

Westminster Skeletons

Teaching Outlines on the Shorter Catechism

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Introduction

The contents of this booklet were first presented during my Westminster Assembly class at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI.

One of my aims was to provide students with teaching outlines for the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. There are a number of good commentaries on these historic documents. However, I could find little to help me move from these commentaries to simple and memorable teaching titles and outlines, or “skeletons” as they used to be called. My attempt to remedy this is found in the following pages.

1. While many catechisms are dealt with individually, I have grouped some together to increase teaching efficiency.
2. Most outlines are on the same page as the catechism(s). However, where this is not possible, I have put the catechisms on one page and the outline on the facing page for ease of use.
3. I provide a “sermon” title for each catechism, the text of the catechism, and then a teaching outline with headings in bold. The catechism words are italicized and gathered under the relevant heading. Sometimes I may underline a catechism word or phrase to emphasize the connection with the heading. Occasionally I will add a couple of words in brackets for extra clarification.
4. There is plenty of white space for note-taking.

May God use this teaching guide to bring these historic documents to life; instructing the head, igniting the heart, and impacting lives for His glory and our enjoyment.

Outline of the Westminster Shorter Catechism

I. Introduction (1-3)

II. What we are to believe (4-38)

- A. God's Nature and Character (4-6)
- B. God's Creation and Providence (8-11)
- C. God's "Problem" - Sin and its consequences (12-19)
- D. God's Salvation (20-38)
 - 1. The Redeemer (20-28)
 - 2. The Application of Redemption (29-31)
 - 3. The Benefits of Redemption (32-38)

III. What we are to do (39-107)

- A. God's Law (39-84)
- B. God's Gospel (85-107)
 - 1. Faith (86)
 - 2. Repentance (87)
 - 3. The Means of Grace (88-107)
 - a. The Word of God (88-90)
 - b. The Sacraments (91-97)
 - c. Prayer (98-107)

Why am I here?

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

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

1. Ending in God

Man's chief end...

2. Exalting God

...is to glorify God...

3. Enjoying God

...and to enjoy him forever.

What is truth?

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

A. 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.

Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

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

1. Divine truth

The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments...

2. Directive truth

...is the only rule to direct us...

3. Delightful Truth

...how we may glorify (delights God) and enjoy him (delights us).

4. Dependable Truth

The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God...

5. Dutiful truth

...and what duty God requires of man.

A question no one can answer

Q. 4. What is God?

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

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

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

1. Our God is Unfathomable (in His being)

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being...

2. Our God is Understandable (in His attributes)

...wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

3. Our God is Unique

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

$$\underline{1+1+1=1}$$

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. 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.

1. Evident Threeness

There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost...

2. Essential Togetherness

...and these three are one God...

...the same in substance...

3. Equal Throne

...equal in power...

...and [equal in] glory.

Does anyone have a plan?

Q. 7. What are the decrees of God?

A. 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.

Q. 8. How doth God execute his decrees?

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

1. Your Plan is

- a. Dated
- b. Dependent
- c. Directionless
- d. Diminutive
- e. Defeated

2. God's Plan is

- a. Immutable

The decrees of God are his eternal purpose...

- b. Independent

...according to the counsel of his will...

- c. Intentional

...whereby, for his own glory...

- d. Inclusive

...he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

- e. Implemented

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

Evolution or Creation?

Q. 9. What is the work of creation?

A. 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.

1. The work of evolution is:

a. The maker

Nothing making all things

b. The material

...out of a big bang...

c. The means

...by mutation and natural selection...

d. The minutes

...in the space of billions of years...

e. The mark

..and all not very good, but getting better.

2. The work of creation is:

a. The maker

The work of creation is God's making all things...

b. The material

...of nothing...

c. The means

...by the word of His power...

d. The minutes

...in the space of six days...

e. The mark

...and all very good.

Did I ever look like that?

Q. 10. How did God create man?

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

1. A Message to Feminists

God created man male and female (distinction and equality)...

