

Membership Covenant

Being convinced that I have been spiritually born into a relationship with God by means of faith in Christ and repentance from sin, and being in agreement with Seven Rivers' philosophy and standards, I feel led by God to become part of the Seven Rivers family. I hereby place myself under the spiritual leadership of this church. In doing so I am saying the following:

I profess faith in Christ alone as my Savior and Lord.

I am committed to participating in the worship and work of the church.

I am committed to protecting the peace and purity of the church.

I understand that the above standards cannot be maintained without relying on the Holy Spirit to work in my life and without specific commitments on my part. Having completed the Junior Membership Class, I agree with the "Standards of Church Membership" and do set the following as goals toward which I will strive:

In order to grow as a believer I will:

1. Spend regular time alone with God.
2. Attend worship weekly.
3. Train my mind with consistent instruction in God's Word.

In order to support the worship and work of my church I will:

1. Participate in small groups in student ministry.
2. Pray for Seven Rivers' health, growth and leaders.
3. Invite the unchurched to attend church.
4. Warmly welcome those who visit.
5. Use my time, talents and treasures to glorify God as my tithe.

In order to protect the peace and purity of my church I will:

1. Resolve conflicts lovingly.
2. Keep my life free of immorality.
3. Submit to the God-ordained leadership.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date

Jr. Pastor's Class
Student Commitment

1. I commit to going through the assigned lesson at home and practicing my shorter catechisms
2. I commit to setting a day and time each week to sit down with whoever is going through the lessons with me and do the following: (about an hour per week total)
 - Share both of our answers
 - Answer and discuss the two questions: What was confusing to me? What did I learn?
 - Recite shorter catechisms together
 - Sign off weekly sheet to turn in at class
3. I commit to being an ACTIVE learner in class!
4. I commit to being at all the classes.

Signature: _____

Remember to bring a Bible to class if you have one of your own, or we have some here you can borrow.

Bring your notebook and something to write with each week.

Jr. Pastor's Class
Parent Commitment

5. I commit to go through the assigned study personally and have some fun relearning core beliefs of Christianity.

6. I commit to set a day and time each week to sit down with my son/daughter and do the following: (about an hour per week)
 - Share both of our answers
 - Ask two questions: What was confusing? What did I learn?
 - Recite shorter catechisms together
 - Sign off weekly sheet to turn in at class

7. I commit to have my kid at all of the classes.

8. My child and I will sit down: Day of Week:_____ Time:_____

Signature(s): _____

Jr. Pastor's Class

Week 1: Lecture Notes

Apostles Creed:

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY

- Everyone believes in something.
- Believing involves hope & trust.
- God the Father of what? of Creation, of the Trinity (3 persons in one being or essence), of us – through Jesus we are redeemed and adopted and we get to call him Abba.
- Almighty – He is sovereign and omnipotent. He is mighty to save, give peace & joy, etc.

Question: If God the father is “almighty,” what does that mean for your day to day life? What does it mean when trouble strikes?

MAKER OF HEAVEN & EARTH

- God speaks and things happen.
- Size of the universe, nearest star is 39 trillion miles away and what we see in the night sky is a tiny patch of our galaxy which has 100 billion stars and beyond our galaxy are millions more.
- Diversity of creation and landscapes.
- Big Bang/Chance vs. Intelligent Design.
- Made in His image and with a soul.
- Why did he create man? Because God is relational & He is not selfish – He wants to share the perfect love of the Trinity. At some point it would have been natural to say “Let’s extend the family.” Christianity is in its essence about a father and his children. God wants a relationship with you. It’s what your heart yearns for and we are restless without this relationship. As much as we want it, we also don’t want to submit to God’s sovereignty and so we strike out on our own trying to find fulfillment elsewhere and making life about ourselves and chaos ensues.
- Thankfully the same God who said let there be light brings resurrection light into our hearts.

Question: Do you see all other people as made in the image of God and objects of his love and affection or are you always searching for faults in others?

JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD

- This declares the doctrine of the Trinity – God existing as 3 persons.

- The doctrine of the Trinity is foundational not only to our understanding of God, but to how we relate to him. Think about prayer: Take away the Father and you have no reason to pray, take away the Son and you have no way to pray. Take away the Spirit and you have no desire to pray.
- The nature of the Trinity is not easy to comprehend and it is somewhat mysterious, but we need to accept that we are not going to understand everything about God. After all, he is God and we are but humans. We need to admit that we all have to live with some mystery, no matter what we choose to believe in.
- Jesus is superior to the prophets: He is the “Word made flesh” If he is superior to the prophets, then he should be superior to all the voices and influences in your life.
- Jesus is superior to the Priests: He is the bridge between people and God. We can come freely to Him through the work of Jesus – His perfect sacrifice covering all our sins once and for all.
- We should see Jesus as Lord: We are no longer our own, we have been bought with a price and now we live for Him and His mission. Being connected to him should give you confidence and hope as you are connected to the One who is supreme over all things.

Question: How does being connected to Jesus give you a new status and mission?

