

xknowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which shall devour the adversaries.” (Hebrews 10:23-27)

Know the truth
and the truth will set you free.

What is the chief end of man?
(Question 1, Westminster Shorter Catechism)

What is your only comfort in life and in death?
(Question 1, Heidelberg Catechism)

KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

*“So Jesus said to the Jews that believed in Him,
‘Know the truth and the truth will set you free.’”*
John 8:31-32

Just before Jesus ascended back to heaven, He gave this instruction:

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...
and teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded
you.”*
Matthew 28:19a & 20a

This Bible Study teaches what I believe are the main things a Christian should know about our relationship with God.

I believe that the Heidelberg and Westminster Catechisms both teach the Reformed Faith. They differ somewhat in their way of teaching, so I used material from both of them.

As a starting point, I am using Question 4, from the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Question 4: What is God?
Answer: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

(What is God not Who is God, because “Who” would refer to a person. God is a Trinity consisting of three persons – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.)

(Spirit) *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and truth.”*
(John 4:24)

God has blessed our land so much in the past.

I believe the reason God created us and saves us is so that we will worship Him.

I believe the U. S. A. is being punished for failing to worship on the Lord's Day. *"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work."* (Exodus 20:8 & Deuteronomy 5:12)

Have you been born again?

Does your life show that you have the true knowledge of the one true God?

Are you living in righteousness?

The definition of righteousness = The quality of being right.

Let's return to the Westminster Catechism.

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

Answer: The duty that God requires of man, is obedience to His revealed will.

Question 40: What did God 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: Where is the moral law summarily comprehended?

Answer: The moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.

Question 5: Are there more Gods than one?

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

1. *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, The Lord is one."* (Deuteronomy 6:4)
2. *"But the Lord is the True God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to stand His indignation."* (Jeremiah 10:10)

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

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

1. *"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; these three are one."* (1 John 5:7)
2. *"When he had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were open to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And suddenly a voice from heaven saying, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16-17)*

(All three Persons of the Trinity are present and active at the same time.)

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.

1. *“Come unto Me, all you who labor, and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”*
(Matthew 11: 28)
2. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* (John 1:9-10)
3. *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given amount men by which you must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

THIRD – How I Am to Be Thankful to God for Such Deliverance

~ We should live a life of gratitude by walking in the good works which God has prepared, in advance that we should walk in. But what are good works?

Question 91 of the Heidelberg Catechism

Question: But what are good works?

Answer: Only those which are done from true faith according to the law of God and not such as are based on our own opinions or the precepts of men.

This is a good time for the first question of the Westminster Catechism.

Question 1: What is the chief end of man?

Answer: The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

God created man to bring God the glory and honor and praise that He desires and deserves. As long as we are on this earth we will not be able to do this perfectly, but out of gratitude we should do the best we can.

Knowing that all three persons of the Trinity are everywhere present and that they are all Spirit helps me to understand the three Persons in the Godhead. When we (people) think of doing things, we think of our bodies doing things. God does not need a body to do things.

Let’s think about the creation of mankind:

1. *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.’”* (Genesis 1:26)
2. *“And the Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.”* (Genesis 2:7)

In Question 10 of the Westminster Catechism, we read that man was created in knowledge, righteousness and holiness.

Man’s body is not the image of God. When God breathed into Adams nostrils the breath of life, the spirit of man was created.

The spirit of man was created in perfect righteousness and holiness, able to glorify God and enjoy Him perfectly. On pg. 8, it will be explained how mankind lost their perfect righteousness and holiness.

It was the spirit of man that died, in being able to live “in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness” when Adam ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man must be Born Again if he is to be able to have fellowship with God again.

If we have been Born Again then these verses should apply to us:

1. *“...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created man.”* (Colossians 3:10)
2. *“...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* (Ephesians 4:2)

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

Thanksgiving and Prayer

"¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

4. "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not ours only but also for the whole world." (I John 2:2)

Propitiate – To gain the favor of a God, Spirit or person by doing something that pleases them.

5. "Jesus answered them, 'Most assuredly I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son sets you free, you shall be free forever.'" (John 8:34-35)

Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not abide in the house forever.

- Question 2: How many things are necessary for you to know that you in this comfort may live and die happily?
- Answer: Three. The first, how great my sin and misery are; the second, how I am delivered from all my sin and misery; the third how I am to be Thankful to God.

FIRST – How Great My Sins and Misery Are

~ Apart from what we learn from the Bible, fallen mankind has no idea about what we have fallen from. I think this is why the Westminster Catechism begins with "What is the chief end of man?" (Why did God create man?). We have to find out that: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) And that, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness,'" (Genesis 1:26) so, "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils