–3; Romans 3:9–23). Jesus also teaches that defilement comes from within the human heart (Matthew 15:10–20). As a result, all people live in a state of sin—cut off from God, marked by shame, guilt, and spiritual death.

## 2. What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the good news that God has acted in love to rescue sinners through Jesus Christ. God does not abandon humanity in its sin but reveals His saving purpose in Christ (John 3:16–17). Jesus bears our griefs and sins through His atoning death (Isaiah 53:4–5), and His resurrection is the center of the saving message (1 Corinthians 15:1–5). This is the announcement that God forgives, reconciles, and restores through Christ alone.

## 3. How does sin affect you?

Sin alienates us from God and corrupts every dimension of life. It breaks fellowship with God and distorts our relationships with others and creation (Genesis 3:14–19). Scripture describes this condition as spiritual ruin and separation (Isaiah 59:1–2). We are enslaved to sin and its consequences, living under its power and unable to free ourselves (Romans 6:20–23; Psalm 38; Isaiah 53:6).

## 4. What is the way of death?

The way of death is life apart from God's rule and presence. It is a path that appears right but ultimately leads to destruction (Proverbs 14:12). Scripture describes it as bondage to sin and rebellion against God's design (John 8:34). It leads to judgment

and separation from God (Genesis 2:16–17; Deuteronomy 28:15–19; Romans 1:24–25).

### **5. Can you save yourself from the way of sin and death?**

No. Humanity is spiritually unable to rescue itself because sin has corrupted the mind, will, and heart. Scripture teaches that salvation must come from God alone (Psalm 33:13–19; Isaiah 43:11–13). New life requires divine action from above (John 3:1–8). It is by grace, not human effort (Ephesians 2:1–9).

### **6. How does God save you?**

God saves by grace through the person and work of Jesus Christ. He forgives sin and brings reconciliation through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection (John 3:16). Jesus bears judgment on behalf of sinners so that God's righteousness is revealed and sinners are justified (Romans 3:23–26). This saving work is also foretold in Scripture as cleansing and redemption (Psalm 34; Zechariah 12:10–13:2).

### **7. Why does God save you?**

God saves out of His love and for His glory. He rescues sinners so that they might live in restored relationship with Him and reflect His character (Romans 5:8–10). Salvation is meant to lead to worship and obedience (Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5–9). Through Christ, believers are reconciled and made new for God's purposes (2 Corinthians 5:18–21; Ephesians 1:3–14; John 3:17).

### **8. Who is Jesus Christ?**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who became fully human for our salvation. He is the promised Savior lifted up for healing and life (John 3:13–15; Numbers 21:4–9). He is exalted Lord, fully divine and fully human, who humbled Himself in obedience to the cross (Philippians 2:5–11). He reigns over all creation as the image and fullness of God (Colossians 1:15–20; Psalm 110).

## **9. Is there any other way of salvation?**

No. Scripture is clear that salvation is found in Christ alone. Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:5–6). There is no other name by which we are saved (Acts 4:12). He alone is the appointed mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5–6; Psalm 2; Isaiah 42:1–4).

## **10. How should you respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

The proper response is repentance and faith. Scripture calls us to turn to God while there is still time (Isaiah 55:6–7). Those who hear the Gospel are invited to respond immediately in faith and obedience (Acts 2:37–39). Today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2; Psalm 32).

## **11. What does it mean for you to repent?**

To repent is to turn from sin and return to God with a changed heart. It involves sorrow over sin and a new direction of life (Psalm 51:16–17). It is a turning toward life under God's rule (Acts 3:19–21). It is ultimately a work of grace in the heart (1 John 2:1–2; Isaiah 57:15–19).

## **12. What does it mean for you to have faith?**

To have faith is to trust in the truth of the Gospel and personally rely on Jesus Christ. It means believing God's promise and resting in His salvation (Romans 10:9–10). Faith is described as confident trust in God's Word and character (Hebrews 11:1, 6). It involves full dependence on Him (Proverbs 3:5–8; John 1:9–13; Psalm 40:1–10).

## **13. How can you repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ?**

By God's grace, repentance and faith involve turning from sin and receiving Christ by trusting His promise of salvation. Scripture shows this response as calling on the Lord for mercy and receiving His gift of life (Romans 10:11–13). It is often

accompanied by prayer and surrender (Acts 16:30–34). God Himself enables this response (Psalm 86:1–7; Hebrews 12:1–2; Joel 2:32).

#### **14. What should you do as the sign of your repentance and faith?**

Those who believe are called to be baptized as a sign of union with Christ and inclusion in His people. Baptism represents cleansing and new life in Christ (Matthew 28:19–20). It symbolizes participation in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:3–5). It is also entry into the body of Christ, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Ezekiel 36:25–27).

#### **15. What does God grant in your new life in Christ?**

In Christ, God grants reconciliation, forgiveness, union with Christ, adoption, citizenship in His kingdom, the Holy Spirit, and eternal life (2 Corinthians 5:17–19; Colossians 1:13–14; Romans 6:3–5; Galatians 4:4–7; Ephesians 2:19–21; Titus 3:4–5; John 3:16; 1 John 5:12). Salvation is a full re-creation of life in God.

#### **16. What does God desire to accomplish in your life in Christ?**

God desires to free His people from sin and transform them into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This transformation is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in believers (Romans 6:5–11). It is a progressive shaping into Christ's image (2 Corinthians 3:12–18). God reveals Himself and forms His people through this sanctifying work (Exodus 34:29–35; Psalm 27:4; Matthew 17:1–9).

#### **17. By what means will God transform you into the image of Jesus Christ?**

God transforms His people through the ordinary means of grace within the life of the Church. The early church devoted themselves to Scripture, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42–47). This pattern continues as believers are shaped through God's Word and gathered worship (Psalm 1;

Hebrews 10:23–25). Formation happens as God’s people live under His Word and remain in His presence (Deuteronomy 6:1–9; 2 Chronicles 7:1–3).

A Prayer for God’s Love: Almighty God, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life: Pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love by your Holy Spirit, that we may delight in the inheritance that is ours as your sons and daughters, and live to your praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **Part II: BELIEVE**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED AND FAITH**

All true Christianity is apostolic—founded on the historic, eyewitness testimony of those appointed by Christ. The apostles bore witness to the real events of Jesus Christ’s life, death, resurrection, ascension, present reign, and promised return. These events fulfill the promises God made in the Old Testament and reveal the arrival of His kingdom—the saving reign of God.

We know these truths through Holy Scripture. The Bible—Old and New Testaments—is the written Word of God, fully trustworthy and sufficient. It not only records these saving acts but also explains their meaning, showing how all of God’s promises find their fulfillment in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

From the earliest centuries, the Church summarized this apostolic teaching to instruct believers clearly. These summaries, often called the “rule of faith,” were drawn directly from Scripture and eventually expressed in what is known as the Apostles’ Creed. This creed does not add to Scripture but faithfully gathers its central teachings into a concise confession of faith.

The Apostles’ Creed has long been used by the Church, especially in connection with baptism, as a clear declaration of what Christians believe. It is simple, memorable, and comprehensive, and it stands alongside other historic creeds as a faithful witness to biblical truth.

At its core, the Creed organizes the gospel around the triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It begins with God the Father as Creator, centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ as Redeemer, and concludes with the Holy Spirit’s work in applying salvation and forming the Church. In this way, it reflects the full scope of God’s saving work revealed in Scripture.

For this reason, learning and confessing the truths summarized in the Apostles' Creed is a foundational part of discipleship. It helps believers hold fast to sound doctrine, guards against error, and anchors faith in the unchanging truth of God's Word.

The Creed serves, then, as a faithful summary of the gospel—a guide for belief, a safeguard for truth, and a tool for forming steady, Christ-centered lives.

### **18. What is a creed?**

A creed is a concise statement of faith that summarizes essential biblical truth. The word *creed* comes from the Latin *credo*, meaning “I believe.” (Deuteronomy 11:18–23; John 20:24–29; 1 John 5:9–12)

### **19. What is the purpose of the creeds?**

The creeds serve to clearly confess and faithfully preserve the core truths of the gospel as revealed in Scripture, so that the Church may hold fast to sound doctrine in every generation. (Psalm 145:4–13; John 20:30–31; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; Hebrews 2:1–4)

### **20. What does belief in the creeds signify?**

Belief in the creeds expresses a wholehearted trust in the truth God has revealed and a commitment to live in obedience to it. To deny these truths is to depart from the teaching of Scripture. (Matthew 16:13–20; 2 Timothy 3:14–15; James 2:14–26)

### **21. Which creeds are received by the Church?**

The Church has long recognized the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed as faithful summaries of biblical doctrine.

### **22. Why do you receive and believe these creeds?**

I receive and believe these creeds because they are grounded in Scripture and faithfully summarize its teaching about God, salvation, and the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Philippians 2:5–11)

### **23. Why should you know these creeds?**

I should know these creeds because they clearly express the essential truths of the Christian faith and help guard my understanding of the gospel. (Deuteronomy 11:18–19; 2 Timothy 1:13–14)

### **24. What is the Apostles' Creed?**

The Apostles' Creed is a historic summary of the Christian faith:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## CONCERNING SCRIPTURE

### **25. What is Scripture?**

Scripture is the written Word of God, given by the Holy Spirit through human authors, revealing who God is and what He has done in history for our salvation. It is the final and sufficient authority for all matters of faith and life. (Psalm 19:7–11; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19–21)

### **26. What books are contained in Scripture?**

Scripture consists of the sixty-six books of the Bible: thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament.

### **27. What is in the Old Testament?**

The Old Testament reveals God as Creator, humanity's fall into sin, and God's covenant dealings with His people. It includes the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, all of which point forward to Christ and God's plan to redeem His people. (Luke 24:44; Hebrews 11)

### **28. What is in the New Testament?**

The New Testament proclaims the person and work of Jesus Christ—His life, death, resurrection, and reign—and records the teaching of the apostles, the life of the early Church, and the promise of His return. (Acts 1:1–11; Philippians 2:5–11)

### **29. How are the Old and New Testaments related?**

The Old Testament prepares for and points to Christ, and the New Testament reveals Him as the fulfillment. Together they form one unified revelation centered on Jesus Christ and His saving work. (Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:27)

### **30. What does it mean that Scripture is inspired?**

It means that Scripture is “God-breathed.” The human authors wrote under the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that what they wrote is truly God’s Word. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

### **31. What does it mean that Scripture is the Word of God?**

Because Scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is God’s true and trustworthy Word written. Through it, God speaks clearly and authoritatively to His people. (1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 1:1–2)

### **32. Why is Jesus Christ called the Word of God?**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and the fullest revelation of God. He is called the Word because He perfectly reveals God’s nature and will, and all Scripture ultimately points to Him. (John 1:1, 14; Colossians 1:15–19)

### **33. How should Scripture be understood?**

Scripture should be read in its context, according to its plain meaning, and in light of its unified message centered on Christ. It is to be faithfully taught, rightly interpreted, and humbly obeyed. (Nehemiah 8:8; 2 Timothy 2:15)

### **34. How does the Holy Spirit use Scripture in your life?**

Through Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches, convicts, corrects, and trains me in righteousness, shaping me into the likeness of Christ and equipping me for faithful living. (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:12)

### **35. What are the Apocrypha?**

The Apocrypha are ancient writings from the period between the Old and New Testaments. They may be read for historical background, but they are not part of Scripture and are not authoritative for establishing doctrine.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED, ARTICLE I

### “I BELIEVE IN GOD”

#### **36. Who is God?**

God is one true and living God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine of the Trinity. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

#### **37. What does Scripture teach about God’s character?**

God is perfectly holy, righteous, and just, and abounding in steadfast love and mercy. In Jesus Christ, God’s holiness and love are most fully revealed. (Exodus 34:6–7; John 1:14; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 1:3)

### “THE FATHER ALMIGHTY”

#### **38. Who is God the Father?**

God the Father is the first Person of the Trinity, the source of all things, who eternally relates to the Son and the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6)

#### **39. Why do you call Him “Father”?**

Because Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, revealed God as Father and teaches His people to know Him this way. Through Christ, believers are adopted as God’s children. (Matthew 6:9; John 1:12; Galatians 4:4–7)

#### **40. What do you mean by calling God “Father”?**

I confess that God created me for Himself, cares for me as Provider, and receives me as His child through Christ. (Psalm 103:13; Matthew 6:25–33; Romans 8:15–17)

#### **41. Why do you call Him “Almighty”?**

Because God has all power, rules over all things, and accomplishes all His purposes. He is all-knowing and present everywhere. (Isaiah 40:25–28; Daniel 4:35; Revelation 4:11)

## **“CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH”**

### **42. Why do you call God “Creator”?**

Because He made all things and sustains them by His power. (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16–17; Acts 17:24–25)

### **43. How does this shape your view of creation?**

All things exist for God’s glory. Human beings are made in His image and called to steward creation faithfully. (Genesis 1:26–28; Psalm 8:3–8)

### **44. What does it mean that God created heaven and earth?**

It means God created everything—visible and invisible—out of nothing by His Word. (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3)

### **45. Was creation originally good?**

Yes. God created all things good, but sin has corrupted the world. (Genesis 1:31; Romans 8:20–22)

### **46. Why do we now sin?**

Because humanity fell in Adam’s rebellion, and we all share in a fallen nature and personally sin against God. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23; 5:12)

### **47. What are the consequences of sin?**

Sin results in spiritual death, separation from God, and rightful judgment for those apart from Christ. (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1–3; John 3:36)

## **A Prayer for the Father's Grace**

Gracious Father, I come to You through Jesus Christ. Thank You for creating me, sustaining me, and calling me to Yourself. By Your Spirit, teach me to trust You as my Father, to live for Your glory, and to rest in Your sovereign care. Through Christ my Lord, Amen.