CONCEIVED AND BORN

- The bible clearly teaches that Mary was a virgin, and that Jesus was conceived solely through the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit.
- The real miracle is that God comes to us in the person of Jesus. God takes the initiative and has personally entered into our mess.
- Adam is the first man. He sinned, and we all inherited his sin nature and corruption. Jesus is the second Adam, but where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. We are condemned in Adam because of his sin, but redeemed in Jesus because he is holy, and free of sin.
- Jesus’ humanity makes him eligible to take our place.

Question: Why would God leave heaven and enter into the world?

SUFFERED, CRUCIFIED, DIED, BURIED

- The head and founder of our faith is put to death – His execution is sometimes referred to as the Passion of Christ – it comes from the Greek word meaning “to suffer.”
- Other than Jesus and Mary, the only other person mentioned in the creed is Pilot – Why? Because this is real history – The Passion of Christ is a historical event. Christian faith is about an act of God in history and not just some philosophy or feeling
- The killing of Jesus reveals the fallen nature of every person on earth. We are all responsible for his death due to our sin. Our sin is so offensive to God that he killed Jesus because of it.

- Jesus' voluntary suffering tells us just how much he loves you. That he has made a way of salvation for you. You are worse than you thought you were, but you are also more loved than you ever dared to imagine.
- How is salvation accomplished? Jesus takes on our death, our curse, our condemnation, the wrath and scorn of God that should be poured out onto us. The bible uses the term imputed. Our sin is imputed to him, but it's even better than that because his righteousness is imputed to us – we get his righteousness, so God sees you as completely righteous. This is the great exchange. All of our sin – past, present and future are paid for once and for all.
- The Lord's Supper is an opportunity to remind ourselves that He makes us clean. His body broken, His blood poured out so that our sin could be dealt with.
- We are to identify in Christ in his suffering – following Him will cost you. We are called to suffer for the Gospel. But we also identify in Christ's victory because the Christian story is ultimately hopeful and glorious.

Question: In what ways can you suffer for the Gospel?

HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD

- Christ rose from the dead – the most astounding claim in human history.
- We all die, but the good news is that Jesus has been there before us and if we are united with him, then he will see us through to the other side. We don't have to fear death.
- His resurrection from the dead is a historical fact backed by eyewitness testimony. Jesus appeared to the women at the tomb, Cleopas and Peter, along with other disciples. Paul says that there were over 500 that saw the resurrected Jesus.
- The empty tomb and the Romans couldn't find the body.
- The disciples proclaimed the risen Christ even at the cost of their lives.

Question: How does the resurrection change our view of death?

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

- Not only was Jesus resurrected, but he ascended into heaven and sits exalted on his throne. He reigns as King.
- The ascension of Jesus has a profound affect on the disciples. They plunged themselves into serving the world for which Christ died and proclaiming the gospel that Christ is risen and reigns as King.
- The Greek word for witness is the same word used for martyr – someone who suffers for their cause. Before his ascension Jesus calls his disciples to be his witnesses. They would be martyrs and suffer and sacrifice for the cause of their King.
- God's work happens through sacrifice. The Kingdom expands when we lay down our lives and sacrifice our desires and comfort for the good of others. This means investing time and effort in building relationships with people.

- Christ doesn't withdraw at the ascension, he actually draws closer to us because the Holy Spirit is sent to dwell within each of us.

Question: If we are to be a witness (martyr) for Christ how do you see that happening in your life? What does that mean for you specifically?

HE WILL COME TO JUDGE

- An uncomfortable idea, but good news for those who have been sinned against.
- He judges in loving discipline because he loves his children.
- He judges with perfect righteousness because he knows all the extenuating circumstances of our lives. Much of our concern about judgment is because we have seen the imperfections of human judgment.
- God's judgment saves: God judged Jesus so that we could be saved.
- His judgment is certain. Either Jesus pays for your sin or you pay for your own sin.
- If God is the Judge, then we don't have to be – you can give him your anger at being wronged.

Question: In what ways is God's ultimate, perfect judgment good news?

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A "Helper" with the same essence, nature, and mission as Jesus that lives in us and connects us directly with God.
- We are now God's temple – changes how we act, what we say, how we spend our time.
- As the "Spirit of Truth" The Holy Spirit authored the bible through giving inspiration to its authors and he also gives us understanding when we read it. The Holy Spirit is the one who takes head knowledge and makes it into heart knowledge.
- The Spirit prods us towards holiness by convicting us of our sin and helping us battle against it and bringing us to repentance.

Question: How can the awareness that the person of the Holy Spirit is dwelling within you impact your thoughts and actions?

THE CHURCH

- The community we are all made for and long for – a place where everyone knows your name.
- We work out our Christianity by doing life together with other believers – it is fundamental to our identity as Christians.
- It is Christ's bride – he loves it like a husband loves a wife.