2. A Message to Evolutionists

...after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness (perfect)...

3. A Message to Environmentalists

...with dominion over the creatures.

Where is God in my suffering?

Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?

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

1. God is under you

God's works of providence are his most...

...holy preservation...

...wise preservation...

...powerful preservation...

2. God is over you

...holy governing...

...wise governing...

...powerful governing...

...all his creatures and all their actions

The Covenant of Works then Wages

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

A. 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 the pain of death.

1. A Creature

When God had created man...

2. A Covenant

...he entered into a covenant of life with him...

3. A Condition

...upon condition of perfect obedience...

4. A Command

...forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...

5. A Condemnation

...upon the pain of death.

What went wrong?

Q. 13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

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

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

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

1. Full Freedom

Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will...

2. Fatal Fall

...fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

3. Forbidden Fruit

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

What is right and wrong?

Q. 14. What is sin?

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

1. God's Law

a. God has given us a target to aim at

Sin is any want of conformity unto...the law of God

b. God has given us boundary to stay in

Sin is any...transgression of the law of God

2. Our Lawlessness

a. We have fallen short of God's target

b. We have crossed God's boundary

What did I do?

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

A. 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.

1. You were regarded as Adam

The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but his posterity...

2. Your were rooted in Adam

...all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation...

3. You rebelled in Adam

...sinned in him...

4. You were ruined with Adam

...and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Our Polluted Predicament

Q. 17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

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

Q. 18. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. 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.

The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in...

1. Credited Condemnation

...the guilt of Adam's first sin (which we are credited with)...

2. Ruined Righteousness

...the want (loss) of original righteousness...

3. Noxious Nature

...and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin...

4. Festering Fruit

...together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Our Miserable Mess

Q. 17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

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

Q. 19. What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. 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

All mankind by their fall...

1. Our Miserable Loss

...lost communion with God...

2. Our Miserable Load

...are under his wrath and curse...

3. Our Miserable Liability

a. Miseries of this life

...and so made liable to all the miseries of this life...

b. Miseries of death

...to death itself...

c. Miseries of hell

...and to the pains of hell forever.

God's Marvellous Mercy

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

A. 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.

1. God is delighted to save

God, having out of his mere good pleasure...

2. God has decided to save

...from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life...

3. God is determined to save

...did enter into a covenant of grace...

4. God will doubly save

...to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery...

...and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

Jesus Christ: Unique, Unusual, Unchanging

Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. 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.

1. Your redeemer is unique

The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ...

2. Your redeemer is unusual

...who being the eternal Son of God...

...became man...

3. Your redeemer is unchanging

...and so was and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person forever.

- a. Continues to be God
- b. Continues to be man
- c. Continues in two distinct natures
- d. Continues one person
- e. Continues forever

Similar Yet Different

Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

A. 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.

1. Christ's humanity is like ours

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself

a. A normal body

...a true body...

b. A normal soul

...a reasonable soul...

c. A normal gestation

...in the womb of the virgin Mary...

d. A normal birth

...and born of her.

2. Christ's humanity is unlike ours

a. Different Cause

...he took to himself...

...being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost...

b. Different Effect

...yet without sin.

The Highs and Lows of the Greatest Officebearer

Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?

A. 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.

1. His Great Offices

Christ as our Redeemer, executeth the office of a...

- a. Prophet
- b. Priest
- c. King

2 His Great Opposites

Both in his estate of humiliation and...

...[His estate of] exaltation.

Our Personal Preacher

Q. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

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

1. The Office of a Prophet

Christ executeth the office of a prophet...

2. The Operation of a Prophet

...in revealing to us...the will of God..

3. The Organs of a Prophet

...by his Word...

...and [by his] Spirit...

4. The Objective of a Prophet

...for our salvation.

Our Praying Priest

Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A. 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.

Christ executeth the office of a priest...