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED, ARTICLE II**

### **“I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST”**

#### **48. Who is Jesus Christ?**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, who became fully human to be our Savior, Redeemer, and the only Mediator between God and man. (John 1:1–14; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; Philippians 2:5–11)

#### **49. What does “Jesus” mean?**

“Jesus” means “The Lord saves.” In Him, God has come to rescue us from sin and death. (Matthew 1:21; Romans 8:1–2)

#### **50. What does “Christ” mean?**

“Christ” means “Anointed One.” Jesus fulfills the roles of Prophet, Priest, and King, perfectly accomplishing God’s saving purposes. (Luke 4:18–21; Hebrews 4:14–15)

### **“HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD”**

#### **51. Why is Jesus called God’s only Son?**

Because He alone is the eternal Son, fully God, who reveals the Father and rules over all things. (John 1:14–18; Colossians 1:15–17)

#### **52. What does it mean to call Him “Lord”?**

It means Jesus has rightful authority over all creation and over my life, and I am called to trust and obey Him fully. (Romans 10:9; Colossians 1:18)

## **“CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY”**

### **53. What does it mean that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit?**

It means Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, not by a human father, in the womb of the virgin Mary, according to God’s promise. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–20; Luke 1:26–35)

### **54. What happened at Jesus’ conception?**

At His conception, the eternal Son of God took on a true human nature from Mary. From that moment, He was fully God and fully man in one Person. (John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:6–8; Colossians 2:9)

### **55. Why is it important that Jesus was born?**

It shows that He is truly human—born into our world, sharing our nature—so that He might represent us and save us. (Luke 2:7; Hebrews 2:17)

### **56. Was Mary the only biological parent of Jesus?**

Yes. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary by the work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was His earthly guardian, who faithfully raised Him. (Matthew 1:18–25)

### **57. What is the relationship between Jesus’ divine and human natures?**

Jesus Christ is one Person with two natures—fully God and fully man—united without confusion or division. He is without sin and

perfectly reveals both God to us and humanity before God. (John 1:14; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 4:2)

### **58. What does this union teach about His ministry?**

Because Jesus is both God and man, His words and works accomplish salvation. As man He represents us; as God He has the power to save. (John 5:19–23; Colossians 1:19–20; Hebrews 4:14–16)

## **“HE SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE”**

### **59. Why did Jesus suffer?**

Jesus suffered as the substitute for sinners, bearing the penalty for our sin so that we might be forgiven and reconciled to God. His suffering fulfilled God’s redemptive plan and brought us peace through His sacrifice. (Isaiah 53:5–6; John 1:29; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3)

### **60. In what ways did Jesus suffer?**

Jesus experienced the full reality of human suffering—physical pain, temptation, rejection, and sorrow—yet without sin. On the cross, He uniquely endured God’s judgment against sin in our place. (Psalm 22; Matthew 27:26–50; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:24)

### **61. How do Jesus’ sufferings help you?**

Because Jesus truly suffered, He understands our weakness and is able to help us. His suffering not only saves us but also strengthens us to endure with hope, knowing He is present with us and working for our good. (Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 Peter 2:21; Romans 8:17–18)

### **62. Why does the Creed say that Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate?**

To affirm that Jesus' suffering and death were real historical events, taking place at a specific time under a known ruler, according to God's sovereign plan. (Luke 3:1–2; Acts 4:27–28)

**“WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED”  
“HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD”**

**63. What happened at Jesus' crucifixion?**

Jesus was condemned and crucified outside Jerusalem. He was beaten, mocked, and nailed to a cross, suffering the death of a criminal, though He was without sin. This injustice occurred according to God's sovereign plan of redemption. (Isaiah 53:3–8; Matthew 27:26–50)

**64. What did Jesus accomplish on the Cross?**

On the cross, Jesus offered Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin. He bore our guilt, satisfied God's justice, defeated the powers of sin and death, and revealed the depth of God's love. (Isaiah 53:5–6; Colossians 2:13–15; Hebrews 10:10–14)

**65. What does Jesus' death mean for you?**

Jesus died in my place, bearing the penalty my sin deserves, so that I might be forgiven, reconciled to God, and given new life in Him. (Romans 5:8–10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24)

**66. Why does the Creed emphasize that Jesus died?**

To affirm that Jesus truly experienced physical death, as all humanity does, confirming the reality of His sacrifice for sin. (John 19:30–35; Luke 23:46)

**67. Why is this emphasis important?**

It guards against misunderstanding that Jesus only appeared to die, and it highlights that His real death is essential to the reality

of our salvation and the certainty of His resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:3–4; John 19:33–34)

### **68. What does it mean that Jesus “descended to the dead”?**

It means that Jesus truly died and entered the realm of the dead, fully experiencing death on our behalf, yet without corruption or defeat. (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:31; Ephesians 4:9–10)

### **“ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN”**

### **69. What does it mean that Jesus rose from the dead?**

It means that God raised Jesus bodily from death to life. His resurrection was not a return to ordinary life, but the beginning of His glorified, imperishable life. The tomb was empty, and Jesus appeared alive to many witnesses. (Luke 24:1–7; John 20:1–18; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8)

### **70. What was Jesus’ life like after His resurrection?**

For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples, taught them about the kingdom of God, showed them His wounds, and even ate with them, proving He was truly alive in the body. (Luke 24:36–43; Acts 1:1–3; John 20:19–29)

### **“HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN”**

### **71. How should you understand Jesus’ ascension into heaven?**

Jesus ascended bodily into heaven, where He was exalted in glory at the right hand of the Father. In His human nature He reigns as Lord, interceding for His people and preparing a place for them. Though He is no longer present physically on earth, He is truly present with His Church by the Holy Spirit and remains attentive to His people’s prayers. (Acts 1:9–11; Ephesians 1:20–23; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; Matthew 28:20)

### **72. What resulted from the ascension?**

From His ascended glory, Christ poured out the Holy Spirit upon His Church. By the Spirit, believers are united to Christ, empowered for witness, and formed together as His body in the world. (Acts 2:32–33; John 14:16–18; Ephesians 4:7–13)

**“AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE  
FATHER”**

**73. What does it mean that Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father?**

It means Jesus reigns in the place of highest honor and authority with the Father. From heaven, He rules over all creation, governs His Church, and exercises His kingly authority until all things are brought under His lordship and God’s purposes are fully accomplished. (Psalm 110:1; Ephesians 1:20–23; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22)

**74. What does Jesus do for you at the Father’s right hand?**

Jesus continually intercedes for His people as our great High Priest. Because of His ongoing advocacy, I may draw near to God with confidence, bringing Him prayer, confession, and thanksgiving through Christ. (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:24–25)

**75. What does Jesus’ heavenly ministry mean for your life today?**

It means I am never without His care or presence. Jesus reigns over all things for the good of His people, and by His Spirit He is with me, strengthening me to obey Him and persevere in faith. (Matthew 28:20; John 14:16–18; Colossians 3:1–4)

**“HE WILL COME AGAIN TO JUDGE  
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD”**

**76. What does it mean that “He will come again”?**

It means Jesus will return visibly, in glory and power, to bring history to its appointed end. He will judge the world in righteousness, fully establish His kingdom, and renew creation. God will make all things new, and His people will dwell with Him forever. (Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:30–31; 2 Peter 3:10–13; Revelation 21:1–4)

### **77. Can we know when Jesus will return?**

No. The timing of Christ's return is known only to the Father. Therefore, believers are called to readiness at all times, living in faithful expectation. (Matthew 24:36–44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3)

### **78. How should you live in anticipation of Christ's return?**

With joyful expectation and steady faithfulness—pursuing holiness, remaining alert, and sharing the gospel with others until He comes. (Titus 2:11–14; Matthew 25:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:4–8)

### **79. How should you understand Christ's future judgment?**

All people will stand before Jesus Christ as Judge. Those united to Him by faith will enter eternal life, and those who reject Him will face eternal judgment apart from God. (Matthew 25:31–46; John 5:28–29; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

### **80. Should you fear God's judgment?**

Those outside of Christ should rightly fear God's judgment. But those who are in Christ need not fear condemnation, because Jesus Himself is their Savior, Advocate, and Redeemer. (Romans 8:1; Hebrews 9:27–28; John 5:24)

### **81. What does it mean to fear God?**

It means living with reverent awe—honoring God's holiness, submitting to His Word, and turning away from sin in humble obedience. (Proverbs 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13; 1 Peter 1:17)

## **82. How do you live in the fear of God?**

By the help of the Holy Spirit, I examine my life in light of Scripture, pursue repentance where needed, and walk in obedience to God’s Word. (Psalm 139:23–24; Romans 12:1–2; Hebrews 4:12)

## **83. How does the Church exercise spiritual discipline?**

Christ has entrusted His Church with the ministry of the gospel, including calling believers to repentance, offering forgiveness in Christ, and, when necessary, practicing loving correction to restore those in unrepentant sin. (Matthew 18:15–17; John 20:23; Galatians 6:1)

## **A Prayer for the Son’s Saving Work**

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Son of God, thank You for humbling Yourself to save sinners. Strengthen my faith to trust You, submit to Your lordship, and live for Your glory. By Your Spirit, help me follow You faithfully until the day You return. Amen.

## **THE APOSTLES CREED, ARTICLE III**

### **“I Believe in the Holy Spirit”**

#### **84. Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the one God, eternally existing with the Father and the Son in perfect unity. He is fully God—coequal, coeternal, and worthy of the same honor, love, and worship. (Genesis 1:2; Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

#### **85. What names does Scripture give to the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter, Helper, Counselor, and Advocate—One who comes alongside God’s people. He is also

called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Spirit of truth. (John 14:16–17, 26; Romans 8:9; Matthew 10:20)

### **86. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit gives life, reveals God’s truth, and applies the work of Christ to sinners. He brings new birth, convicts of sin, unites believers to Christ, and produces holiness, gifts, and fruit in the Church. (John 16:7–11; Titus 3:5; Galatians 5:22–23; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7)

### **87. How does the Holy Spirit strengthen believers?**

The Spirit assures believers they belong to God, helps them pray, leads them into truth, and empowers them for obedience, endurance, and faithful witness. (Romans 8:15–16, 26–27; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 3:16)

### **88. How do you receive the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is given through the gospel—by grace, through faith in Christ. In repentance and trust in Jesus, believers are forgiven and made new by the Spirit’s indwelling presence. (Acts 2:38; John 3:5–6; Ephesians 1:13–14; Titus 3:5–6)

### **89. What is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?**

The fruit of the Spirit is the transforming character of Christ formed in believers: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22–23)

### **90. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit gives diverse gifts to believers—such as teaching, serving, encouragement, leadership, mercy, wisdom, prophecy, and other gifts—as He wills for the good of the Church. (1 Corinthians 12:4–11; Romans 12:6–8; Ephesians 4:11–12)

## **91. Why does the Holy Spirit give these gifts?**

The Spirit gives gifts to build up the Church, strengthen believers, and advance the mission of Christ in the world. (Ephesians 4:12–16; 1 Peter 4:10–11)

### **A Prayer for the Holy Spirit’s Work**

Holy Spirit, given by the Father through the Son, dwell in me and renew my heart. Shape me into the likeness of Christ, strengthen me for obedience, and equip me to serve Your Church. Bear Your fruit in my life and use Your gifts for the glory of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **“THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH”**

## **92. What is the Church?**

The Church is the people of God—those called out by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, united to Him and to one another. It includes all true believers, both those on earth and those who have died in Christ and now dwell with Him. On earth, the Church gathers for worship, Word, and Sacrament, and is sent into the world for witness and service. (Exodus 19:4–6; Matthew 28:18–20; Ephesians 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:9–10)

## **93. How does Scripture describe the Church?**

Scripture speaks of the Church as God’s family, the body of Christ, and the dwelling place of God by the Spirit. These images show both belonging and identity, and also purpose and holiness. (Matthew 12:49–50; 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 2:19–22)

## **94. Why is the Church called the Body of Christ?**

The Church is the Body of Christ because all believers are united to Him as Head and receive life from Him. As one body, believers

are also joined to one another for love, care, and service. (Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 1:22–23)

### **95. What are the marks of the Church?**

The Church is confessed as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic—describing its unity in Christ, its consecration to God, its continuity in the whole truth of the gospel, and its mission sent from Christ. (Ephesians 4:4–6; Acts 2:42)

### **96. In what sense is the Church “one”?**

The Church is one because it shares one Lord, one gospel, one Spirit, and one baptism. Though expressed in many places and cultures, it is one body in Christ and is called to live in unity. (Ephesians 4:4–6; John 17:20–23)

### **97. Why is the Church called “holy”?**

The Church is holy because it belongs to God and is made holy through Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit. Believers are set apart to live in obedience and growing likeness to Christ. (1 Peter 1:15–16; 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; Ephesians 5:25–27)

### **98. Why is the Church called “catholic”?**

The Church is catholic because it holds the whole faith once delivered to the saints, for all people in all places and generations. It is not limited by ethnicity, culture, or time. (Jude 3; Revelation 7:9; Ephesians 2:14–18)

### **99. Why is the Church called “apostolic”?**

The Church is apostolic because it is founded on the teaching of the apostles of Christ and continues their mission in proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of all nations. (Ephesians 2:19–20; Acts 2:42; Matthew 28:18–20)

## **Prayer for the Church**

Father, by Your grace You have called a people to Yourself in Christ. Make us faithful in truth, united in love, holy in life, and steadfast in mission. Strengthen Your Church by Your Spirit until Christ returns in glory. Amen.