- It is Christ's family – we are no longer strangers, but fellow citizens.
- It is a magnificent temple.
- It is the body of Christ – becomes the physical manifestation of Christ in the world when it goes to work for God's purposes.
- In the church we are reconciled to one another and should strive for unity by living with humility and gentleness, with patience and bearing with one another in love.
- The Catholicity of the church - this has nothing to do with the Roman Catholic Church. The Greek word *katholikos* means universal. In saying the church is catholic we are saying that the church's message is valid and relevant to every age in every situation and in every culture. Wherever Jesus is worshiped as Lord, there is the Catholic church.
- A call to catholicity also means we shouldn't pick on other churches or denominations.

Question: Why is being humble important for unity?

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- Our only hope is that Jesus has made it possible for our sins to be forgiven. Through his death our sin past, present and future is atoned for.
- The Communion or Lord's Supper reminds us of the meaning of his death and renews our faith. For this reason it should be done regularly.

Question: If you are a Christian, what is your only hope for forgiveness? Do you contribute anything?

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

- There will be a physicality to the after-life. We won't remain disembodied souls.
- Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection of our bodies is connected. His was the "first fruits."
- Our bodies will be like they are now, and yet also different and more glorious.
- Only those who have trusted in Christ as Savior, who are "in Christ" will rise with him forever.
- If you have trusted in Christ you need not fear death – it has no sting because Christ has taken away the sin that separates us from God.
- The resurrection allows us to live a different life. We don't have to maximize our pleasure in this world. We can forego our pleasure to serve others because our time here now is just a blip compared to eternity. Belief in the resurrection of the dead allows us to move towards pain and suffering in this world.
- Everyone we meet is facing one of two eternal destinies.

Question: Knowing that there is a glorious after-life to come, how might that change the way we live today?

THE LIFE EVERLASTING

- We long for the life everlasting and a world without suffering. We all have a sense that we are made for eternity and a more perfect world– as it was in the beginning before the Fall. A return to the original Garden of Eden.
- God is coming to restore this world and make it new. It started with Jesus' incarnation and it will be finished at the end when Jesus returns. Everything sad is going to come untrue.
- Eternal glory will be about dwelling with God.
- We get into the Kingdom of Heaven because we are thirsty for forgiveness, for mercy, for God's grace. We get in by recognizing that we are in need of a savior.

Question: Are you thirsty for the Kingdom? Why or why not?

Jr. Pastor's Class

Week 1: What does it mean to be a believer?

Believing involves two things: _____ , _____.

God the Father is almighty which means he is _____ and _____.

We are made in the _____ of _____.

Why did God create man?

God wants a _____ with you.

What is the doctrine of the Trinity?

Jesus is superior to the _____.

Jesus is superior to the _____.

We should see Jesus as _____.

Mary was a _____ and was conceived solely through the miraculous power of the _____.

Who is responsible for Jesus' death? _____.

How is salvation accomplished?

The Lord's Supper is an opportunity to remind ourselves that He _____.

We identify in Christ's _____ and Christ's _____.

Christ _____ from the dead.

Jesus reigns as _____.

God's judgement _____, God judged _____ so that we could be _____.

Either Jesus _____ for your sin or you _____ for your own sin.

We are now God's _____.

The Holy Spirit takes _____ and makes it into _____.

The church is _____.

The church is _____.

The church is _____.

The church is _____.

Through Jesus' death our sin _____, _____ and _____ is atoned for.

Only those who have trusted in _____ as _____ who are "in Christ" will rise with him forever.

Belief in the resurrection of the dead allows us to move towards _____ and _____ in this world.

God is coming to _____ this world and make it _____.

Jr. Pastor's Class

Week 1: Discussion Questions

Question 1: If God the father is "almighty," what does that mean for your day to day life? What does it mean when trouble strikes?

Question 2: Do you see all other people as made in the image of God and objects of his love and affection or are you always searching for faults in others?

Question 3: How does being connected to Jesus give you a new status and mission?

Question 4: Why would God leave heaven and enter into the world?

Question 5: In what ways can you suffer for the Gospel?

Question 6: How does the resurrection change our view of death?

Question 7: If we are to be a witness (martyr) for Christ how do you see that happening in your life? What does that mean for you specifically?

Question 8: In what ways is God's ultimate, perfect judgment good news?

Question 9: How can the awareness that the person of the Holy Spirit is dwelling within you impact your thoughts and actions?

Question 10: Why is being humble important for unity?

Question 11: If you are a Christian, what is your only hope for forgiveness? Do you contribute anything?

Question 12: Knowing that there is a glorious after-life to come, how might that change the way we live today?

Question 13: Are you thirsty for the Kingdom? Why or why not?

The Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who 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 hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Jr. Pastor's Class
Weekly Check Off

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

- ☐ My child and I completed our study for the week.
- ☐ My child and I recited our shorter catechism together.
- ☐ We went through the discussion questions.

After this lesson, I need help with, advice on, or further reading material with:

Jr. Pastor's Class
Week 2: Lecture Notes

Grace Illustration:

What is grace? It is unmerited favor. What does it look like?

Maybe the following story will help:

Once upon a time there was an orphan who slid into a life of committing crime in order to make life work for him.

One night he broke into a house where a young man and his very wealthy father lived, and in the process of burglarizing it, he was confronted by a young man. There was a struggle, and the young man was shot and killed.