1. Christ's one sacrifice for us

a. The sacrificer

...in his once offering up...

b. The sacrifice

...of himself, a sacrifice...

d. The satisfaction

...to satisfy divine justice...

e. The society

...to reconcile us to God...

2. Christ's ongoing supplication for us

...and in making continual intercession for us.

Our Conquering King

Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king?

A. 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.

Christ executeth the office of a king...

1. Christ is King of His Friends

a. He subdues us

...in subduing us to himself...

b. He rules us

...in ruling [us] ...

c. He defends us

...and defending us...

2. Christ's is King of His Enemies

a. He restrains our enemies

...and in restraining [his and our enemies]

b. He conquers our enemies

...and conquering his and our enemies.

How low can you go?

Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. 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.

Christ's humiliation consisted in...

1. His Humiliating Birth

a. The fact of his birth

...his being born...

b. The circumstances of his birth

...and that in a low condition...

2. His Humiliating Bond

...made under the law...

3. His Humiliating Burdens

a. The miseries of this life

...undergoing the miseries of this life...

b. The wrath of God

...[undergoing] the wrath of God

4. His Humiliating Bloodshed

...and the cursed death of the cross

5. His Humiliating Burial

a. His burial

...in being buried...

b. His staying buried

...and continuing under the power of death for a time.

How high can you go?

Q. 28. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A. 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.

Christ's exaltation consisteth in...

1. He rose to life

...his rising again from the dead on the third day...

2. He rose to heaven

...ascending up into heaven...

3. He rose to God's right hand

...in sitting at the right hand of God the Father...

4. He will rise to judge

...and in coming to judge the world at the last day...

I want it, but how do I get it?

Q. 29. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?

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

Q. 30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. 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.

1. He Bought us for Himself

We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ...

2. He Brings us to Himself

...by the effectual application of it to us by His Spirit...

The spirit applies the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us...[in our effectual calling]

3. He Binds us to Himself

...thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

I think I've got it, but how can I be sure?

Q. 31. What is effectual calling?

A. 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.

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby...

1. The Spirit has given you a new misery

...convincing us of our sin and misery...

2. The Spirit has given you a new knowledge

...enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ...

3. The Spirit has given you a new ability

...and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us...

4. The Spirit has given you a new love

...to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.

God made me right

Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. 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.

Q. 33. What is justification?

A. 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.

1. God acts

Justification is an act of God's free grace...

2. God pardons

...wherein he pardoneth all our sins...

3. God accepts

...and accepts us as righteous in His sight...

4. God imputes

...only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us...

5. You receive

...and received by faith alone.

God made me a son

Q. 34. What is adoption?

A. 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.

1. Your New Parent

Adoption is an act of God's free grace...

2. Your New People

...whereby we are received into the number [of the sons of God]

3. Your New Privileges

...and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

God makes me holy

Q. 35. What is sanctification?

A. 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.

1. The Roots of Sanctification

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace...

2. The Renewal of Sanctification

...whereby we are renewed in the whole man...

3. The Result of Sanctification

...after the image of God...

4. The Realization of Sanctification

...and are enabled more and more to die unto sin...

...[and are enabled more and more to] live unto righteousness.

The Blessings of the Christian's Life

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

A. 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.

The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are...

1. Confidence

...assurance of God's love...

2. Calmness

...peace of conscience...

3. Cheerfulness

...joy in the Holy Ghost...

4. Cultivation

...increase of grace...

5. Continuance

...and perseverance therein to the end.

The Blessings of the Christian's Death

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. 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.

1. Blessed Soul

- a. Holy perfection

The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness...

- b. Hastened passage

...and do immediately pass into glory...

2. Blessed Body

- a. Related to Christ

...and their bodies, being still united to Christ...

- b. Resting in the grave

...do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

The Blessings of the Christian's Resurrection

Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. 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.

At the resurrection believers...

1. A Beautiful Resurrection

...being raised up in glory...

2. A Big Relief

...shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment...