## **“THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS”**

### **100. Who are the saints?**

The saints are all who belong to Jesus Christ—those on earth and those in heaven—who have been set apart by God through faith in Christ and made holy by His grace. (1 Peter 2:9–10; Hebrews 12:22–24; Revelation 7:9–14)

### **101. What does “communion” mean?**

Communion refers to shared life and unity. In Scripture it describes the fellowship believers have with God through Christ and with one another by the Holy Spirit. (John 17:20–23; 1 John 1:3; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

### **102. What is the communion of the saints?**

The communion of the saints is the spiritual union of all believers in Christ, both living and departed, who are joined together in one body through one Lord and one Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19–22; Hebrews 12:1–2)

### **103. How do you participate in the communion of the saints?**

I participate by trusting Christ, worshiping with God’s people, sharing in prayer and fellowship, bearing one another’s burdens, and living in love and unity with the Church. (Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:24–25; Galatians 6:2)

### **104. How are the Church on earth and in heaven united in worship?**

In Christ, the Church on earth joins with the Church in heaven in the worship of God. This unity is especially expressed as God's people gather around Christ in Word and sacrament, anticipating the full heavenly worship to come. (Hebrews 12:22–24; Revelation 5:9–13)

## **“THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS”**

### **105. What are sins?**

Sins are thoughts, desires, actions, or neglects that fall short of God's holy will and arise from a heart turned away from Him. (Romans 3:23; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4)

### **106. How does God respond to human sin?**

God is holy and rightly judges sin, yet in His mercy He provides salvation through Jesus Christ for all who repent and believe. (Romans 5:8–10; Ephesians 2:4–5; 1 John 1:9)

### **107. How does God forgive your sins?**

God forgives sins through the finished work of Jesus Christ. By His death and resurrection, Christ secures pardon for all who turn to Him in faith and repentance. (Colossians 1:13–14; 1 John 2:1–2; Romans 8:1)

### **108. How should you respond to God's forgiveness?**

I should respond with gratitude, worship, and obedience. Having been forgiven, I am also called to forgive others as I have been forgiven in Christ. (Ephesians 4:32; Matthew 6:12; Colossians 3:12–13)

### **109. What is grace?**

Grace is God's undeserved favor—His free gift of mercy, love, and help given to those who do not deserve it. (Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 5:15–17; Titus 3:4–5)

### **110. For what purpose does God give grace?**

God gives grace to forgive sin, restore relationship with Him, transform the believer, and form Christlike holiness in His people. (Titus 2:11–14; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 6:4)

### **111. Can you earn God’s grace?**

No. Grace is never earned. It is received by faith as a gift through Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave Himself for us. (Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8–10; 1 John 4:19)

### **112. Is God’s grace only for spiritual matters?**

No. God’s grace in Christ redeems the whole life—heart, mind, relationships, work, and witness—so that all of life is lived before Him. (Colossians 3:17; Matthew 6:33; Titus 2:11–12)

### **113. Does God give grace only to Christians?**

God shows common grace to all people in His care for creation, but saving grace is given through faith in Jesus Christ alone. (Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17; John 1:16–17)

### **Prayer for the Communion of Saints**

Father, thank You for uniting me to Your people in Christ. Teach me to live in love, humility, and unity with the Church on earth, and to rejoice in the hope of joining the worship of heaven. Keep me faithful by Your grace until the day I see Christ face to face. Amen.

## **“THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY”**

### **114. What does Scripture teach about your body?**

Scripture teaches that the body is created by God and bears His image, giving it real dignity and worth. Though now affected by sin, it is still part of God’s good creation and is to be treated with

honor and care. (Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 139:13–16; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20)

### **115. Why will you die?**

Death entered the world through sin, and all humanity now experiences physical death. Yet for those in Christ, death is not the end; the soul is with the Lord, and the body awaits resurrection at Christ’s return. (Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22; Philippians 1:23)

### **116. What is the resurrection of the body?**

The resurrection of the body is the future act of God in which all the dead will be raised when Jesus Christ returns. The righteous will be raised to eternal life, and the wicked to judgment. (John 5:28–29; Daniel 12:2; Acts 24:15; Revelation 20:12–13)

### **117. What will the resurrected bodies of believers be like?**

Believers will receive glorified, incorruptible bodies, transformed into the likeness of the risen Christ—fully restored, perfected, and fit for eternal life with God. (1 Corinthians 15:42–44, 51–53; Philippians 3:20–21)

### **118. How should you live while awaiting the resurrection?**

Because my body belongs to the Lord and will be raised by Him, I should honor God with my body, avoid sin that defiles it, and treat the bodies of others with dignity and care. (Romans 6:12–13; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5)

## **“AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING”**

### **119. What is eternal life?**

Eternal life is unending fellowship with God the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit, shared with all the redeemed and

expressed in joyful worship in the renewed creation. (John 17:3; Revelation 21:3–4; Revelation 22:1–5)

### **120. How should you live in light of eternal life?**

I should live with hope and perseverance, setting my heart on Christ and the life to come, enduring present trials with confidence that God will complete His work and bring me into eternal joy. (2 Corinthians 4:16–18; Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Peter 1:3–9)

### **Prayer for the Resurrection Hope**

Father, thank You that my body belongs to You and that death is not the end for those in Christ. Strengthen me to honor You in body and spirit, and keep my eyes fixed on the resurrection and the life everlasting through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **SACRAMENTS**

### **121. What is a sacrament?**

A sacrament is a visible sign and seal given by Christ, through which God communicates His grace to believers. It is an outward act joined to God's promise, received by faith. (Genesis 17:10–11; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Romans 4:11)

### **122. How should you receive the sacraments?**

The sacraments are to be received in faith, with repentance, reverence, and thanksgiving. Without faith they are not beneficial, but with faith they strengthen and nourish the believer in Christ. (Acts 2:38–42; 1 Corinthians 11:27–29; Hebrews 11:6)

### **123. What sacraments did Christ ordain?**

Christ ordained two sacraments for His Church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are outward signs of the gospel and means

of grace given to His people. (Matthew 28:19–20; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

#### **124. Are there other sacred rites in the Church?**

Yes. The Church has also received practices such as ordination, marriage, absolution, and the anointing of the sick, all of which are used as means through which God ministers grace. (2 Timothy 1:6–7; James 5:14–16; John 20:22–23; Ephesians 5:31–32)

#### **125. How do these differ from Baptism and the Lord's Supper?**

Baptism and the Lord's Supper were directly instituted by Christ as signs for all believers. The other rites arise from apostolic practice and the life of the Church and serve as important means of grace, though not commanded by Christ as universal sacraments. (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Acts 2:42)

#### **Prayer for Receiving God's Means of Grace**

Father, thank You for giving visible signs of Your invisible grace. Give me faith to receive Your gifts rightly, repentance where I need cleansing, and joy in Christ who meets me through His appointed means. Strengthen me by Your Spirit to walk faithfully in Your covenant grace. Amen.

### **BAPTISM**

#### **126. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?**

The outward and visible sign is water, in which a person is baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This act marks entry into the covenant people of God. (Matthew 28:19–20; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38)

#### **127. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?**

The inward and spiritual grace is union with Christ in His death and resurrection—death to sin and new life in righteousness. In Baptism, God promises forgiveness, new birth by the Spirit, adoption into His family, and incorporation into the body of Christ. (Romans 6:3–5; Titus 3:5–6; Colossians 2:12–13; John 3:5–6)

### **128. What is required of you when you come to Baptism?**

Repentance and faith are required. I must turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, receiving God’s promises with humility and obedience. (Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9–10)

### **129. Why is it not appropriate to baptize infants?**

Because Baptism in the New Testament is consistently connected with repentance and personal faith in Jesus Christ. Those who come to Christ are called to repent and believe the Gospel before receiving baptism as their public, visible confession of that faith. Baptism follows conversion as a sign of union with Christ and incorporation into his Church. Therefore, those who profess faith are baptized upon repentance and belief, and the Church then disciples their children in the faith as they grow toward their own personal confession of Christ. (Mark 1:14–15; Acts 2:38–41; Acts 8:36–38; Acts 16:31–34; Colossians 2:11–12)

### **130. What should you expect from the Holy Spirit after Baptism?**

I should expect the Holy Spirit to continue forming me in Christ—leading me to repentance, faithfulness in worship, love for the Church, obedience to God’s Word, and active witness in the world. (Galatians 5:16–25; Acts 2:42; Romans 8:13–14; Matthew 5:16)

### **Prayer for Baptismal Life**

Father, thank You for uniting me to Christ through the waters of grace. By Your Spirit, keep me faithful to my baptism—dead to

sin and alive to righteousness. Make me a faithful member of Your Church, walking in repentance, faith, and obedience all my days. Amen.

## COMMUNION

### **131. Why did Christ institute the sacrament of Communion?**

He instituted it for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his atoning death, and to convey the benefits of that sacrifice to us as we partake by faith. (Exodus 24:1–10; Luke 22:17–20; John 6:25–51; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17)

### **132. What is the outward and visible sign in Communion?**

The outward and visible sign is bread and wine, given and received according to Christ's command. (1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

### **133. What is the inward gift signified in Communion?**

The inward gift is the true participation in the Body and Blood of Christ, received by faith, by which believers are spiritually nourished and united to him. (John 6:52–56; 1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 16–18)

### **134. What benefits do you receive through Holy Communion?**

As the body is strengthened by bread and wine, so the soul is strengthened by Christ through faith. In this sacrament, believers receive assurance of forgiveness, deeper communion with Christ, and renewed unity with his Church. (Jeremiah 31:31–34; John 6:52–56; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–26)

### **135. What is required of you when you come to receive Communion?**

I am to examine myself, repenting of sin, trusting in Christ's mercy, remembering his death with gratitude, and walking in love

and forgiveness toward others. (1 Corinthians 11:27–32; Psalm 139:23–24; Matthew 5:23–24)

### **136. What is expected of you after partaking in Communion?**

I should live in continual thankfulness, grow in holiness, resist sin, and serve others in love as one united to Christ and his people. (Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 10:14–17; 1 Peter 4:1–11)

## **PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH**

### **137. What is a Public Profession of Faith?**

A Public Profession of Faith is when a believer, after a season of instruction in the Scriptures, openly confesses personal faith in Jesus Christ. In this act, the believer affirms the truth of the gospel, declares Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and publicly identifies with his Church. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Romans 10:9–10; Acts 2:41–42; Acts 8:36–38; 2 Timothy 3:14–17)

### **138. What grace does God give you in a Public Profession of Faith?**

God strengthens believers by the Holy Spirit for continued growth in Christlikeness, granting wisdom, courage, perseverance, and humility so they may walk faithfully with Christ in every area of life. (Isaiah 11:2–5; Psalm 71:17–18; Ephesians 3:16–19; Jude 20–21; Galatians 5:22–25)