The orphan criminal is apprehended and is taken into custody. The father of the slain young man takes pity of the orphan and forgives him. Is that Grace?

The father goes down to the jail and bails the criminal out of jail by paying his bail bond. Is that Grace?

The father then takes the orphan back to his house where he lets him stay. He feeds and clothes him. Is that Grace?

The father then legally adopts the orphan and loves him like he did his own son. Is that Grace?

The father then gives his new son all of his wealth and status. Is that grace?

The father then goes to back to the jail and takes the place of his newly adopted son. He takes the judgment and punishment that was meant for his son. Is this grace?

Questions:

- How do we live like orphans?
- Do you believe that your own sinfulness causes the death of Jesus?
- Does the orphan contribute anything to earn the father's love?

Prodigal Son:

Luke 15:1-3,11-32 Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them. And He told them this parable, saying,... A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' And he divided his wealth between them. "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be in need. And he went and attached himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he was longing to fill his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found." And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things might be. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he became angry, and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began entreating him. But he answered and said to his father, "Look! For so many years I have been serving you, and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a kid, that I might be merry with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, you killed the fattened calf for him." And he said to him, "My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found."

- The younger son rejects his father's plan, love and authority, wants his inheritance (so basically wishes his dad was dead)
- He wants to do life on his terms and pursues a life of earthly pleasure a part from his father
- Discovers that he has made a big mistake and is desperate without his father's love and care
- The father is on the lookout – he is longing for his son's return
- The Father runs to meet his son – he humiliates himself as an elder according to social norms of the time.
- There is a great celebration when the son comes home – a foretaste of the Kingdom
- The older brother is self-righteous and critical of the grace his father shows his younger brother and he burns with anger
- The older brother doesn't join the party.

- While playing the dutiful son, the older brother hasn't actually delighted in his father's company.
- As the older brother he should have sought out his younger brother, but he doesn't.
- As Christians we get to call God "Abba" or Father and Jesus is our older brother. Unlike the older brother in the story, Jesus comes looking for us and brings us to the Father and in doing so restores our relationship with God. This defines a Christian: a person who has been restored to the proper relationship with God the Father by the work of our older brother.

Questions:

- Are you more like the younger brother (irreligious) or the older brother (religious). In what ways?
- Do you struggle with the idea that God gives grace and mercy to people who, in your opinion, don't believe deserve it? Why shouldn't this surprise you? Hint: you are worse than you think you are and have no claim to any righteousness of your own
- What is Jesus saying to the tax gatherers and sinners (the irreligious) by telling this story?
- What is Jesus saying to the Pharisees and scribes (religious) by telling this story?
- Do you know that God wants you to come home and that there is a celebration waiting?

Becoming a Christian involves the following steps:

Step 1: There is something to admit.

Christians are people who admit that they are broken. Thus, we are separated from our Father—and the result is a God-shaped vacuum in our souls. We try to fill this vacuum without God....we all run from God.

- 1) We run by being secular (irreligious)—we avoid Jesus by attempting to find life on our own.
- 2) We run by being religious—we avoid Jesus by producing a righteous life on our own.

Which way has a harder time—admitting separation from the Father. The older brother is more lost because he cannot see his lostness, his hard work and morality have blinded him. The Pharisees were deeply religious, but enemies of God. The gospel calls the irreligious and religious to stop "self-salvation" and discover grace. The humble are in; the proud are out.

Step 2: There is something to believe.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. **Titus 3:5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

A) There is a way home. You have a father and you can go home and know his embrace and his smile. You can be right with him. You can know His kiss. How many believe God is angry? How many have never known a father's love? B) You can be welcomed home but not by religion, not by

providing your own righteousness, but by grace. C) Righteousness is not something we give to God, but something he gives to us. Who produced the righteousness we need? The prodigal doesn't pay back his debt. The Father gives him the robe, an unmistakable sign of his restored standing in the family. The Christian stakes his whole eternity not on his life, but upon the life and death of Christ. Through Christ's work, we can be more loved, valued and accepted by God than we would have ever dared to imagine.

Step 3: There is something to do.

A Christian is a person who has stopped running from God (which the Bible calls repentance) and now runs to him for grace (which the Bible calls faith). They have stopped trying to earn the favor of God and are trusting in Jesus' work for them as their sure ground for acceptance with God.

Faith and repentance can be expressed at any time by surrendering your will to Christ. It may be helpful to pray like this:

"Lord Jesus, I am blown away by the notion that you could love me. I admit that I have tried to do life apart from you. I do believe you lived the life of obedience I haven't and you died as a substitute for me. So now I humbly ask you to forgive my foolishness and love me as your son or daughter. I trust that the righteousness of Christ and not my good works is what makes me delightful to you. I surrender my life to you as my Lord. Thank you for seeking me, finding me and bringing me home to you."

Sonship:

What is it?

- Through the work of Christ we are reconciled to God and adopted into His family. We are sons and daughters of God and we get to call Him "Abba" or father. Romans 8:15 "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out Abba! father!"

What does it mean?