3. A Blessed Rejoicing

...and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

What does God want from me?

Q. 39. What is the duty which God requireth of man?

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

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

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

Q. 41. Wherein is the moral law summarily comprehended?

A. The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments

Q. 42. What is the sum of the ten commandments?

A. 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.

1. The Duty

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

2. The Declaration

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

3. The Digest

The moral law is summarily comprehended in the ten commandments

4. The Duet

a. Love our God

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...

b. Love our neighbor

...and our neighbor as ourselves.

Relationship then Rules

Q. 43. What is the preface to the ten commandments?

A. 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.*

Q. 44. What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

A. 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.

1. From Redemption to Relationship

a. Relationship

The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God...

The preface to the ten commandments teacheth, us that because God is the Lord, and our God...

b. Redemption

...which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage...

...because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer...

2. From Relationship to Rules

...therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Does it really matter who I worship?

Q. 45. Which is the first commandment?

A. The first commandment is, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words *before me* in the first commandment?

A. 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.

1. Study me

The first commandment requireth us to know... God to be the only true God, and our God...

2. Speak of me

...and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God...

3. Serve me

...and to worship and glorify him accordingly...

4. See me

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.

Does it really matter how I worship?

Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?

A. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing 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 shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?

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

Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?

A. 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.

1. God's Regulation of Worship

The second commandment requireth...

...all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word.

The second commandment forbiddeth...

...the worshipping of God...any other way not appointed in his Word.

2. God's Requirements of Worship

The second commandment requireth...

...the receiving...

...observing...

...and keeping pure...

...[and keeping] entire...

...all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his word.

3. God's Refusal of Worship

The second commandment forbiddeth

the worshipping of God by images...

...or any other way not appointed in His word.

4. God's Reasons for Worship

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.

Seriously!

Q. 53. Which is the third commandment?

A. 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.*

Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?

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

Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?

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

Q. 56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?

A. 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.

1. A Serious Matter

The third commandment requireth the holy and reverent use of...

God's Names

God's Titles

God's Attributes

God's Ordinances

God's Word

God's Works

Anything whereby God makes himself known.

2. A Serious Motivation

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.

The “Why-to” of Sunday

Q. 57. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. 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.*

Q. 58. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 59. Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly sabbath?

A. 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.

Q. 62. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?

A. 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.

1. A Complete Day

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...

2. A [God] Centered Day

...to be a holy Sabbath to himself...

3. A Changed Day

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...

4. Continuing Day

...to continue to the end of the world...

5. A Christian Day

...which is the Christian Sabbath.

6. A Claimed Day

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.

The “How-to” of Sunday

Q. 60. How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

A. 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.

Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. 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.

1. A Day to Stop

a. Stop lawful employments and recreations

The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful in other days...

b. Stop what is sinful

(The fourth commandment forbiddeth...doing that which is in itself sinful...

c. Stop unnecessary thoughts, words, and works

or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations)

2. A Day to Serve

a. Serve God

...and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship...

(The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties required...

...and the profaning the day by idleness...)

b. Serve others

...except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Rules for Rewarding Relationships

Q. 63. Which is the fifth commandment?

A. 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.*

Q. 64. What is required in the fifth commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 66. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?

A. 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.

1. Defend the Dignity

The fifth commandment requireth the preserving the honor...

(The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against the honor... which belongeth to everyone...)

2. Do the Duty

...and performing the duties belonging to everyone...

(The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against...the duty which belongeth to everyone...)

3. Define the Differences

...everyone in their several places and relations...

...as superiors, inferiors, or equals...

4. Draw the Dividend

The reason annexed to the fifth commandment is a promise of long life and prosperity to all such as keep this commandment...

...(as far as it shall serve for God's glory and their own good).

How to be Pro-Life

Q. 67. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, *Thou shalt not kill.*

Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment?

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

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

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

1. Life is Precious

The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve

...our own life...

...and the life of others.