### **139. What is the work of all Christians?**

All Christians are called to follow Jesus Christ in faithful obedience, to love God and neighbor, to bear witness to the gospel in word and life, to care for the poor and vulnerable, and to serve others through the gifts God has given for the building up of the church and the good of the world. (Micah 6:6–8; Matthew 28:18–20; Matthew 5:13–16; James 1:27; Colossians 3:12–17; 1 Peter 4:8–11)

## ORDINATION

### **140. What is ordination?**

Ordination is the public setting apart of qualified men through prayer and the laying on of hands by recognized church leaders, in accordance with Scripture, to serve Christ and his Church in a specific ministry role. It is both a recognition of God's calling and a commissioning for Spirit-empowered service. (Acts 6:1–7; Acts 13:1–3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9)

### **141. What grace does God give in ordination?**

In ordination, God equips those called with spiritual gifts and strengthening by the Holy Spirit for the work he assigns. This grace enables faithfulness in teaching, shepherding, and serving the Church. (2 Timothy 1:6–7; Ephesians 4:7–13; 1 Peter 4:10–11; Numbers 27:18–23)

### **142. What are the recognized ministry roles in the Church?**

Scripture gives the Church elders (also called overseers or pastors) and deacons as structured, servant-leadership roles for the building up of the body of Christ. (1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; Acts 6:1–7; 1 Peter 5:1–4)

### **143. What is the work of elders (pastors/overseers)?**

Elders are called to shepherd God's people through teaching sound doctrine, guarding the faith, praying for the church, providing spiritual oversight, and equipping believers for ministry. (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1–3; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:7–9; Ephesians 4:11–13)

### **144. What is the work of deacons?**

Deacons are called to serve the practical and mercy needs of the church, supporting unity, caring for the vulnerable, and assisting the ministry of the Word so that the church's mission may

flourish. (Acts 6:1–7; 1 Timothy 3:8–13; Romans 12:7–8; Philippians 1:1)

#### **145. What is the goal of all church leadership?**

All leadership in the Church exists to glorify Christ by equipping the saints for maturity, guarding the truth of the Gospel, and building up the body in love. (Ephesians 4:11–16; Colossians 1:28; 1 Peter 5:2–4)

### **MARRIAGE**

#### **146. What is Christian marriage?**

Christian marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, established by God, in which they are joined together in faithful, self-giving love. It is designed by God for companionship, mutual help, the blessing and nurture of children where possible, and the reflection of Christ’s faithful love for his people. Husband and wife enter this covenant by making vows before God and witnesses. (Genesis 2:18–25; Matthew 19:3–9; John 2:1–11; Ephesians 5:31–33; Hebrews 13:4)

#### **147. What is signified in marriage?**

Marriage signifies the covenant love between Christ and his Church. The union of husband and wife reflects the unity, faithfulness, and sacrificial love of Christ for his people. While not all are called to marriage, all believers belong to Christ and share in union with him as members of his body. (Ephesians 5:22–33; Revelation 19:6–9; Isaiah 54:5–8; 1 Corinthians 7:7–9)

#### **148. What grace does God give in marriage?**

In marriage, God gives his blessing to husband and wife as they live in covenant faithfulness, strengthening them to grow in love, patience, and holiness. He uses marriage to form Christlike character, to provide mutual care and support, and to display his covenant love to the world.

(Genesis 2:18–25; Psalm 128; Proverbs 18:22; Ephesians 5:25–28; 1 Corinthians 13:4–7)

## **ABSOLUTION**

### **149. What is absolution?**

Absolution is the declaration of God’s forgiveness given to those who repent and confess their sins. God alone forgives sin through Jesus Christ, and this forgiveness is announced and assured through His Word. (Psalm 32:1–5; Isaiah 1:18; John 20:22–23; 1 John 1:9)

### **150. What grace does God give in absolution?**

In forgiveness, God pardons sin through the finished work of Christ on the Cross, removes guilt, restores fellowship with Himself, and grants peace and assurance to the repentant believer. (Psalm 103:8–12; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:13–14; 1 John 1:7–9)

### **151. What is necessary to receive the grace of absolution?**

Repentance and faith are required. Repentance turns from sin and submits to God, and faith trusts fully in Jesus Christ for forgiveness and new life. (Isaiah 55:6–7; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19; Luke 18:13–14; 2 Corinthians 7:10)

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

### **152. What is the anointing of the sick?**

The anointing of the sick is prayer offered for those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, often accompanied by the laying on of hands and anointing with oil, seeking God’s mercy, healing, and sustaining grace. (Mark 6:13; James 5:14–16; Psalm 103:2–4; Matthew 8:14–17)

### **153. What grace does God give in the anointing of the sick?**

God gives His presence, comfort, strength, and healing according to His will. He may restore physical health, but always grants sustaining grace, peace, and hope in Christ—even in suffering and death. (2 Corinthians 12:7–10; Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:6–7; Psalm 23:4; Romans 8:26–28)

#### **Prayer for the Church**

O God, unchanging in power and eternal in light, look with mercy upon Your Church, the people You have redeemed in Christ. By Your sovereign and faithful work, accomplish Your purposes in the world in peace and steadfastness.

Make visible Your saving power so that all nations may see: what is broken is being restored, what is dead is being made alive, and what is old is being renewed through Jesus Christ, Your Son.

Bring all things to their intended fullness through Him, who is the beginning and the end, the One through whom all things were made.

To You be glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## **Part III: BELONG**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER AND CHRISTIAN LIFE**

The gospel is God's gracious invitation to know Him through Jesus Christ, to be reconciled as His children, and to be transformed into His likeness. God calls His people not only to believe in Him, but to walk with Him. At the center of that relationship is prayer—our God-given means of responding to His Word, depending on His grace, and communing with Him.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray, most clearly in the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4). This prayer anchors our understanding of God as Father, shapes our desires around His will, and fixes our hope on His coming kingdom. It trains us to live as His people in the present, while longing for the fullness of what is to come.

The Lord's Prayer also provides a pattern for all prayer. It teaches us to praise God for who He is, to seek His purposes, to depend on Him for daily needs, to confess our sins, and to ask for protection from temptation and evil. A faithful life of prayer will include each of these, shaped by Scripture and grounded in the gospel.

Prayer is not limited to certain moments but is meant to permeate all of life. As we grow in Christ, we learn to bring every burden, decision, and joy before Him. In this way, we begin to live out the call to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), walking in continual dependence on God.

#### **A Prayer for Spiritual Direction and Protection**

Heavenly Father, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts find rest in You alone. Direct our desires according to Your will, guard us from the schemes of the enemy, and teach us to seek You in all things. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CONCERNING PRAYER

### **154. What is prayer?**

Prayer is turning my heart toward God to speak with Him and to listen to His Word, trusting Him as my Father. (Psalm 84:1–2; Psalm 123:1–2; Matthew 7:7–11; John 17:1–3)

### **155. What should you seek in prayer?**

In prayer, I should seek not only God’s provision, but God Himself—growing in fellowship with Him who made me and redeemed me. (Psalm 27:4; Psalm 42:1–2; John 14:21–23; 1 John 1:3)

### **156. How can you have fellowship with God?**

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and by the Holy Spirit, I am brought into fellowship with God as His child. I grow in this through His Word, prayer, worship, and life with His people. (John 15:4–7; Acts 2:42; Romans 8:14–17; 1 John 1:3–7)

### **157. Why should you pray?**

I should pray because God commands it, invites me into fellowship with Him, and promises to hear and answer according to His will. (Psalm 50:15; Matthew 7:7–11; Luke 18:1; Romans 8:26–27; 1 John 5:14)

### **158. What should you pray?**

I should pray according to God’s Word—using the Lord’s Prayer as a guide, the Psalms as language, and my own words shaped by Scripture and led by the Spirit. (Psalm 62:8; Matthew 6:9–13; Romans 8:26–27; Colossians 3:16)

### **159. When should you pray?**

I should pray regularly each day, with God's people, and in every circumstance, learning to live in continual dependence on Him. (Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Hebrews 4:16)

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **160. What is the prayer our Lord Jesus taught His disciples?**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.  
Amen.  
(Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4)

### **161. Why should you learn the Lord's Prayer?**

Because Jesus gave it to teach His disciples how to pray to the Father. (Matthew 6:5–8; Luke 11:1)

### **162. Why should you practice the Lord's Prayer?**

Because it forms my desires according to God's will and teaches me to pray as Jesus commands. (Matthew 6:9–13; 1 John 5:14–15)

### **163. How is the Lord’s Prayer a pattern for prayer?**

It teaches me to praise God, seek His kingdom, depend on Him daily, confess my sins, and ask for His protection. (Psalm 150; Matthew 6:9–13; Philippians 4:6–7)

### **164. What are the parts of the Lord’s Prayer?**

It begins by addressing God as Father, includes petitions for His glory and our needs, and ends with praise and trust in His kingdom and power.

### **“Our Father in heaven”**

### **165. Why do we call God “Father”?**

We call God “Father” because Jesus teaches that all who trust in Him are adopted into God’s family and may relate to Him with confidence and love. (Matthew 6:9; John 1:12–13; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:4–7)

### **166. Who are God’s children?**

All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are born again by the Spirit and adopted as children of God. (John 1:12–13; John 3:3–6; Romans 8:14–17; 1 John 3:1)

### **167. Why does Jesus teach us to pray “our” Father?**

Jesus teaches us to pray “our” Father to remind us that we belong to God’s family together and are to pray with love and concern for one another. (Ephesians 2:18–22; Romans 12:4–5; 1 Peter 2:9–10)

### **168. How is God like earthly fathers?**

God cares for His children with compassion, provides for their needs, teaches them truth, and lovingly disciplines them. (Psalm 103:13; Matthew 7:9–11; Hebrews 12:5–7)

### **169. How is God unlike earthly fathers?**

God is a perfect Father—holy, all-wise, and unfailing. His love is without sin, His judgments are always right, and His care never fails. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 145:8–9; Matthew 5:48; Hebrews 12:9–11)

### **170. What does it mean that God is “in heaven”?**

It means that God reigns in glory and authority over all things, yet is not distant, but present everywhere and attentive to His people. (1 Kings 8:27; Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 6:9; Acts 17:24–28)

### **171. How does your Father in heaven help you on earth?**

Because God is sovereign and near, He hears my prayers, provides for my needs, guides my life, and sustains me in every circumstance. (Psalm 23; Matthew 6:25–34; Romans 8:28; James 1:5)

## **The First Petition: “Hallowed be Your name”**

### **172. What is the first petition?**

The first petition is “Hallowed be Your name.” (Matthew 6:9)

### **173. What is God’s Name?**

God’s Name reveals who He is—His character, holiness, authority, and glory. In Scripture, God makes Himself known as the eternal and self-existent One. (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 99:3; Isaiah 42:8; John 8:58)

### **174. How is God revealed in Scripture?**

God is revealed as the one true God and as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, making Himself known fully in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; John 1:18; Hebrews 1:1–3)

### **175. What does “hallowed” mean?**

To “hallow” means to regard as holy—to honor, revere, and set apart God’s Name above all. (Leviticus 22:31–32; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 3:15)

### **176. How is God’s Name hallowed?**

God’s Name is holy in itself and is displayed as holy through His saving work, His righteous acts, and the spread of His glory in the world. (Ezekiel 36:22–23; Psalm 111:9; John 12:28)

### **177. How do you hallow God’s Name?**

I hallow God’s Name by worshiping Him rightly, trusting His Word, and living in obedience so that His holiness is honored in my life. (Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 13:15–16)

## **The Second Petition: “Your kingdom come”**

### **178. What is the second petition?**

The second petition is “Your kingdom come.” (Matthew 6:10)

### **179. What is God’s kingdom?**

God’s kingdom is His sovereign rule over all things, revealed in Jesus Christ and experienced wherever people submit to Him as Lord. (Psalm 103:19; Mark 1:14–15; Colossians 1:13–14)

### **180. What are you asking when you pray for God’s kingdom to come?**

I am asking that God would rule in hearts now through the gospel and bring His kingdom in fullness when Christ returns. (Romans 8:19–23; Philippians 2:9–11; Revelation 11:15)

### **181. How does God’s kingdom come?**

God’s kingdom comes through the preaching of the gospel, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the growth of the Church, and it will be completed when Jesus returns. (Matthew 24:14; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 15:24–28)

### **182. How do you live in God’s kingdom?**

I live under Christ’s rule by obeying His Word, seeking His righteousness, and bearing witness to Him as I wait for His return. (Matthew 6:33; Romans 14:17; 1 Peter 2:9–12)

**The Third Petition:  
“Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”**

### **183. What is the third petition?**

The third petition is “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

### **184. What is God’s will?**

God’s will is His righteous and saving purpose—to redeem sinners through Jesus Christ and to bring all things under His rule. He reveals His will in Scripture and perfectly in His Son. (John 6:39–40; Romans 12:1–2; Ephesians 1:9–10; 2 Timothy 3:16–17)

