

A Catechism
FOR
Covenanter
Children



A Catechism for Covenanter Children



This book is not a substitute, but a preparation for the study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

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TO THE CHILDREN OF THE
COVENANTER CHURCH

and all who may come under her influence this little book is affectionately dedicated with the earnest prayer that you will think not unkindly of those who have set you this task.

"Training always seems for the time to be a thing of pain, not of joy; but those who are trained reap the fruit of it afterwards in the peace of an upright life."

We are your friends,

James Melville Coleman
David Raymond Taggart
Owen Foster Thompson.

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I. THE BIBLE

1. What is the Bible?

Ans. It is the book God gave us.

2. How did God give us the Bible?

Ans. By Inspiration: that is, He led men to write what God wanted us to know.

3. Why was the Bible given to us?

Ans. To tell us what we need to know about God and ourselves.

4. What four most important things does the Bible teach about ourselves?

Ans. (1) We are all sinners; (2) how sinners are saved; (3) how to live right; and (4) how to worship God.

5. Where can we learn about God except through the Bible?

Ans. Nature tells us of the power and wisdom of its Creator.

6. How should I read my Bible?

Ans. I should read it daily with attention, reverence and prayer.

II. GOD

7. Who is God?

Ans. He is the one and only divine being.

8. What and where is God?

Ans. God is a spirit, and is everywhere, all the time.

9. How many persons are there in God?

Ans. There are three persons in the Godhead the Father, Jesus Christ His son and the Holy Spirit.

III. GOD THE FATHER

10. What has God the Father done for us?

Ans. He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross for our sins and to rule the world.

IV. GOD THE SON (JESUS CHRIST)

11. Who is Jesus Christ?

Ans. He is the only begotten Son of God

who has been with the Father from the beginning.

12. How is Jesus Christ related to man?

Ans. Jesus Christ became the Son of man by being born of His mother Mary, about two thousand years ago.

13. Why did Jesus Christ the Son of God become the Son of man?

Ans. That He might be the Mediator between God and man. Mediator means middle-man or peace-maker.

14. What does Jesus Christ do as our Mediator?

Ans. He makes peace between God and man; He reveals God to man; and He prays to God for man.

15. How did Jesus Christ make peace between God and man?

Ans. By dying for our sins on the cross.

16. Was Jesus Christ conquered by death?

Ans. No, He rose on the third day.

17. What does Christ's resurrection show?

Ans. That we shall all rise from the dead.

18. What is to follow the general resurrection?

Ans. Jesus Christ shall judge the living and the dead; the lost shall go into Hell and the saved into Heaven.

19. What is Jesus Christ's present work for us in heaven?

Ans. He is praying always to the Father for us.

20. What is Jesus Christ's present work on earth?

Ans. He is ruling and conquering the world.

21. What is His present work for us in the world?

Ans. He is making all things work together for our good.

22. What is Jesus asking us to do for Him?

Ans. He asks us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow him.

V. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

23. Who is the Holy Spirit?

Ans. The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead, whom the Father and the Son send into our hearts.

24. Where is the Holy Spirit first mentioned in the Bible?

Ans. He brooded over the face of the waters, and is the giver of life in creation.

25. What is the Holy Spirit doing in nature now?

Ans. He is giving to nature its life and its laws.

26. What does the Holy Spirit do for those who are not Christians?

Ans. He is striving to restrain every one from sin.

27. Who is it that converts us to Jesus Christ?

Ans. The Holy Spirit converts us, by making us to know Jesus Christ.

28. How does the Holy Spirit convert us to Jesus Christ?

Ans. By making Jesus Christ live in us.

29. What is the Holy Spirit's work in us after conversion?

Ans. He strives to make us holy in thought, word, and action.

30. When may we know that the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts?

Ans. When we love to do the things that please God.

31. What warnings has God given us about the Holy Spirit?

Ans. "Grieve not the Spirit": "Quench not the Spirit."

32. How may we grieve and quench the Holy Spirit?

Ans. By failing to do as well as we know how to do.

33. Why is disobeying the Holy Spirit an unpardonable sin?

Ans. Because God has no other one to send to us.