2. Life is Protected

a. By God

The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.

b. By ourselves

The sixth commandment requireth all lawful endeavors to preserve...life

3. Life is Prolonged

...by all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life and the life of others...

...by avoiding whatsoever tends [towards the taking of life].

How to be Pro-Love

Q. 70. Which is the seventh commandment?

A. The seventh commandment is, *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

Q. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment?

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

Q. 72. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?

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

1. Loving or lustful thoughts?

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

2. Loving or lustful words?

...speech...

3. Loving or lustful actions?

...and behavior

How to be Pro-Wealth

Q. 73. Which is the eighth commandment?

A. The eighth commandment is, *Thou shalt not steal.*

Q. 74. What is required in the eighth commandment?

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

Q. 75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?

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

1. Get it

The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring...

2. Grow it

...and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves ...

3. Give it

...and furthering the wealth and outward estate of...others.

4. Guard it

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

How to be Pro-Truth

Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

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

1. Preserve and Promote Private Truth

The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man...

2. Preserve and Promote Public Truth

...and of our own and our neighbor's good name

...especially in witness bearing.

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

Coveting Contentment

Q. 79. Which is the tenth commandment?

A. 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.*

Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment?

A. 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.

Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?

A. 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.

1. Full Contentment

The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition...

2. Friendly Contentment

...with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbor and all that is his.

The tenth commandment forbiddeth...envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor...

...and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his

Our Failure, God's Fury

Q. 82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. No mere man, 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.

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

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

Q. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

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

1. The Failure is Universal

No mere man 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.

2. The Fault is Unequal

Some sins in themselves...are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

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

3. The Fury is Unending

Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse...

...both in this life...

...and in that which is to come.

Life-saving Faith

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

A. 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.

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. 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.

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby...

1. Faith Receives Christ Alone

...we receive...him alone for salvation...

...as he is offered to us in the gospel.

2. Faith Rests on Christ Alone

...we rest upon him alone for salvation...

...as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Happy Sorrow

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. 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.

Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner...

1. Turn from Sin

a. Learn about your sin

...out of a true sense of his sin...

b. Lament over sin

...doth with grief...of his sin...

c. Loathe sin

...doth with...hatred of his sin...

d. Leave sin

...turn from it

2. Turn to the Savior

a. Learn about the mercy of God in Christ

...out of an apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ...

b. Love the mercy of God in Christ

...out of an apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ...

c. Look to the mercy of God in Christ

...doth turn unto God...

d. Live out of the mercy of God in Christ

...with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

Diligent Use of the Word

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

A. 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.

Q. 89. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. 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.

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

A. 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.

1. The Cause: Diligent Hearing

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.

2. The Effect: Divine Blessing

The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching, of the Word, an effectual means of...

...convincing sinners...

...converting sinners...

...and of building them up in holiness (cleansing sinners)...

...and comfort...

...through faith, unto salvation.

Diligent Use of the Sacraments

Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

A. 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.

1. Powerless Sacraments

The sacraments become effectual means of salvation...

a. Don't trust in inherent virtue

...not from any virtue in them...

d. Don't trust in individual virtue

...or in him that doth administer them...

2. Powerful Sacraments

a. Look to Christ's blessing

...but only by the blessing of Christ...

b. Look to Christ's Spirit

...and the working of his Spirit in them...

c. Look to Christ by faith

...that by faith receive them

The Savior's Sacraments

Q. 92. What is a sacrament?

A. 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.

1. The Importance

A sacrament is a holy ordinance...

2. The Institution

...instituted by Christ...

3. The Illustration

...wherein, by sensible signs, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented...

4. The Imprimatur (stamp of approval/distinction)

...sealed...

5. The Impression

...and applied to believers.

Baptismal Blessings

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q. 94. What is baptism?

A. 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 ingrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

Q. 95. To whom is Baptism to be administered?

A. 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.

1. The Water of Baptism

Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water...