### **185. What do you pray for in this petition?**

I pray that God would rule over sin and evil, advance His gospel, strengthen His Church, and accomplish His purposes in the world. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 6:10–18; 1 Timothy 2:1–4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)

### **186. How can you do God’s will?**

I do God’s will by loving Him and others, obeying His Word, and faithfully participating in His mission. (Micah 6:8; Matthew 22:37–40; Matthew 28:19–20; James 1:22)

### **187. Why do you pray, “on earth as it is in heaven”?**

Because God’s will is perfectly obeyed in heaven, I pray that His rule would be increasingly seen on earth until it is fully accomplished when Christ returns. (Psalm 103:20–21; Ephesians 1:10; Revelation 21:1–4)

### **The Fourth Petition: “Give us this day our daily bread”**

### **188. What is the fourth petition?**

The fourth petition is “Give us this day our daily bread.” (Matthew 6:11)

### **189. What do you pray for here?**

Having sought God’s glory and will, I now pray for my needs and the needs of others—for provision, forgiveness, and protection. (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 7:7–11)

### **190. What does “daily bread” mean?**

“Daily bread” includes all I need for life and godliness—both physical provision and spiritual nourishment. (Deuteronomy 8:3; Proverbs 30:8–9; John 6:35; Philippians 4:19)

### **191. Why should you pray for daily bread?**

God teaches me to depend on Him each day, to care for others, to be content, and to give thanks for His provision. (Matthew 6:25–34; 1 Timothy 6:6–8; James 1:17)

## **192. Why does God give you daily bread?**

Because He is a faithful Father who provides, sustains, and cares for His creation, and who uses even daily provision to grow my trust in Him. (Psalm 104:27–28; Matthew 7:9–11; Acts 17:24–25)

### **The Fifth Petition: “and forgive us our trespasses”**

## **193. What is the fifth petition?**

The fifth petition is “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

## **194. What are trespasses?**

Trespasses are sins—thoughts, words, or actions that violate God’s holy will and fall short of his righteousness. (Isaiah 53:6; 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23)

## **195. Do you sin against God’s Law?**

Yes. All people, myself included, sin daily in thought, word, and deed, both by what we do and by what we fail to do. (Psalm 14:2–3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:9–12, 23; 1 John 1:8–10)

## **196. What is God’s forgiveness?**

God’s forgiveness is his merciful act of pardoning sin through Jesus Christ—removing guilt, restoring relationship, and declaring the repentant righteous in him. (Psalm 32:1–5; Isaiah 1:18; Jeremiah 31:33–34; Colossians 2:13–14; 1 John 1:9)

## **197. On what basis do you ask forgiveness?**

I ask forgiveness on the basis of Jesus Christ’s atoning death and resurrection. Through faith in him, God credits me with Christ’s righteousness and cleanses me from sin. (Isaiah 53:5–6; Romans 5:8–9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:11–14)

## **198. Does God forgive your sins?**

Yes. God freely forgives all who repent and trust in Jesus Christ. His mercy is complete and his grace is sufficient for every sin. (Psalm 103:10–12; Micah 7:18–19; Acts 10:43; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:17–18)

**“as we forgive those who trespass against us”**

## **199. Why should you forgive others?**

I should forgive others because God in Christ has forgiven me. Refusing to forgive contradicts the grace I have received and hardens my heart. (Matthew 18:21–35; Ephesians 4:31–32; Colossians 3:12–13; Luke 23:34)

## **200. How do you forgive others?**

Forgiveness is a settled response of obedience to God in which I release personal vengeance, refuse bitterness, and seek the good of those who have sinned against me. (Romans 12:17–21; Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27–28; Ephesians 4:31–32)

## **201. Will your forgiveness of others always result in reconciliation?**

No. Forgiveness is commanded regardless of the other person’s response. Reconciliation requires repentance and may not always be possible, but forgiveness is always required. (Romans 12:18; Matthew 18:15–17; Luke 17:3–4)

**The Sixth Petition: “and lead us not into temptation”**

## **202. What is the sixth petition?**

The sixth petition is “And lead us not into temptation.” (Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4)

## **203. What is temptation?**

Temptation is any enticement or pressure that draws me away from trusting God and toward disobedience to his Word. (James 1:14–15; 1 John 2:16)

#### **204. What are the sources of temptation?**

Temptation comes from the world's false promises, the desires of the flesh, and the schemes of the devil, all working against God's will. (Genesis 3:1–6; Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 7:20–23; 1 John 2:15–17)

#### **205. What help do you seek from God in the face of temptation?**

I ask God to strengthen my faith, sharpen my awareness of sin, deepen my love for Christ, and empower me by his Spirit to resist evil and obey his Word. (Psalm 119:9–11; Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7–8)

#### **206. Does God lead you into temptation?**

No. God does not tempt anyone to sin. Yet he may permit testing in order to refine faith and produce endurance and maturity. (Genesis 22:1–14; Job 1:8–12; James 1:13–15; 1 Peter 1:6–7)

#### **207. What are ways to guard against temptation?**

I guard against temptation by staying rooted in God's Word, praying for strength, confessing sin quickly, avoiding situations that weaken me spiritually, and walking closely with other believers. (Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:1–11; Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 10:12–14; Ephesians 6:13–18)

#### **208. How can the Church help you to resist temptation?**

Through the life of Christ's body, I receive encouragement, correction, accountability, prayer, and wisdom that help me persevere in holiness and resist sin. (Matthew 18:15–17; Galatians 6:1–2; Hebrews 10:24–25; James 5:16)

## **The Seventh Petition: “but deliver us from evil”**

### **209. What is the seventh petition?**

The seventh petition is “But deliver us from evil.” (Matthew 6:13)

### **210. What is evil?**

Evil is rebellion against God and the distortion of his good will. It is expressed in sin, corruption, injustice, and anything that opposes God’s holiness and truth. (Genesis 3:1–19; Isaiah 5:20; Mark 7:21–23; Romans 1:21–25; 1 John 3:4)

### **211. If God is good, why does he permit evil?**

God permits evil within his sovereign wisdom, even though he is not its author. Humanity freely fell into sin, and creation is now marked by its consequences. Yet God is able to restrain evil and redeem it for his purposes, bringing ultimate good through Christ. (Genesis 50:20; Job 1:8–12; Psalm 37:7–13; Romans 8:20–28; Revelation 21:1–5)

### **212. Is God responsible for evil?**

No. God is perfectly holy and cannot be tempted by evil. Sin arises from the fallen will of creatures, not from God. (Deuteronomy 32:4; Habakkuk 1:13; James 1:13–15; 1 John 1:5)

### **213. Did evil exist before humanity sinned?**

Yes. Scripture teaches that Satan had already rebelled against God before the fall of humanity and later tempted Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:1–6; John 8:44; Revelation 12:9)

### **214. What are Satan and his demons?**

Satan and his demons are fallen spiritual beings who oppose God’s purposes. They deceive, accuse, and seek to destroy, but they are limited and ultimately subject to God’s authority. (Job

1:6–12; Luke 8:27–33; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Ephesians 6:12)

### **215. How did Satan and his angels fall into evil?**

They fell through pride and rebellion against God, choosing self-exaltation over obedience. (Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–17; 1 Timothy 3:6; Jude 6)

### **216. What are angels?**

Angels are created spiritual beings who worship and serve God. They carry out his will, proclaim his messages, and minister to his people. (Psalm 103:20–21; Daniel 6:22; Luke 1:26–38; Hebrews 1:14)

### **217. How does God overcome evil in this world?**

God has decisively defeated evil through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and will ultimately destroy it at his return. (Colossians 2:13–15; Hebrews 2:14–15; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 20:10–14)

### **218. How does God redeem evil?**

Though evil brings real suffering, God is sovereign over all things and works through suffering to accomplish his good purposes, shaping his people and advancing his redemptive plan. (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 12:10–11)

### **219. From what evil do you seek to be delivered?**

I seek deliverance from sin within me, from the schemes of the devil, from temptation and suffering, from injustice and oppression, and ultimately from eternal judgment apart from Christ. (Psalm 91; Matthew 6:13; Luke 22:31–32; Romans 7:24–25; 2 Thessalonians 3:3)

### **220. How does God deliver you from evil?**

God delivers me through Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death. By the Holy Spirit, he strengthens me to resist evil, persevere in trials, and walk in holiness until final victory is complete. (Psalm 23; John 17:15–17; Romans 6:6–14; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7)

### **The Doxology and “Amen”**

#### **221. What is the doxology of the Lord’s Prayer?**

The doxology is the concluding praise often added to the Lord’s Prayer: “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.” A doxology is a brief expression of praise that ascribes glory to God. (Matthew 6:13; Ephesians 3:20–21; 1 Timothy 1:17)

#### **222. What does “kingdom, power, and glory” mean?**

These words confess that all authority belongs to God, his sovereign power rules over all things, and all glory rightly belongs to him alone. They echo the whole prayer by returning praise to the God who hears and answers. (1 Chronicles 29:11–13; Revelation 5:11–14; Psalm 115:1)

#### **223. Why do you end the Lord’s Prayer by saying “Amen”?**

“Amen” means “so be it” or “truly.” By saying it, I express trust in God’s faithfulness, agreement with the prayer, and confidence that he hears and will answer according to his will. (Deuteronomy 27:15–26; Nehemiah 8:6; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Revelation 19:4)

### **A RULE OF PRAYER**

#### **224. What is a “rule” of prayer?**

A rule of prayer is a regular pattern or discipline that orders my life of prayer so that I grow in communion with God and learn to pray faithfully over time. (Psalm 5:1–3; Psalm 119:164; Daniel 6:10; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16)

## **225. What can hinder your regular prayers?**

Prayer can be hindered by sin, distraction, spiritual dryness, fatigue, suffering, or misplaced priorities. Yet God sustains his people and restores them to prayer by his grace. (Psalm 42:1–5; 1 Kings 19:4–8; Matthew 26:40–41; Romans 8:26–27)

## **226. What nurtures a fruitful life of prayer?**

A fruitful life of prayer is shaped by Scripture, personal communion with God, and the gathered worship of the church. These together train the heart to abide in Christ. (Psalm 1; John 15:4–7; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24–25)

### **SCRIPTURE**

## **227. How should the Holy Scriptures shape your daily life?**

I should receive, read, study, memorize, and meditate on Scripture so that God’s Word shapes my mind, strengthens my faith, and directs my life in Christ. (Psalm 119:9–16; Joshua 1:8; James 1:22–25; 2 Timothy 3:16–17)

## **228. How should you “hear” the Bible?**

I should hear Scripture through the public reading and preaching of God’s Word in the gathered worship of the church. (Nehemiah 8:1–8; Luke 4:16–21; Romans 10:14–17; 1 Timothy 4:13)

## **229. How should you “read” the Bible?**

I should read Scripture regularly and consistently, giving attention to its whole counsel and story. (Deuteronomy 17:18–20; Psalm 119:97–105; Acts 17:11)

## **230. How should you “mark” passages of Scripture?**

I should carefully observe Scripture, paying attention to meaning, themes, and connections across the whole Bible, seeking

understanding with humility and discernment. (Luke 24:27; Acts 17:2–3; 2 Timothy 2:15)

### **231. How should you “learn” the Bible?**

I should grow in knowledge of the whole Bible and commit key passages to memory so that God’s Word dwells richly in me. (Psalm 119:11; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:14–17)

### **232. How should you “inwardly digest” Scripture?**

I should meditate on Scripture so that it shapes my desires, renews my mind, and produces obedience in daily life. (Psalm 1:2–3; Joshua 1:8; Romans 12:1–2; Colossians 3:16–17)

## **PRAYER**

### **233. Are there different ways to pray?**

Yes. Prayer may be spoken or silent, private or corporate, spontaneous or structured, but all true prayer is offered to God through faith in Christ. (Psalm 62:8; Matthew 6:6; Acts 1:14; Ephesians 6:18)

### **234. What types of prayer are in the Lord’s Prayer?**

The Lord’s Prayer teaches praise, petition, confession, and intercession. (Matthew 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4)

### **235. What is praise?**

Praise is adoring God for who he is and what he has done, giving glory to his name. (Psalm 145; Luke 1:46–55; Ephesians 1:3–6)

### **236. What is petition?**

Petition is asking God for my own needs, trusting him as Father to provide. (Matthew 7:7–11; Philippians 4:6)

### **237. What is intercession?**

Intercession is praying to God on behalf of others, the church, and the world. (1 Timothy 2:1–4; Ephesians 6:18)

### **238. What is confession?**

Confession is acknowledging my sin before God with repentance and turning to his mercy in Christ. (Psalm 51:1–4; 1 John 1:9)