MAN

34. What is man?

Ans. Man is the greatest of all God's creatures on the earth.

35. What was man like when he was created?

Ans. He was like God in character.

36. Why is man not like God in character now?

Ans. Because he disobeyed God and lost the presence and character of God.

37. How can man regain what was lost through sin?

Ans. By knowing and believing in Jesus Christ.

COVENANTS

38. What is a Covenant?

Ans. A Covenant is an agreement between two, or more, persons.

39. Why are Covenants important?

Ans. Because God has made Covenants with His people.

40. Name the two most important Covenants.

Ans. The Covenant of Works, and the Covenant of Grace.

41. With whom did God make the Covenant of Works?

Ans. With our father Adam, representing us all.

42. What did God promise in the Covenant of Works?

Ans. That if we obeyed God, we should live forever.

43. Did any man fulfil the conditions of this Covenant?

Ans. No, Adam broke it for us all, but Jesus Christ fulfilled it for all who believe in Him.

44. What came upon all men on account of the broken covenant?

Ans. The curse of sin; that is, separation from God, suffering and death.

45. With whom did God make the Covenant of Grace?

Ans. With Jesus Christ, His own Son.

46. What was the promise in the Covenant of Grace?

Ans. That we should live forever, because Jesus Christ died for sin in our place.

47. How may we share in the Covenant of Grace?

Ans. By believing in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

48. What is prayer?

Ans. Prayer is talking, and listening, to God.

49. Why do we pray in the name of Jesus Christ?

Ans. Because no one can come to the Father, but through Him.

50. How often should we pray?

Ans. Every morning and evening, and

often through the day or night.

51. For whom should we pray?

Ans. We should pray much for ourselves, and much more for others.

52. How does God answer all believing prayer?

Ans. In Fatherly kindness He answers, Yes, No, or Wait.

53. Who helps us in prayer?

Ans. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray, and for what to pray.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

54. What is the first command?

Ans. To worship the true God, and Him only.

55. What is the second command?

Ans. To worship God in His way.

56. What is the third command?

Ans. To have reverence for God and all sacred things.

57. What is the fourth command?

Ans. To keep the Sabbath holy.

58. What is the fifth command?

Ans. To honor and obey those over us.

59. What is the sixth command?

Ans. To be careful of life, especially human life.

60. What is the seventh command?

Ans. To be pure in heart, speech, and life.

61. What is the eighth command?

Ans. To be strictly honest.

62. What is the ninth command?

Ans. To be truthful.

63. What is the tenth command?

Ans. To be contented and happy.

64. What command contains all of the ten commandments?

Ans. Love God and one another.

THE SACRAMENTS

65. Name the two sacraments.

Ans. Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

66. Why were the sacraments given to us?

Ans. To show us spiritual truths.

67. What does the sacrament of Baptism teach us?

Ans. As water cleanses our bodies, so the blood of Christ cleanses our souls.

68. Who cleanses our souls with the blood of Christ?

Ans. The Holy Spirit.

69. What does the Lord's Supper show us?

Ans. It shows us how Christ's body was broken, and His blood was poured out for our sins.

70. What does the Lord's Supper teach us?

Ans. As food nourishes our bodies, so faith in Christ nourishes our souls.

71. Why does Jesus ask us to observe the Lord's Supper often?

Ans. To remind ourselves and the world how Christ died for sin.

Part II

OUR CHURCH

73. Why is our church officially called Reformed Presbyterian?

Ans. Our church government is Presby-

terian (ruled by elders), and we hold the teachings of the Reformation.

74. Why are we called Covenanters?

Ans. Because our church has entered into special covenants with God.

75. Why do we sing Psalms only in worship?

Ans. Because God gave the Psalms for worship and told His people to use them.

76. Why do we not use musical instruments in worship?

Ans. Because the New Testament church was instituted by the apostles without the use of instruments in their worship.

77. Why does our church oppose secret societies?

Ans. Because of their secrecy, their wicked oaths, and their false worship and teaching.