- We don't have to live like orphans – making life about ourselves
- While we are a lot worse off than we think we are, we are also more loved than we can ever imagine.
- We have a purpose – sent to work in the family business of bringing Kingdom renewal, health and hope to our community.
- We have a glorious inheritance. We are co-heirs with Jesus.
- We don't have to fear anything in this world because we have God's love. You don't have to ever feel unloved or that no one understands you or that you are unaccepted. You can live life with confidence.

Covenant Theology:

The distance between God and man is so great that there could be no relationship between them without God taking the initiative by way of making a covenant with man. A covenant is a bond in blood that commits God and man to one another. This commitment is never casual. They were “cut” – the implications of this bond were always life and death. Both parties pledge to uphold the agreement at the cost of their lives.

God’s relationship with man before the fall is called the covenant of works or the covenant of creation. In this covenant God created man, initiated a relationship with him, and promised him eternal life upon condition of obedience.

Due to man’s fall, which rendered him unable to meet the condition of the covenant of works, God established a second covenant we call the covenant of grace or the covenant of redemption. The covenant of grace is not a covenant between God and man, but it is actually a covenant between the members of the Trinity: God the Father agreed to give His son, God the Son agreed to give His life to redeem many, and God the Holy Spirit agreed to apply His redemption to those that are saved or otherwise known as God’s elect.

The Bible often speaks of God’s bond with men prior to Christ’s work as the old covenant and after Christ as the new covenant. The old covenant isn’t replaced by the new covenant, but is fulfilled in it. God takes sole responsibility for the fulfillment of the covenant. In Matthew 26:28 at the Last Supper Jesus offers the cup to his disciples saying “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the remission of sins.” Jesus offers his own body and blood as a victim of the covenantal death curse.

The takeaway here is that the bible is a story of God’s redemptive plan. He declares his love and devotion to us while we continually stray and are unable to keep our end of the bargain. We forget the depths of his love and faithfulness towards us, or even worse, we don’t want him to be our God – we prefer to be our own. Thankfully, the purpose of the covenant of grace was to make a people to be His very own forever.

Jr. Pastor's Class
Week 2: Grace & Sonship

Grace is _____.

There is something to _____.

We all run from _____.

We avoid _____ by attempting to find _____ on our own.

We avoid _____ by producing a righteous _____ on our own.

There is something to _____.

You have a _____ and you can go home and know his embrace and his smile.

You are welcomed home by _____.

_____ is not something we give to God, but something he _____ to us.

The _____ stakes his whole eternity not on his life, but upon the life and death of _____.

There is something to _____.

A _____ is a person who has _____ running from God and now runs to him for grace.

_____ and _____ can be expressed at any time by surrendering your will to Christ.

What is sonship?

We are a lot _____ than we think we are, but we are more _____ than we can ever imagine.

We are sent to work in the _____ business of bringing _____ renewal, health and hope to our community.

A _____ is a bond in blood that commits God and man to one another.

God's relationship with man before the fall is called the _____.

The _____ is not a covenant between God and man, but it is actually a covenant between the Trinity.

Jesus offers his own _____ and _____ as a victim of the covenantal death curse.

The Bible is a story of God's _____ plan.

The purpose of the _____ was to make a people to be His very own forever.

Jr. Pastor's Class
Week 2: Discussion Questions

Question 1: How do we live like orphans?

Question 2: Do you believe that your own sinfulness causes the death of Jesus?

Question 3: Does the orphan contribute anything to earn the father's love?

Read the Prodigal Son story in Luke 15:1-32

Question 4: Are you more like the younger brother (irreligious) or the older brother (religious)? In what ways?

Question 5: Do you struggle with the idea that God gives grace and mercy to people who, in your opinion, don't believe deserve it? Why shouldn't this surprise you? Hint: you are worse than you think you are and have no claim to any righteousness of your own.

Question 6: What is Jesus saying to the tax gathers and sinners (the irreligious) by telling this story?

Question 7: Do you know that God wants you to come home and that there is a celebration waiting?

Jr. Pastor's Class
Weekly Check Off

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

- ☐ My child and I completed our study for the week.
- ☐ My child and I recited our shorter catechism together.
- ☐ We went through the discussion questions.

After this lesson, I need help with, advice on, or further reading material with:

Jr. Pastor's Class
Week 3: Lecture Notes

Review:

- Belief in self or belief in God?
- Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- The great exchange: our sin given to Christ, His righteousness given to us.

5 points of Calvinism that summarize the order of salvation:

T = TOTAL DEPRAVITY
U = UNMERITED FAVOR
L = LIMITED ATONEMENT
I = IRRESISTABLE GRACE
P = PERSEVERENCE OF THE SAINTS

The sacraments of the Church:

The sacraments of the new covenant of grace are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are signs and seals of the covenant of grace.

BAPTISM:

Baptism is an outward sign of a believer's salvation. The water symbolizes the cleansing work of the Holy Spirit in our life. We are merged with Christ in his death and resurrection and thus have a claim to all the privileges this affords. Infant baptism brings our children into a special relationship with God. We are claiming God's covenantal promises on them. In baptism we are principally celebrating God's faithfulness to us. A perfect, steadfast, unyielding, forever faithfulness.