### **239. What types of prayer are not included in the Lord’s Prayer?**

The Lord’s Prayer does not explicitly include thanksgiving or offering, though Scripture elsewhere calls us to give thanks continually and offer ourselves to God. (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18; Romans 12:1)

### **240. With what attitude should you pray?**

I should pray with humility, faith, repentance, and a willing heart to submit to God’s will. (Psalm 51:17; Matthew 6:5–8; Philippians 4:6–7)

### **241. What prayers should you learn as a part of your rule of prayer?**

I should learn the Lord’s Prayer, key Psalms, and faithful prayers of Scripture and the church so that they shape and guide my own prayers. (Psalm 23; Psalm 51; Psalm 95; Ephesians 5:19–20)

### **242. What should you remember when prayers seem to go unanswered?**

God always hears his children and answers according to his wisdom and timing for his glory and our good, even when the answer is not immediate or expected. (Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 12:8–9; 1 John 5:14–15)

### **243. How should you pray in times of suffering?**

I should pray with honesty and trust, resting in God's grace, knowing that he is at work even in suffering to produce endurance, hope, and Christlike character. (Romans 5:3–5; Psalm 13; 2 Corinthians 1:3–5; 1 Peter 4:12–13)

## **CORPORATE WORSHIP**

### **244. What is liturgy?**

Liturgy is the ordered way God's people gather to worship him together. It gives voice to Scripture-shaped praise, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer, forming the Church to remember God's saving acts and respond in faith. (Exodus 15:1–21; Psalm 95:1–7; Luke 22:14–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

### **245. Why does the Church worship with structured liturgy?**

Because Scripture itself gives patterns of gathered worship that unite God's people, guard truth, and center us on Christ. Ordered worship helps the Church pray and sing with one voice, not to restrict sincerity, but to shape it with God's Word. (Nehemiah 8:1–8; Acts 2:42–47; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 14:26–40)

### **246. Does structured worship hinder sincerity?**

No. When saturated with Scripture, ordered worship trains the heart to worship with reverence and freedom. God calls for worship that is both “in spirit and truth,” not spontaneity without substance. (John 4:23–24; Psalm 119:9–16; Matthew 15:8–9)

### **247. What is the role of Scripture in gathered worship?**

Scripture governs and fills the Church's worship. We read it, preach it, pray it, sing it, and respond to it so that God's Word dwells richly among his people. (Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:13; Nehemiah 8:8; Psalm 96:1–9)

### **248. How is corporate worship ordered?**

The Church gathers regularly for prayer, the reading and preaching of Scripture, confession of sin, singing, fellowship, and the ordinances Christ instituted, all centered on Christ's gospel. (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4; Hebrews 10:24–25)

### **249. What is the Daily Office?**

The Daily Office is a rhythm of prayer and Scripture reading—morning and evening—that helps believers anchor daily life in God's Word, confession, and praise. (Psalm 1:1–3; Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10; Acts 10:9–16)

### **250. Who is the Daily Office for?**

It is for the whole Church. It may be prayed in gathered settings, families, or privately, always joining the believer to the wider people of God in prayer. (Hebrews 10:24–25; Psalm 22:22; Matthew 6:6)

### **251. Why practice a daily rhythm of prayer?**

Because God uses it to shape a people who live attentively before him—grounded in Scripture, steady in prayer, and formed in praise throughout ordinary time. (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:97; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

## **A RULE OF LIFE**

### **252. What is a rule of life?**

A rule of life is a simple, intentional pattern of habits that orders worship, work, rest, and relationships so that a believer may walk faithfully with God. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Romans 12:1–2; Colossians 3:17)

### **253. Why is a rule of life needed?**

Because the heart is prone to distraction and sin, believers need intentional rhythms that keep them abiding in Christ and growing

in holiness through the Spirit's work. (Galatians 5:16–25; Psalm 119:9–11; 1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

### **254. What belongs in a rule of life?**

Scripture, prayer, gathered worship, witness, service, generosity, repentance, and stewardship of time and possessions all belong in a life ordered under Christ's lordship. (Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:13–16; Matthew 6:19–24; 1 Peter 4:10–11)

### **255. Why is prayer central to a rule of life?**

Because prayer is dependence on God himself. Without ongoing communion with the Father through Christ and the Spirit, no spiritual discipline can bear lasting fruit. (John 15:5; Romans 8:26–27; Philippians 4:6–7)

### **Concluding Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Part IV: BECOME

Jesus Christ calls his disciples to respond to God in three inseparable ways: trusting in Christ and the truth God has revealed about him, belonging to Christ in real communion with God through him, and becoming like Christ by obeying the will of God. This response is not self-generated; it is the work of the Holy Spirit who brings new life, faith, and ongoing transformation.

God's purpose is that his people would live in joyful, loving obedience within a restored relationship with him. He reveals his will through his Word, most fully in Jesus Christ, who is the final and definitive revelation of God (John 12:49–50; Hebrews 1:1–2). The moral shape of God's will is summarized in the Ten Commandments and perfectly embodied in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Because humanity is created in the image of God, every person bears some awareness of God's moral law, written on the conscience (Romans 2:15). Yet God clearly revealed his covenant will to Israel, delivering them from Egypt and forming them at Sinai as a people set apart for himself (Exodus 19:5–6; 24:3). Israel was called to faithful obedience, but like all humanity, failed to keep God's law.

In Jesus Christ, God himself fulfills the law perfectly. Christ obeys where we fail and bears the curse of disobedience in his sacrificial death. Through union with Christ, believers are delivered from sin, adopted as God's children, and brought into the new covenant by the Spirit. The Christian life of holiness flows from this union with the Triune God, not from mere external obligation.

Jesus summarizes God's law in the command to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves. His teaching reveals the true intent of the law and speaks with final authority. He calls his disciples not only to hear his words, but to obey them, that they may be formed into his likeness (Matthew 28:20; John 14:15).

God's purpose in redemption is conformity to Christ (Romans 8:28–29). Therefore, obedience is not merely outward behavior but the overflow of a renewed heart. God judges actions in connection with the inner life from which they proceed. The aim of the Christian life is therefore deep transformation—so that what we do, think, and desire increasingly reflects the character of Christ.

### **A Prayer for Spiritual Provision and Protection**

Heavenly Father, you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you: Look upon the heartfelt desires of your humble servants, and stretch forth the strong hand of your Majesty to be our defense against our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

## **Part IV: BECOME**

### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

#### **256. What are the Ten Commandments?**

The Ten Commandments are God's revealed moral law, given to teach his people how to love him and love their neighbor. They reveal God's holy character and provide a foundation for faithful living. (Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21; Psalm 119:1–8)

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to 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.

### **257. What is God's Law?**

God's Law is his righteous instruction, revealing his holy character and his will for human life. It shows us what is good, exposes our sin, and directs us in the way of obedience. (Psalm 19:7–11; Romans 7:12; Deuteronomy 30:15–20)

### **258. Why did God give his Law?**

God gave his Law to reveal his holiness, to guide his people in covenant faithfulness, and to show humanity its need for salvation through Christ. (Exodus 19:3–6; Galatians 3:19–24; Romans 3:20)

### **259. How did Jesus summarize God's Law?**

Jesus summarized the Law in two commands: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37–40; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Leviticus 19:18)

### **260. How did Jesus fulfill God's Law?**

Jesus fulfilled God's Law perfectly through his sinless life, obedient death, and victorious resurrection. He obeyed where we failed and bore the judgment our sin deserved. (Matthew 5:17; Romans 8:1–4; Hebrews 4:15; 10:1–14)

### **261. Can you obey God's Law perfectly?**

No. Because of sin, I fall short of God's perfect standard in thought, word, and deed. Apart from Christ, I cannot fully obey God's Law. (Romans 3:10–23; Jeremiah 17:9; Ecclesiastes 7:20)

### **262. How can you grow in obedience to God's Law?**

As I trust in Christ and walk by the Holy Spirit, God transforms my heart and enables me to grow in joyful obedience to his Word. (John 15:4–5; Romans 6:11–14; Galatians 5:16–25)

**263. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments for believers?**

The Ten Commandments teach believers how to live in a way that honors God, loves others, and reflects the character of Christ in everyday life. (Psalm 119:9–16; Romans 13:8–10; James 1:22–25)

**264. How do the Ten Commandments reveal your sin?**

God’s commandments expose the sinful desires and attitudes of my heart, showing me my need for repentance and the grace of Christ. (Romans 7:7–13; James 2:10; Galatians 3:24)

**265. How do the Ten Commandments point you to Christ?**

They show me that I cannot save myself by my own righteousness and drive me to trust in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness, righteousness, and new life. (Romans 3:19–26; Galatians 3:21–24; Philippians 3:8–9)

**266. How should Christians respond to the Ten Commandments?**

Christians should repent when they fail, seek God’s grace daily, and pursue obedience out of love for God and gratitude for salvation in Christ. (John 14:15; Romans 12:1–2; Colossians 3:1–17)

**267. Why are the Ten Commandments still important today?**

Because God’s moral character does not change, his commandments continue to teach truth, restrain evil, guide believers in holiness, and bear witness to God’s righteousness before the world. (Matthew 5:17–19; Psalm 111:7–8; Romans 7:12)

## THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

### **268. What is the first commandment?**

The first commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:2–3; Deuteronomy 5:6–7)

### **269. What does it mean that the Lord is your God?**

It means that the God revealed in Scripture is the one true and living God, and that I am called to trust, worship, and obey him with my whole life. (Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Isaiah 45:5–6; Mark 12:29–30)

### **270. What does it mean to have no other gods?**

It means that God alone deserves my worship, love, fear, and trust. Nothing should take his rightful place in my heart or direct my life more than him. (Psalm 95:1–7; Matthew 22:37–38; Luke 16:13)

### **271. Why are people tempted to worship other gods?**

Because sin turns our hearts away from God and toward created things that promise satisfaction, security, power, or control apart from him. (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:21–25; James 1:14–15)

### **272. What are some modern forms of idolatry?**

Anything can become an idol when I depend on it more than God or seek from it what only God can give. Idols may include money, success, comfort, relationships, approval, pleasure, politics, possessions, or self. (Matthew 6:19–24; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 5:21)

### **273. Can you worship and serve God perfectly?**

No. Because of sin, I fall short in loving and obeying God fully. Only Jesus Christ worshiped the Father perfectly. Through faith in

him, I am forgiven and empowered by the Holy Spirit to grow in faithful obedience. (Romans 3:23; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21–24)

## THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

### **274. What is the second commandment?**

The second commandment is: “You shall not make for yourself a carved image... You shall not bow down to them or serve them.” (Exodus 20:4–6)

### **275. What does the second commandment teach?**

It teaches that God alone determines how he is to be worshiped. We must not worship idols, images, or anything created in the place of the Creator. (Deuteronomy 4:15–19; Isaiah 42:8; John 4:23–24)

### **276. How did Israel break this commandment?**

Israel repeatedly turned from the Lord to worship idols and adopt the false worship practices of surrounding nations. (Exodus 32; Judges 2:11–13; Psalm 106:19–21)

### **277. Are idols only physical images?**

No. An idol is anything that captures my heart’s highest devotion and replaces God as my ultimate trust or treasure. (Ezekiel 14:3; Romans 1:25; Colossians 3:5)

### **278. Why is idolatry dangerous?**

Idolatry distorts worship, hardens the heart, and leads people away from the living God. What we worship shapes who we become. (Psalm 115:4–8; Jeremiah 2:11–13; Romans 1:21–32)

**279. What hope does this commandment give?**

This commandment reminds me that true life, joy, and salvation are found in God alone. He alone is worthy of worship and able to satisfy the deepest needs of the human heart. (Psalm 16:11; 62:1–2; John 6:35)

**280. How did Jesus perfectly obey these commandments?**

Jesus worshiped and obeyed the Father perfectly, resisted every temptation to idolatry, and gave himself completely to the will of God. (Matthew 4:1–10; John 8:29; Philipians 2:8)

**281. How should Christians respond to these commandments?**

I should repent of idolatry, worship God sincerely, and daily seek to love him above all else through faith, obedience, and dependence upon the Holy Spirit. (Romans 12:1–2; Galatians 5:16–25; 1 John 5:21)

**THE THIRD COMMANDMENT**

**283. What is the third commandment?**

The third commandment is: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” (Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11)

**284. Why is God’s Name holy?**

God’s Name represents who he is—his character, holiness, authority, and glory. His Name is worthy of reverence, honor, and worship. (Exodus 3:13–15; Psalm 8:1; Isaiah 6:1–3; Matthew 6:9)

**285. What does it mean to take God’s Name in vain?**

To take God’s Name in vain is to use it carelessly, falsely, irreverently, or hypocritically. It is to treat what is holy as common or empty. (Leviticus 19:12; Ecclesiastes 5:1–7; James 5:12)