78. Why is it wrong to vote in general elections?

Ans. Because those chosen to office must swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States which ignores Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

79. Why is it wrong to use strong drink, tobacco, or narcotics?

Ans. Because they are poisons injurious to body, mind, and soul, and create habits that enslave the users. ("Whoso defileth the temple of God, him will God destroy.")

80. Why is Jesus Christ interested in our amusements and recreations?

Ans. Because He wants to share in our pleasures as well as our work.

81. Why are some pleasures opposed by the church?

Ans. Some pleasures are sinful in themselves, and tend to destroy spiritual life.

82. How may I know what pleasures are sinful?

Ans. Those are sinful which tend to separate myself or others from Jesus Christ.

83. Why has God a claim to your whole life?

Ans. Because I was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

84. How should I own God's claim to my life?

Ans. By giving Him at least one day in seven, and at least one-tenth of my income.

Part III

(The following questions, the pupil may answer in his own words.)

85. How do I know that Jesus loves me?
Gal. 2:20.

86. How do I know that I love Jesus?
John 14:15.

87. How do I know that I am a child of God? Rom. 8:14-15.

88. How will others know I am a child of God? I John 2:3-6.

89. How will the church know that I am a child of God. I John 3:14.

90. How may the folks at home know that I am a child of God? Gal. 5:22-23.

91. What must I do to make my offerings to God acceptable? Matt. 5:23-24.

92. Why should I join the church? Acts. 2:47.

Part IV

CHURCH HISTORY

93. What Commission did Christ give to the apostles?

Ans. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.

94. How much of the world did the apostles reach?

Ans. From Babylon in the east to the west coast of Europe.

95. What followed the preaching of the gospel?

Ans. Three hundred years of persecution, until Constantine, during which time hundreds of thousands of Christians suffered as martyrs.

96. Why did persecution cease?

Ans. The Emperor Constantine confessed Christ, and Christianity became popular.

97. How did popularity affect the church?

Ans. The church gradually became corrupt, the Bishops of Rome became Popes, claiming to rule in Christ's stead, and the "Dark Ages" followed.

98. What Reformers helped to bring light into the darkness?

Ans. John Wycliffe in England, John Huss in Bohemia, Martin Luther and Melancthon in Germany, John Calvin in France and Switzerland, George Wishart and John Knox in Scotland.

99. By what name was the Reformation

church known in Scotland?

Ans. It was called the Presbyterian, and later the Covenanter.

100. Why was the church called Covenanter?

Ans. Because they made a covenant with God to keep the kings from ruling the church.

101. What was the work of Andrew Melville?

Ans. Andrew Melville led the Covenanters in resisting the bishops appointed by the king to rule the church.

102. What were the two most important covenants made under the influence of the Covenanters?

Ans. The National Covenant of Scotland, and the Solemn League and Covenant, of England, Ireland and Scotland.

103. Why was the National Covenant made?

Ans. The National Covenant was made to keep the king from fixing the form of worship in the church.

104. What man had most to do with making these Covenants?

Ans. Alexander Henderson.

105. Why are the Covenanters sometimes called Cameronians?

Ans. For Richard Cameron, a martyr who died for the cause.

106. Who was the last public martyr of the Covenanters in Scotland?

Ans. James Renwick, who kept the Covenanters together through the "killing times."

107. How did the Covenanters become separated from the other Presbyterians of Scotland?

Ans. To avoid persecution, the other Presbyterians accepted the compromises offered by the king.

108. When did the final separation come between the Presbyterians and the Covenanters?

Ans. When the church of Scotland was established by the Scottish Parliament in 1690.

109. Why did the Covenanters not join with the Presbyterians in this church?

Ans. Because the king of Scotland was made the head of the church, persecutors were admitted, and the covenants were ignored.

110. What kept the Covenanters together after 1690?

Ans. The praying societies organized by James Renwick.

111. How long were the Covenanters without an ordained minister?

Ans. From 1690 until 1706, when John McMillan joined the societies.

112. What is the latest Covenant to be sworn by the Covenanter Church?

Ans. The Covenant of 1871, which is a revision of the principles of the Covenants of Scotland as they apply to the American Church.

The End