THE LORD'S SUPPER:

On the night of his betrayal, at the Passover meal, Christ established the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. He instructs the church to celebrate this until his return. The purpose of the supper is to help us remember Christ's sacrificial death, to remind us of the benefits given to us because of it, to spiritually nourish us, and to provide communion with him and each other in anticipation of his return. It's also called the Last Supper because it takes place the night before Jesus died.

The Lord's Supper is only for those who have made a public profession of faith in Christ and are able to adequately prepare themselves for it. Preparation includes confessing our sins,

reconciling with those who we may have sinned against, reviewing the state of our faith, repentance, love for God and one other. During the Lord's Supper we ought to be thinking about God's plan of our salvation and the accomplishing of our salvation through the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of our savior and its application to us by the Holy Spirit. We ought to be deeply sorry for our sins and hunger for Christ's righteousness. Finally, we should become convinced anew that we are the recipients of the love and grace of God. As we take the elements we are to be reminded that Christ lives in us, and that when God looks at us, he sees the righteousness of Christ

The Lord's Supper should be celebrated often because it puts the death of Jesus in the center of your mind. It reminds you of the significance of the cross of Christ and in doing so, grows our faith.

THE BREAD:

The bread in the supper tells us about the significance of Jesus' death. To see this you need to understand the backdrop of the meal that Jesus is sitting down to eat with his disciples. They are celebrating the Passover. The Passover meal was started in ancient Israel and its purpose was to recount and celebrate God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. In the traditional Passover meal the bread would represent the affliction/suffering of the Jews in Egypt. As they ate the bread they would remember the suffering of their ancestors. Jesus says of the bread "This is my body", in other words, he is saying he is going to suffer so that you can be delivered." The first Passover was eaten the night before the Israelites were liberated from their slavery in Egypt. Now Jesus is eating this meal before another liberation. He is not freeing them from Pharaoh, but from slavery to sin and death. His death is the way to victory over sin and death. There is no more important thing that has ever happened.

It is important because every other religion and philosophy tells us that it's what you do that is important, but not the Christian faith. The Bible tells us that it is what Jesus has done that is definitive. Jesus is the liberator. He's the savior. Heaven, salvation, and liberation don't arise from what we can do for God, but from what he has done for us in Jesus.

THE CUP:

Jesus explains: "And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'"

Jesus refers to his blood, which is at first alarming, but blood was a powerful symbol in the ancient world and the Old Testament sacrificial system called for regular sacrifices by priests where the blood of animals was shed on behalf of the people for the forgiveness of sins, Some of the ways in which the blood is symbolic:

1.) Blood tells us something is broken:

We don't want to bleed. If we bleed it means something is broken and serious. If this is so, then a blood offering shows us the severity of our sin.

2.) Blood is Associated with guilt:

Blood carried connotations of guilt in the ancient world. We still use expressions like "there is blood on your hands." We are not innocent bystanders in a world gone wrong, but we contribute to what is wrong. We all have guilty consciences. We cover things up and don't want people to know the thoughts that cross our minds and the selfishness of our hearts.

3.) Blood Stains:

Blood's ability to stain makes it hard to clean. We are stained by sin and we cannot clean it ourselves.

Think again about the Passover meal. There is bread & there is the cup, but the main course in the Passover meal is the lamb.

God delivers the people from Egypt by sending a series of plagues on the Egyptians. The last plague, the one that finally convinces Pharaoh to free the Hebrews, sends the Angel of Judgment who strikes down the firstborn in every family and they fall dead, but the Hebrews were told to have a feast on the night before and to slay a lamb. They were to smear the lamb's blood over their doorposts so that the judgment of God would pass over them. This is where the name Passover came from.

The only way to be saved was to take shelter under the blood of the lamb. You would either have a dead lamb or a dead son, but God's judgment was coming. Isn't it interesting that in the Last Supper the lamb isn't mentioned – it was like no other Passover meal ever celebrated. Why wasn't there lamb on the table? The answer is in the blood of Jesus. John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him one day, and said, "behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb.

Hebrews 9:22 says that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." The blood of Jesus brings about the forgiveness of sins. It is His blood that reconciles us to God. This is why it is called the blood of the covenant. Blood stains, but Jesus' blood washes away the stain of sin, so much so that the Bible can describe forgiven sinners "as white as snow."

The Lord's Supper is a picture of what it means to believe in Jesus. When you come to any meal, you can sit at the table and look at the bread, and look at the wine, but unless you're eating, it doesn't do you any good. The same is true with Jesus. You need to make the benefits of the cross yours by taking him in through eating this meal.

If you're not a believer, or you're not sure if you've really taken him into your life, then now is that time. Take him by faith. Trust in him for the forgiveness of your sins. Admit that you've rebelled against God and that you need a savior, and believe his blood is sufficient to cleanse you.

It may be helpful to pray like this:

“Lord

Jesus, I am blown away by the notion that you could love me. I admit that I have tried to do life apart from you. I do believe you lived the life of obedience I haven't and you died as a substitute for me. So now I humbly ask you to forgive my foolishness and love me as your son or daughter. I trust that the righteousness of Christ and not my good works is what makes me delightful to you. I surrender my life to you as my Lord. Thank you for seeking me, finding me and bringing me home to you.”