2. The Words of Baptism

...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...

3. The Worth of Baptism

...doth signify and seal...

...our ingrafting into Christ...

...and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace

...and our engagement to be the Lord's.

4. The Warrant of Baptism

a. Credo-baptism

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...

b. Child-baptism

...but the infants of visible church members are to be baptised.

Faith turns Food into a Feast

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. 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.

Q. 97. What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. 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.

1. The Food

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...

2. The Faith

...and the worthy receivers are...

...not after a corporal and carnal manner...

...but by faith...

3. The Feast

...made partakers of his body and blood with all his benefits...

...to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

4. The Forewarning

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...

...their faith to feed upon him...

...their repentance...

...their love...

...their new obedience

...lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Diligent Use of Prayer

Q. 98. What is prayer?

A. 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.

Q. 99. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?

A. 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.

1. Plan your prayers

a. Our desires

Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God...

...for things agreeable to his will...

...in the name of Christ...

b. Our confession

...with confession of our sins...

c. Our thanks

...and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.

2. Pattern your prayers

The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer...

...but the special rule of direction is...the Lord's Prayer.

Before you even begin...

Q. 100. What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. 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.

The preface of the Lord's Prayer, which is, Our Father which art in heaven, teacheth us...

1. Think about your Father

...to draw near to God...

...with all holy reverence (which art in heaven) ...

...with all holy confidence (Our Father) ...

...as children to a father...

...able and ready to help us...

2. Think about your family

...and that we should pray with and for others.

Soli Deo Gloria (To the glory of God alone)

Q. 101. What do we pray for in the first petition?

A. 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.

In the first petition, which is, Hallowed be thy name, we pray...

1. Let thy glory be revealed

...that God would enable us and others...

...to glorify him...

...in all that whereby he makes himself known...

2. Let thy glory be the result

...and that he would dispose all things to his glory.

Exterminate, Expand, Expedite

Q. 102. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. 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.

In the second petition, which is, Thy kingdom come, we pray...

1. Exterminate the Kingdom of Gloom

...that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed...

2. Expand the Kingdom of Grace

...that the kingdom of grace may be advanced...

...ourselves and others brought into it...

...and kept in it...

3. Expedite the Kingdom of Glory

...and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

Our Angelic Models

Q. 103. What do we pray for in the third petition?

A. 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.

In the third petition, which is, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven, we pray...

1. Apprehend God's will like the angels

...that God by his grace would make us able and willing to know... his will in all things...

...as the angels do in heaven.

2. Act on God's will like the angels

...to obey...his will in all things...

...as the angels do in heaven.

3. Acquiesce to God's will like the angels

...and submit to his will in all things

...as the angels do in heaven.

The Beggar's Benefactor

Q. 104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?

A. 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.

In the fourth petition, which is, Give us this day our daily bread, we pray

1. The Beggar's Plea

...that of God's free gift we may receive...

2. The Beggar's Portion

...a competent portion of the good things of this life...

3. The Beggar's Proviso

...and enjoy his blessing with them.

Free and Full Forgiveness

Q. 105. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. 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.

In the fifth petition, which is, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, we pray...

1. Our Debt

...all our sins

2. Our Desire

..that God...

...for Christ's sake

...would freely pardon all our sins...

3. Our Duty

...which we are rather encouraged to ask...

...because by his grace...

...we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

Trumping Temptation

Q. 106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. 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.

In the sixth petition, which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, we pray...

1. Stop us from being tempted

...that God would keep us from being tempted to sin...

2. Support us if we're being tempted

...or support us...when we are tempted...

3. Save us if we've given into temptation

...or deliver us when we are tempted.

Ending at the Beginning

Q. 107. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

A. 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 conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, which is, For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen, teacheth us...

1. Our Comfort in Prayer

...to take our encouragement in prayer from God only...

2. Our Celebration in Prayer

...and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him...

3. Our Confidence in Prayer

...and in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, Amen.