### **286. How can you honor God’s Name?**

I honor God’s Name by speaking of him with reverence, worshiping him sincerely, keeping my word truthfully, and living in a way that reflects his character. (Psalm 29:2; Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 1:15–16)

### **287. How is God’s Name misused?**

God’s Name is misused through profanity, false teaching, dishonest vows, hypocrisy, manipulation, or claiming God’s approval for what is sinful or untrue. (Jeremiah 23:25–32; Matthew 15:7–9; Romans 2:23–24)

### **288. Can someone dishonor God’s Name without speaking it?**

Yes. Those who claim to belong to God but live in persistent disobedience bring dishonor to his Name before the world. (Ezekiel 36:20–23; Titus 1:16)

### **289. How should Christians speak and live?**

Christians should speak truthfully, worship sincerely, and live in holiness so that God’s Name is honored through their words and actions. (Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6)

## **THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

### **290. What is the fourth commandment?**

The fourth commandment is: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8–11)

### **291. What is the Sabbath?**

The Sabbath is a pattern of rest and worship established by God at creation and commanded for his people’s good. (Genesis 2:2–3; Exodus 20:8–11)

## **292. Why did God give the Sabbath?**

God gave the Sabbath to teach his people to rest in him, remember his provision, and order life around worship rather than endless labor. (Deuteronomy 5:12–15; Psalm 46:10)

## **293. How did Jesus fulfill the Sabbath?**

Jesus declared himself Lord of the Sabbath and showed that the Sabbath was made for humanity's good. True rest is ultimately found in him. (Mark 2:27–28; Matthew 11:28–30; Hebrews 4:9–10)

## **294. Are Christians required to observe the Sabbath like Israel under the old covenant?**

Christians are not under the ceremonial laws of the old covenant, yet the principle of regular worship, rest, and trust in God remains wise and good. (Romans 14:5–6; Colossians 2:16–17)

## **295. Why do Christians gather for worship on the first day of the week?**

Believers gathered on the first day of the week in celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. This day became known as the Lord's Day. (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10)

## **296. How should Christians practice rhythms of rest and worship?**

Christians should regularly gather with the church for worship, rest from endless striving, delight in God, and make space for prayer, Scripture, fellowship, and acts of mercy. (Hebrews 10:24–25; Psalm 92; Isaiah 58:13–14)

**297. What does the Sabbath teach about work?**

Work is a good gift from God, but it is not my identity or master. God calls me to labor faithfully while trusting him as my provider. (Genesis 2:15; Colossians 3:23–24; Psalm 127:1–2)

**298. What does the Sabbath teach about trust?**

The Sabbath reminds me that God sustains my life and that I do not live by my own strength alone. (Exodus 16:13–30; Matthew 6:25–34)

**299. How does regular worship and rest help you grow in Christ?**

Regular worship and rest help me remember the Gospel, deepen fellowship with God and his people, and renew my heart to trust and obey Christ. (Hebrews 4:9–16; John 15:1–5; Acts 2:42–47)

**THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT**

**300. What is the fifth commandment?**

The fifth commandment is: “Honor your father and your mother.” (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)

**301. What does it mean to honor your father and mother?**

To honor my father and mother means to show them love, respect, gratitude, and care, and to obey them in ways that are consistent with God’s Word. (Proverbs 1:8–9; Ephesians 6:1–3; Colossians 3:20)

**302. What responsibilities do parents have toward their children?**

Parents are called to love, teach, discipline, and nurture their children in the ways of the Lord, modeling the truth and grace of

God in daily life. (Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4)

### **303. How did Jesus obey the fifth commandment?**

Jesus honored his earthly parents, submitted to rightful authority, cared for his mother, and perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father in all things. (Luke 2:51–52; John 19:26–27; Philippians 2:8)

### **304. How does this commandment apply beyond the family?**

This commandment teaches me to respect and pray for those in positions of authority, including church leaders, teachers, employers, and governing authorities, as long as their leadership does not require disobedience to God. (Romans 13:1–7; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13–17)

### **305. Why does God call us to honor authority?**

God uses rightful authority to promote order, justice, protection, and human flourishing. Learning humility and respect helps shape godly character and healthy communities. (Proverbs 11:14; Romans 13:1–4)

### **306. Are there limits to earthly authority?**

Yes. God alone has absolute authority. When earthly authorities command what God forbids or forbid what God commands, Christians must obey God above all. (Daniel 3:16–18; Acts 5:29)

## **THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT**

### **307. What is the sixth commandment?**

The sixth commandment is: “You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17)

### **308. What does this commandment teach?**

This commandment teaches that human life is sacred because every person is made in the image of God. Therefore, we must not unjustly take human life. (Genesis 1:26–27; 9:6)

### **309. Why is human life sacred?**

Human beings are uniquely created in God’s image and possess dignity and value from conception to natural death. (Psalm 139:13–16; Isaiah 46:3–4)

### **310. How can this commandment be violated?**

This commandment is violated not only through murder, but also through hatred, abuse, cruelty, revenge, reckless harm, and disregard for human life. (Matthew 5:21–22; 1 John 3:15)

### **311. How did Jesus deepen the meaning of this commandment?**

Jesus taught that sinful anger, hatred, and contempt come from the same sinful heart that leads to murder. God cares not only about outward actions but also the condition of the heart. (Matthew 5:21–24)

### **312. Is anger always sinful?**

No. There is a righteous anger against evil and injustice. Yet sinful anger often flows from pride, selfishness, and a desire for revenge. Christians are called to be slow to anger and eager to forgive. (Ephesians 4:26–32; James 1:19–20)

### **313. How should Christians value human life?**

Christians should protect, defend, and care for human life, especially the weak, vulnerable, oppressed, unborn, elderly, and suffering. (Proverbs 24:11–12; Micah 6:8; James 1:27)

### **314. How did Jesus demonstrate the value of life?**

Jesus showed compassion to the hurting, healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed the outcast, and ultimately laid down his life to save sinners. (Matthew 9:35–36; John 10:10–11)

### **315. How can you obey this commandment positively?**

I obey this commandment by pursuing peace, forgiving others, caring for those in need, protecting life, speaking with kindness, and seeking the good of my neighbor. (Romans 12:17–21; Colossians 3:12–14)

### **316. What hope does the Gospel bring to those who have sinned against this commandment?**

In Jesus Christ there is forgiveness, cleansing, and transformation for all who repent and believe. Through the Holy Spirit, God changes hearts marked by anger, hatred, or violence and teaches us to walk in love. (1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Ephesians 2:1–5; 1 John 1:9)

## **THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT**

### **317. What is the seventh commandment?**

The seventh commandment is: “You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18)

### **318. What is adultery?**

Adultery is sexual unfaithfulness that violates the covenant of marriage. More broadly, Scripture forbids all sexual activity outside the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6; Hebrews 13:4)

### **319. What did Jesus teach about adultery?**

Jesus taught that adultery is not only an outward act but also a matter of the heart. Lustful thoughts and desires also violate God's design for purity and faithfulness. (Matthew 5:27–28)

### **320. What does it mean to live in sexual purity?**

Whether married or single, I am called to honor God with my body, treat others as image bearers of God rather than objects for selfish desire, and pursue holiness in thought, word, and action. (1 Corinthians 6:18–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7)

### **321. Why is sexual purity important?**

Sexual purity guards the heart, strengthens trust and integrity, protects relationships, and helps me walk in obedience and freedom before God. (Psalm 119:9–11; Proverbs 4:23)

### **322. What is marriage?**

Marriage is God's covenantal design in which one man and one woman are joined together in a lifelong union of faithful love. Marriage reflects Christ's covenant love for his Church and is to be honored by all. (Genesis 2:18–25; Ephesians 5:31–32; Hebrews 13:4)

### **323. Why did God establish marriage?**

God established marriage for companionship, faithfulness, the raising of children, mutual care, and the flourishing of families and society under his good design. (Genesis 1:28; 2:18; Malachi 2:14–15)

### **324. Why does God forbid adultery and sexual immorality?**

Sexual sin harms individuals, families, marriages, churches, and society. It distorts God's good gift of sexuality and breaks covenant faithfulness. (Proverbs 5; 1 Corinthians 6:15–18)

### **325. What did Jesus teach about divorce?**

Jesus taught that marriage is intended by God to be a lifelong covenant and warned against treating it casually or selfishly. (Matthew 19:3–9)

### **326. Is divorce ever permitted?**

Because of sin and brokenness, Scripture permits divorce in certain situations. Yet God desires faithfulness, reconciliation, and covenant love whenever possible. (Matthew 5:31–32; 1 Corinthians 7:10–16)

### **327. How should single believers obey this commandment?**

Single believers are called to pursue holiness, self-control, faithful friendships, and purity in body and mind as they devote themselves to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:32–35; Titus 2:11–14)

### **328. Are some called to singleness?**

Yes. God calls some believers to a life of faithful singleness for the sake of undivided devotion to Christ and his kingdom. (Matthew 19:10–12; 1 Corinthians 7:7–8)

### **329. How else is this commandment broken?**

This commandment is violated by pornography, sexual abuse, lust, exploitation, sexual coercion, same-sex sexual activity, and every form of sexual immorality in thought, word, or deed. (Romans 1:24–27; Ephesians 5:3–5; Colossians 3:5)

## **THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT**

### **330. What is the eighth commandment?**

The eighth commandment is: “You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19)

### **331. What is stealing?**

Stealing is taking or keeping what belongs to another in a dishonest or unjust way. (Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:28)

### **332. Why does God forbid stealing?**

Everything belongs to God, and he calls us to walk in honesty, justice, contentment, and love for our neighbor. (Psalm 24:1; James 1:17)

### **333. How does Scripture teach respect for others' property and livelihood?**

God commands fairness, honest labor, truthful business practices, and care for the poor and vulnerable. (Deuteronomy 24:14–15; Proverbs 11:1)

### **334. In what other ways can people steal?**

People can steal through fraud, deceit, exploitation, cheating, withholding wages, plagiarism, laziness, or failing to honor commitments and debts. (Micah 6:10–12; James 5:4)

### **335. What did Jesus teach about possessions?**

Jesus taught that we cannot serve both God and money. Our trust must rest in God rather than wealth or possessions. (Matthew 6:19–24)

### **336. How should you view your possessions?**

Everything I have is entrusted to me by God. I am called to steward my resources wisely, generously, and for the good of others and the glory of God. (1 Peter 4:10; 1 Timothy 6:17–19)

### **337. How should Christians use their resources?**

Christians should work diligently, provide for their families, care for those in need, support the work of the Gospel, and practice

generosity with joyful hearts. (Ephesians 4:28; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8)

### **338. What should characterize Christian giving?**

Christian giving should be regular, sacrificial, cheerful, and generous, flowing from gratitude to God and love for others. (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7)

## **THE NINTH COMMANDMENT**

### **339. What is the ninth commandment?**

The ninth commandment is: “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20)

### **340. What does it mean to bear false witness?**

To bear false witness is to speak or spread what is false, misleading, or deceptive about another person in order to harm them, misrepresent them, or gain advantage for myself. (Proverbs 12:17; Matthew 26:59–61)

### **341. Why does God forbid falsehood?**

God is a God of truth, and his people are called to reflect his character. Lies damage relationships, corrupt justice, dishonor God, and align with the works of Satan, who is the father of lies. (John 8:44; Ephesians 4:25)

### **342. How is false witness committed in public life?**

False witness is committed through dishonesty in legal matters, business dealings, public communication, and every form of deceit or corruption that distorts truth and undermines justice. (Exodus 23:1–3; Proverbs 11:1)

### **343. How can this commandment be broken in the Church?**

This commandment is broken whenever God’s Word is distorted, false doctrine is taught, or spiritual authority is used deceptively or manipulatively. (Galatians 1:6–9; 2 Peter 2:1–3)

**344. What other sins are forbidden by this commandment?**

This commandment forbids lying, gossip, slander, harsh or manipulative speech, exaggeration, flattery, and every misuse of words that harms others or dishonors truth. (Proverbs 10:18; James 3:5–10)

**345. What kind of speech should Christians pursue?**

Christians should speak truthfully, graciously, wisely, and lovingly so that their words honor God and build up others. (Ephesians 4:15, 29; Colossians 4:6)

**346. When is it right to speak about another person’s sin?**

It is right to speak when seeking restoration, protecting others from harm, confronting injustice, or addressing sin in a biblical and loving way. We must never gossip or slander. (Matthew 18:15–17; Galatians 6:1)

**347. Must you always say everything you know?**

No. Wisdom, love, and discretion sometimes require silence or restraint. Christians are called to speak truthfully, but not recklessly or cruelly. (Proverbs 11:13; 17:27–28)

**348. How does obedience to this commandment shape you?**

As I grow in truthfulness, integrity, and loving speech, I become more like Christ, who is full of grace and truth. (John 1:14; Ephesians 4:20–25)

## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

**349. What is the tenth commandment?**

The tenth commandment is: “You shall not covet.” (Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21)

**350. What does it mean to covet?**

To covet is to desire wrongly what God has not given me or to resent what he has given to others. (Joshua 7:20–21; Luke 12:15)

**351. What does this commandment forbid?**

It forbids envy, jealousy, greed, and sinful longing for another person’s possessions, relationships, success, position, or life circumstances. (Romans 7:7; James 4:1–3)

**352. Why does God forbid coveting?**

Coveting reveals a heart that is dissatisfied with God and his provision. It leads to selfishness, discontentment, and many other sins. (1 Timothy 6:6–10)

**353. Why are people tempted to covet?**

Because of sin, we often distrust God’s goodness and seek fulfillment, security, or identity in what we do not have rather than in him. (Genesis 3:1–6; Hebrews 13:5)

**354. How can coveting lead to other sins?**

Coveting grows from sinful desire and can lead to idolatry, deceit, theft, adultery, bitterness, and many other forms of rebellion against God. (James 1:14–15; Colossians 3:5)

**355. What did Jesus teach about possessions and desires?**

Jesus taught us to seek first the kingdom of God, trust the Father’s care, and treasure eternal riches above earthly gain. (Matthew 6:19–34)

**356. How can you resist coveting?**

I resist coveting by trusting God's provision, cultivating gratitude, practicing generosity, and learning contentment in Christ. (Philippians 4:11–13; 1 Timothy 6:17–19)

## JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

### **357. Are you able to keep God's commandments perfectly?**

No. Because of sin, I fall short of God's perfect standard in thought, word, and deed. The Law reveals both God's holiness and my need for the saving grace of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:20, 23; Galatians 3:24; 1 John 1:8)

### **358. What has Jesus done for you?**

Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, perfectly obeyed the Father in my place and willingly gave himself on the cross as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin. Through his death and resurrection, he accomplished redemption for all who trust in him. (Isaiah 53:4–6; Romans 5:18–19; Hebrews 10:10–14; 1 Peter 3:18)

### **359. What do you receive through faith in Christ?**

Through faith in Christ, I receive forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, eternal life, and the gift of God's grace apart from my own works. (John 3:16; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8–9; Colossians 1:13–14)

### **360. What is justification?**

Justification is God's gracious act by which he declares sinners righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Christ's righteousness is credited to me, and my sins are forgiven because of his finished work on the cross. (Romans 3:21–26; 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

### **361. Does God's grace remove the call to obedience?**

No. God saves me by grace so that I may walk in newness of life. Out of love and gratitude to Christ, I seek to obey him and follow him faithfully. (John 14:15; Romans 6:1–4; Titus 2:11–14)

### **362. Do believers still struggle with sin?**

Yes. Though forgiven in Christ, believers still battle the presence of sin and continually need God’s mercy, grace, and transforming work. (Romans 7:15–25; Galatians 5:16–17; 1 John 1:9)

### **363. How does Christ continue his work in you?**

Through the Holy Spirit, Christ renews my mind, shapes my desires, convicts me of sin, strengthens my faith, and teaches me to walk in obedience to God. (Romans 8:1–14; Galatians 5:22–25)

### **364. What is sanctification?**

Sanctification is the ongoing work of God by which he increasingly makes believers holy in heart and life, conforming them to the likeness of Jesus Christ. (Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3)

### **365. How does the Church help you grow in holiness?**

God uses the preaching of his Word, prayer, fellowship, discipleship, worship, the Lord’s Supper, baptism, encouragement, correction, and mutual care within the Church to strengthen and mature believers. (Acts 2:42–47; Ephesians 4:11–16; Hebrews 10:24–25)

### **366. How does the Lord’s Supper strengthen your faith?**

In the Lord’s Supper, believers remember Christ’s sacrifice, proclaim his death, examine their hearts, and are spiritually nourished as they trust in him together. (Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–29)

### **367. What is the goal of sanctification?**

God's purpose is that I would increasingly reflect the character of Christ in this life and one day be made perfect in his presence when he returns. (Romans 8:29; Philippians 3:20–21; 1 John 3:2)

### **368. What marks a growing Christian life?**

A growing Christian life is marked by repentance, faith, obedience, humility, perseverance, love for God and others, joy in Christ, and increasing dependence upon the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22–23; Colossians 3:12–17; 2 Peter 3:18)

### **A Prayer for Growth in the Love of God**

Father, fill my heart with a greater love for you through Jesus Christ. Teach me to treasure you above all things, to walk in joyful obedience, and to grow in holiness by the power of your Spirit. Conform me more and more to the likeness of your Son, and keep me faithful until the day I see him face to face. Amen.

## APPENDIX 1:

### PRAYERS FOR USE WITH THE CATECHISM

Prayer is essential to spiritual formation and discipleship. Through prayer, believers depend upon God, commune with him through Christ, and are transformed by the work of the Holy Spirit. Prayer moves the truth of God from mere knowledge into worship, obedience, and daily life, shaping us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Therefore, those who teach and disciple others should pray regularly with and for them, seeking God’s wisdom, grace, and power in every step of growth. (Psalm 145:18; John 15:4–5; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6–7)

One helpful form of prayer is the “collect,” a brief and focused prayer centered on a particular biblical truth or spiritual need. Collects are designed to unite praise, doctrine, confession, and petition in simple, memorable language that directs the heart toward God. Throughout church history, believers have used such prayers to help shape their minds and affections according to Scripture. Their value is not in tradition itself, but in faithfully expressing biblical truth in a way that strengthens worship and discipleship. (Psalm 19:14; Matthew 6:9–13; Colossians 3:16)

Many historic prayers used by Christians across generations are deeply rooted in Scripture and rich in Gospel truth. Faithful believers throughout church history have written prayers that help Christians learn reverence, repentance, dependence upon God, and delight in Christ. Used wisely and biblically, these prayers can teach believers to pray with clarity, humility, and confidence in God’s promises. (Ephesians 4:11–16; 2 Timothy 3:14–17)

The following prayers are organized by theme to help believers grow in Christ through Scripture-shaped prayer and worship.

#### **For Repentance and Forgiveness**

Merciful and holy God, you are rich in grace and steadfast in love. You forgive all who come to you in true repentance through Jesus

Christ. Create in us humble and contrite hearts that grieve our sin rightly and turn to you in faith. Cleanse us by your mercy, restore us through the Gospel, and teach us to walk in obedience and joy before you; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **For Purity**

Almighty God, you know every thought, desire, and motive of our hearts. Nothing is hidden from your sight. By your Holy Spirit, cleanse our minds and hearts from sin, selfishness, and impurity, that we may love you sincerely, worship you faithfully, and honor your Name in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Transformation**

Father of grace, you created us in your image and, through Jesus Christ, are restoring what sin has broken. Continue your transforming work in us by the power of your Spirit, so that we may grow in holiness, reflect the character of Christ, and live for your glory. Conform us daily to the likeness of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

### **For Growth in the Knowledge and Love of God the Father**

Heavenly Father, you loved the world by giving your Son so that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Fill our hearts with the assurance of your love through the Holy Spirit, and help us delight in being your children through Christ. Teach us to love you above all things and to live each day for your praise and glory. Amen.

Or

Father, you made us for yourself, and apart from you our hearts remain restless and unsatisfied. Purify our desires and turn our hearts away from lesser things, so that we may find our joy, peace, and hope fully in Christ. Help us behold your glory in the face of Jesus and rest securely in your grace. Amen.

Or

Gracious God, you have prepared eternal joy for those who love you. Pour your love into our hearts by your Spirit, that we may treasure you above all else and walk in faithful obedience to your Word. Strengthen our hope in your promises through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Growth in the Knowledge of Christ**

Almighty God, true life is found in knowing Jesus Christ whom you have sent. Deepen our understanding of your Son through your Word, and help us follow him as the way, the truth, and the life. Strengthen us to walk faithfully in his steps until the day we see him face to face. Amen.

### **For Rebirth and Renewal in Christ**

Father, we praise you for causing us to be born again through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thank you for adopting us as your children by grace through faith. Renew us daily by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may grow in holiness, joy, and faithful obedience to you. Amen.

### **For Growth in the Holy Spirit**

Holy God, apart from you we can do nothing pleasing in your sight. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and direct our hearts, minds, and desires according to your will. Lead us into truth, strengthen us against sin, comfort us in suffering, and help us walk faithfully with Christ each day. Amen.

Or

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit to guide and rule our hearts according to your Word. Guard us from error, strengthen us in weakness, and lead us into deeper faith, wisdom, and obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or

Father, thank you for giving your people the Holy Spirit to teach, comfort, and guide them in truth. Grant us wisdom and discernment in all things, and help us rejoice continually in the hope and assurance we have in Christ. Through the Spirit's work, make us steadfast, joyful, and faithful. Amen.

### **For Self-Dedication and Commitment to God's Will**

Almighty God, draw our hearts toward you and shape our minds by your truth. Rule our desires, guide our decisions, and teach us to delight in your will. Make us wholly devoted to Christ, ready to serve wherever you lead, so that our lives may bring glory to your Name and blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Guidance**

Father, direct us in all we do by your wisdom and grace. Guard us from pride, selfish ambition, and sinful paths, and help us walk in obedience to your Word. May every work we begin, continue, and complete be done for your glory and in dependence upon you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Studying the Scriptures**

Gracious God, you have given us your Word for our instruction, encouragement, and growth in Christ. Help us to hear it faithfully, read it diligently, study it carefully, and treasure it deeply in our hearts. By your Spirit, use the Scriptures to strengthen our faith, shape our lives, and anchor us in the hope of the Gospel through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Quiet Hearts**

God of peace, teach us to rest in your presence and trust in your care. In anxious and restless moments, quiet our hearts through your Spirit and remind us that you are sovereign, good, and near.

Help us to find strength, peace, and confidence in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **For Protection**

Lord God, watch over this home and all who dwell here. Guard us from temptation, evil, fear, and spiritual attack, and surround us with your peace and care. Strengthen us to walk in holiness and faithfulness, trusting always in your presence and protection through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or

Eternal God, you rule over day and night and sustain all things by your power. Turn our hearts away from sinful desires and lead us in the paths of righteousness and peace. Help us to live each day with gratitude, obedience, and joy in your will through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **In Preparation for Baptism**

Heavenly Father, thank you that through faith in Jesus Christ we are made new and brought from death to life. As we prepare for baptism, deepen our repentance, strengthen our faith, and help us walk in the new life that belongs to all who are united with Christ. May our lives bear witness to your saving grace and transforming power. Amen.

### **In Preparation for Public Profession of Faith**

Almighty God, strengthen all who are preparing to publicly confess their faith in Jesus Christ. Fill them with your Holy Spirit, establish them firmly in your Word, and help them walk faithfully in holiness, love, and obedience. May their lives continually testify to the grace and truth of the Gospel. Amen.

## **For the Ministry of Sharing the Gospel**

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave yourself on the Cross so that sinners might be reconciled to God. Fill us with your love and boldness through the Holy Spirit, and help us faithfully proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed. Use our lives to point others to the hope, forgiveness, and new life found in you alone. Amen.

## APPENDIX 2:

### THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and  
the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### APPENDIX 3:

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence. For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

What quality the Father has, the Son has, and the Holy Spirit has. The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated. The Father is immeasurable, the Son is immeasurable, the Holy Spirit is immeasurable. The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal. And yet there are not three eternal beings; there is but one eternal being. So too there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings; there is but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Similarly, the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty. Yet there are not three almighty beings; there is but one almighty being. Thus the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God. Yet there are not three gods; there is but one God. Thus the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord. Yet there are not three lords; there is but one Lord.

Just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually as both God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten from anyone. The Son was neither made nor created; he was begotten from the Father alone. The Holy Spirit was neither made nor created nor begotten; he proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Accordingly there is one Father, not three fathers; there is one Son, not three sons; there is one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits.

Nothing in this trinity is before or after, nothing is greater or smaller; in their entirety the three persons are coeternal and coequal with each other.

So in everything, as was said earlier, we must worship their trinity in their unity and their unity in their trinity.

Anyone then who desires to be saved should think thus about the trinity.

But it is necessary for eternal salvation that one also believe in the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully.

Now this is the true faith:

That we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and human, equally. He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother, born in time; completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity.

Although he is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by his divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to himself. He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person.

For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh, so too the one Christ is both God and human.

He suffered for our salvation; he descended to hell; he arose from the dead; he ascended to heaven; he is seated at the Father's right hand; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will arise bodily and give an accounting of their own deeds. Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith: one cannot be saved without believing it firmly and faithfully.