To Join the Family requires:

I. A PROFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST

Membership Question 1:

“Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?”

It is important to come to grips with the bad news of our own depravity, because without this truth, the good news of the gospel is insignificant. It is vital to admit that God's displeasure is justly deserved, that we are naturally, deliberately, and completely sinful.

Membership Question 2:

“Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?”

A key word in this membership vow is “alone.” It is vital to realize that justification comes through faith plus nothing. In no way do we contribute to our salvation. Also key is the word “resting,” conveying the idea that we have repented not only of our sins, but also of our righteousness—of attempting to earn our own salvation.

II. PARTICIPATION IN SRPC

Membership Question 3:

“Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?”

A. ATTEND WEEKEND WORSHIP.

Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

B. PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP.

Relationships are at the center of the Christian life. Even God exists as Trinity. Likewise, the Christian life cannot and should not be lived in isolation, but in face-to-face relationships in which encouragement, accountability, and friendship are living realities.

C. SERVE ON A MINISTRY TEAM.

At SRPC the primary role of the church staff is to EQUIP. It's the MEMBERS who do the ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 “And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

SRPC

Owner	JESUS
Employer	STAFF/OFFICERS
Employee	MEMBERS
Customers	THOSE WHO DON'T COME

D. PRACTICE STEWARDSHIP.

What is tithing? Setting apart 10% of your income for the work of the church.

What is stewardship?

What makes us generous givers?

- Getting the GOSPEL
2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
- Passion for God's GLORY
Psalm 70:4 Let all who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee; and let those who love Thy salvation say continually, “Let God be magnified.”
- GRATITUDE

Luke 17:17 And Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine-
- where are they?"

- WISDOM—It's just good investing!
Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

III. THE PURSUIT OF PURITY AND PEACE

Membership Question 4:

"Do you resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?"

It is expected that every church member, no matter the depth of spiritual maturity, is attempting to live a life of obedience to Christ, free from immoral practices. Being born again and having the Holy Spirit means we are no longer powerless against sin, but it doesn't mean that we won't still sin. Our obedience comes from a place of gratitude and love for God as we respond to his love, mercy, faithfulness and sacrifice. Jesus' passions become our passions and we bring the hope and healing of the Gospel to our greater community.

Membership Question 5:

"Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, promising to maintain its purity and peace/unity?"

What guidelines does the Bible give for working out interpersonal disputes?

Go directly to those with whom you have a problem and go directly to those who have a problem with you. **Proverbs 17:9** "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends." **Matthew 5:23,24** "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

What does the Bible say about those who sow discord in God's family?

Proverbs 6:19 "He who sows discord among the brethren is an abomination to the Lord."
James 1:26 "If anyone thinks himself to be religious and yet does not bridle his tongue, but deceives his own heart, this own man's religion is worthless." **Titus 3:10,11** "Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned."

Jr. Pastor's Class

Week 3: Discussion Questions

Membership Question 1

"Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope except through His sovereign mercy?"

Membership Question 2

"Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the gospel?"

Membership Question 3

"Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?"

Membership Question 4

"Do you resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to endeavor to live as becomes a follower of Christ?"

Membership Question 5

"Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church, promising to maintain its purity and peace/unity?"

Jr. Pastor's Class
Weekly Check Off

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

- ☐ My child and I completed our study for the week.
- ☐ My child and I recited our shorter catechism together.
- ☐ We went through the discussion questions.

After this lesson, I need help with, advice on, or further reading material with:

Westminster Confession of Faith

Shorter Catechism

Question 1: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Question 2: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

Answer: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

Question 3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?

Answer: The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Question 4: What is God?

Answer: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Question 5: Are there more Gods than one?

Answer: There is but one only, the living and true God.

Question 6: How many persons are there in the Godhead?

Answer: There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Question 7: What are the decrees of God?

Answer: The decrees of God are, his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Question 8: How doth God execute his decrees?

Answer: God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Question 9: What is the work of creation.?

Answer: The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.

Question 10: How did God create man?

Answer: God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Question 11: What are God's works of providence.?

Answer: God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Question 12: What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

Answer: When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

Question 13: Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

Answer: Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Question 14: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Question 15: What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

Answer: The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.

Question 16: Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression.?

Answer: The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Question 17: Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

Answer: The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Question 18: Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate where into man fell?

Answer: The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Question 19: What is the misery of that estate where into man fell?

Answer: All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Question 20: Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

Answer: God, having out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

Question 21: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

Answer: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Question 22: How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Answer: Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Question 23: What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer.?

Answer: Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Question 24: How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

Answer: Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Question 25: How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

Answer: Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Question 26: How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

Answer: Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Question 27: Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Answer: Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Question 28: Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

Answer: Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Question 29: How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

Answer: We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

Question 30: How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

Answer: The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

Question 31: What is effectual calling?

Answer: Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Question 32: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

Answer: They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Question 33: What is justification?

Answer: Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Question 34: What is adoption?

Answer: Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges, of the sons of God.

