

Q. 24. What do you believe when you say: "And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord"?

A. That Jesus Christ is the eternal and only son of the Father, co-essential with God the Father, and the Holy Ghost.

Q. 25. Do you not believe that he also became man?

A. Yes: for he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary.

Q. 26. Is his Godhead then changed into humanity?

A. No; for the Godhead is immutable.

Q. 27. How is he then become man?

By assuming the human nature into a personal union with his divine.

Q. 28. Did he then bring his human nature from heaven?

A. No; but he took it on him of the Virgin Mary, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, and is thus become like unto his brethren in all things, sin excepted. Heb. 2:17 and 4:15.

Q. 29. Why is he called Jesus, that is, Savior?

A. Because he saves his people from their sins.

Q. 30. Is there no other Savior?

A. No; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, than the name of Jesus. Acts 4:12.

Q. 31. Why is he called Christ, that is, anointed?

A. Because he was anointed with the Holy Ghost, and ordained by God the Father, to be our chief Prophet, our only High Priest, and our eternal King.

Q. 32. What then hath Jesus Christ done to save us?

A. He has suffered for us, was crucified and died, was buried and descended into hell, that is, he suffered the torments of hell, and thus became obedient to his Father, that He -

might deliver us from the temporal and eternal punishment due to sin.

Q. 33. In which nature hath he suffered this?

A. Only in his human nature, that is, in soul and body.

Q. 34. What hath then his God-head contributed thereto?

A. His Godhead, by its power, in such wise strengthened the assumed human nature, that it could bear the burden of God's wrath against sin, and deliver us from it.

Q. 35. Did Christ then remain under the power of death?

A. No; but he rose from the dead the third day for our justification. Rom. 4:25.

Q. 36. Where is Christ now, as to his human nature?

A. He is ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father; that is, exalted in the highest glory, far above all creatures. Eph. 1:20, 21.

Q. 37. To what end is He there so highly exalted?

A. Particularly that He might from thence govern His Church, and there be our intercessor with the Father.

Q. 38. Is he not with us then even unto the end of the world, as he hath promised us? Matt. 28:20.

A. With respect to his Godhead, majesty, grace and spirit, he is never absent from us; but with respect to his human nature, he remains in heaven, until he shall come again to judge the quick and the dead

Q. 39. What do you believe concerning the Holy Ghost?

A. That he is the true and co-eternal God with the Father and the Son; and that he being given to me of the Father, through Christ, regenerates me and leads me into all truth, comforts me, and will abide with me for ever.

Q. 40. What do you believe concerning the holy catholic church?

Q. 17. Cannot the saints be our mediators?

A. No; for they themselves have sinned, and have obtained salvation by no other means, than through this Mediator.

Q. 18. Shall all men then be saved by the Mediator,

Jesus, as they are all condemned in Adam?

A. No; but those only who receive him by a true faith; as it is written, John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Q. 19. What is true faith?

A. It is a certain knowledge of God, and of his promises revealed to us in the gospel, and an hearty confidence that all my sins are forgiven me, for Christ's sake.

Q. 20. What is the sum of that which God has promised in the gospel, and commanded us to believe?

A. That is comprehended in the twelve articles of the catholic Christian Faith, which are as follows:

1. I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
2. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
3. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
4. Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hell;
5. The third day he rose again from the dead;

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Q. 49. By what means?

A. By the hearing of the word preached. Rom. 10:14-17.

Q. 50. How does he strengthen that faith?

A. By the same word preached, and by the use of the holy sacraments.

Q. 51. What are the sacraments.?

A. They are holy signs and seals instituted by God, thereby to assure us, that he of grace grants us remission of sins, and life eternal, for the sake of that one sacrifice of Christ finished on the cross.

Q. 52. How many sacraments hath Christ instituted in the New Testament?

A. Two: holy baptism, and the holy supper

Q. 53. Which is the outward sign in baptism?

A. The water, with which we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Q. 54. What doth that signify and seal?

A. The washing away of sins by the blood and Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Q. 55. Where hath Christ promised and assured us of this?

A. In the institution of baptism; which is as follows: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believe and is baptized shall be saved, but he that does not believe, shall be damned."

Q. 56. Are infants also to be baptized

A. Yes; for they, as well as the adult, are comprehended in the covenant of God, and in his church.

Q. 57. What is the outward sign in the Lords' Supper.

A. The broken bread that we eat, and the poured out wine which we drink, in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.

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- Q. 4. How are the ten commandments divided?
 A. Into two tables.
- Q. 5. Which is the sum of what God requires of you in the four commandments of the first table?
 A. That I love the Lord my God, with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength: this is the first and great commandment.
- Q. 6. Which is the sum of what God commands you in the six commandments of the second table?
 A. That I love my neighbor as myself: on these two commandments hang the whole law and the prophets.
- Q. 7. Can you keep all these things perfectly?
 A. In no wise: for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor; and to transgress the commandments of God in thought, word, and deed.
- Q. 8. Has God created you naturally so wicked and perverse?
 A. By no means: but he created me good and after his own image, in the true knowledge of God, in righteousness and in holiness.
- Q. 9. Why then proceeds that depravity that is in you?
 A. From the fall and disobedience of Adam and Eve in Paradise; that's why our nature has become so corrupt, that we are all conceived and born in sin.
- Q. 10. What was that disobedience?
 A. That they did eat of the fruit of the tree, which God had forbidden them. Page 4

- Q. 63. How must we then deal with such persons?
 A. According to the appointment given us by Christ, Matt. 18:15, 16, 17: "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone; if he shall hear you, you have gained your brother; but if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established; and if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto you as an heathen man and a publican."

THE THIRD PART.

OF THE GRATITUDE WE OWE TO GOD FOR REDEMPTION.

- Q. 64. Since we are saved merely of grace through Christ, why must we then yet do good works?
 A. Not to merit heaven thereby (which Christ has done), but because this is commanded me of God.
- Q. 65. What purpose then do your good works answer?
 A. That I may thereby testify my thankfulness to God for all his benefits, and that he may be glorified by me; and that also I may be assured of the sincerity of my faith, by good works, as the fruits thereof, and that my neighbors may be edified thereby and gained to Christ.
- Q. 66. Shall they also be saved who do no good works?
 A. No; for the Scripture says, that neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor whoremongers, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers, nor such like, shall inherit the kingdom of God, 1 Cor. 6:9 and 10, unless they turn to the Lord. Page 13

A Compendium of the Christian Religion

Question 1. How many things are necessary for you to know, that you enjoying real comfort may live and die happily?

Answer: Three: first, how great my sins and miseries are; the second, how I may be delivered from all my sins and miseries; the third, how I shall express my gratitude to God for such deliverance.

THE FIRST PART - OF THE MISERY OF MAN

Q. 2. How do you come to know your misery?

A. Out of the law of God.

Q. 3. What hath God commanded you in his law?

A. That which is contained in the ten commandments, which he hath revealed in Scripture, as follows: Exodus 20 and Deut. 5: 6, 7, etc. I am the Lord your God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

I. You shall have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make any graven image, nor 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 to them, nor serve them: for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me ,

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Q. 73. What are the words of that prayer?

A. Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Q. 74. What do you desire of God in this prayer?

A. 1. That all things which tend to the glory of God, may be promoted, and whatsoever is repugnant thereto, or contrary to his will, may be prevented.
2. That he may provide me with all things necessary for the body, and as to my soul, preserve me from all evil, which might in any wise be detrimental to my salvation. Amen.

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