Question 35: What is sanctification?

Answer: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Question 36: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

Answer: The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Question 37: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

Answer: The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united in Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

Question 38: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

Question 39: What is the duty which God requireth of man?

Answer: The duty which God requireth of man, is obedience to his revealed will.

Question 40: What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

Answer: The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience, was the moral law.

Question 41: Wherein is the moral law summarily comprehended?

Answer: The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments.

Question 42: What is the sum of the ten commandments?

Answer: The sum of the ten commandments is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Question 43: What is the preface to the ten commandments?

Answer: The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Question 44: What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

Answer: The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Question 45: Which is the first commandment?

Answer: The first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Question 46: What is required in the first commandment?

Answer: The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

Question 47: What is forbidden in the first commandment?

Answer: The first commandment forbiddeth the denying, or not worshiping and glorifying, the true God as God, and our God; and the giving of that worship and glory to any other, which is due to him alone.

Question 48: What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?

Answer: These words before me in the first commandment teach us, that God, who seeth all things, taketh notice of, and is much displeased with, the sin of having any other god.

Question 49: Which is the second commandment?

Answer: The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Question 50: What is required in the second commandment?

Answer: The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.

Question 51: What is forbidden in the second commandment?

Answer: The second commandment forbiddeth the worshiping of God by images, or any other way not appointed in his Word.

Question 52: What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

Answer: The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Question 53: Which is the third commandment?

Answer: The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Question 54: What is required in the third commandment?

Answer: The third commandment requireth the holy and reverend use of God's names, titles, attributes, ordinances, Word, and works.

Question 55: What is forbidden in the third commandment?

Answer: The third commandment forbiddeth all profaning or abusing of anything whereby God maketh himself known.

Question 56: What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

Answer: The reason annexed to the third commandment is, that however the breakers of this commandment may escape punishment from men, yet the Lord our God will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment.

Question 57: Which is the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment is, Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Question 58: What is required in the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy sabbath to himself.

Question 59: Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly sabbath?

Answer: From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian sabbath.

Question 60: How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

Answer: The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Question 61: What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

Answer: The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission, or careless performance, of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Question 62: What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

Answer: The reasons annexed to the fourth commandment are, God's allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the sabbath day.

Question 63: Which is the fifth commandment?

Answer: The fifth commandment is, Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Question 64: What is required in the fifth commandment?

Answer: The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor, and performing the duties, belonging to everyone in their several places and relations, as superiors, inferiors, or equals.

Question 65: What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

Answer: The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honor and duty which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations.

Question 66: What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

Answer: The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is, a promise of long life and prosperity (as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good) to all such as keep this commandment.

Question 67: Which is the sixth commandment?

Answer: The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.

Question 68: What is required in the sixth commandment?

Answer: The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve our own life, and the life of others.

Question 69: What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

Answer: The sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor, unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto.

Question 70: Which is the seventh commandment?

Answer: The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Question 71: What is required in the seventh commandment?

Answer: The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behavior.

Question 72: What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

Answer: The seventh commandment forbiddeth all unchaste thoughts, words, and actions.

Question 73: Which is the eighth commandment?

Answer: The eighth commandment is, Thou shalt not steal.

Question 74: What is required in the eighth commandment?

Answer: The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others.

Question 75: What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

Answer: The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth, or may, unjustly hinder our own, or our neighbor's, wealth or outward estate.

Question 76: Which is the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Question 77: What is required in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness bearing.

Question 78: What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

Answer: The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own, or our neighbor's, good name.

Question 79: Which is the tenth commandment?

Answer: The tenth commandment is, Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Question 80: What is required in the tenth commandment?

Answer: The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor, and all that is his.

Question 81: What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

Answer: The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his.

Question 82: Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

Answer: No mere men, since the fall, is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word, and deed.

Question 83: Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

Answer: Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Question 84: What doth every sin deserve?

Answer: Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Question 85: What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse, due to us for sin?

Answer: To escape the wrath and curse of God, due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus

Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

Question 86: What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer: Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Question 87: What is repentance unto life?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Question 88: What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

Answer: The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

Question 89: How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

Answer: The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

Question 90: How is the Word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

Answer: That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

Question 91: How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

Answer: The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

Question 92: What is a sacrament?

Answer: A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

Question 93: Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

Answer: The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Question 94: What is Baptism?

Answer: Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our in grafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Question 95. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

Answer: Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

Question 96: What is the Lord's Supper?

Answer: The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

Question 97: What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

Answer: It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Question 98: What is prayer?

Answer: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Question 99: What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

Answer: The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the Lord's Prayer.

Question 100: What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

Answer: The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

Question 101: What do we pray for in the first petition?

Answer: In the first petition, which is, Hallowed be thy name, we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

Question 102: What do we pray for in the second petition?

Answer: In the second petition, which is, Thy kingdom come, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Question 103: What do we pray for in the third petition?

Answer: In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

Question 104: What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

Answer: In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

Question 105: What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

Answer: In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

Question 106: What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

Answer: In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

Question 107: What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

Answer: The conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen, teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him; and, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who 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 hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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