

The Catechism

Q1 *What is your name?*

A My name is . . .

Q2 *Who gave you this name?*

A My parent(s) and godparents at my baptism. Through baptism I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.

Q3 *What did your parent(s) and godparents do on your behalf at your baptism?*

A They affirmed their allegiance to Christ, their rejection of all that is evil, and their resolve to fight against evil and to follow Christ. They affirmed all this in my name as well as their own.

Q4 *What does following Christ involve?*

A It involves three things: first, renouncing the devil and all his works, the empty show and false values of the world, and the sinful desires of the flesh; secondly, believing all that the Bible teaches about the articles of the Christian faith; and thirdly, keeping God's holy will and commandments all the days of my life.

Q5 *Do you think yourself bound to do these things?*

A Most certainly, with the Lord as my helper. I heartily thank God our heavenly Father that he has called me to the state of salvation through Jesus Christ our Saviour. And I pray that he will give me his grace to continue in this state to the end of my life.

Q6 *What do you believe?*

A I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He 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 the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of the Father.
From there he will come again
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.

Q7 *What do you chiefly learn from the Apostles' Creed?*

A First, I learn to believe in God the Father, who has made me and all the world; secondly, in God the Son, who has redeemed me and all mankind; thirdly, in God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies me and all the elect people of God.

Q8 *How many commandments are there?*

A Ten.

Q9 *What are they?*

A They are found in Exodus, chapter 20, where we read that God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

1 You shall have no gods other than me.

2 You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them nor worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but I show love to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

3 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

4 Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the foreigner living among you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

- 5 Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
- 6 You shall not commit murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- 10 You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, his maidservant, his ox or donkey, nor anything that belongs to him.

Q10 *What do you chiefly learn from these commandments?*

A I learn two things: my duty to God and my duty to my neighbour.

Q11 *What is your duty to God?*

A My duty to God is: to believe in him, to fear him, and to love him with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength; to worship him, to give him thanks, to put my whole trust in him, to pray to him, to honour his holy name and his Word and to serve him truly throughout my life.

Q12 *What is your duty to your neighbour?*

A My duty to my neighbour is: to love him as myself and to do to all as I wish they would do to me; to love, honour, and care for my parents; to honour and obey the *Queen* and all in authority under *her*; to submit to my teachers and spiritual pastors; to be humble and show respect; to hurt no one by word or deed; to be true and just in all that I do; to bear no malice or hatred in my heart; to keep my hands from stealing and my tongue from evil speaking, lying, and slandering; to keep my body in temperance, sobriety and chastity; not to covet nor desire other people's goods; but to learn to work honestly for my own living and to do my duty in that state of life to which it shall please God to call me.

Q13 *You are not able to do these things in your own strength, nor are you able to keep his commandments or serve him without his special grace. This you must learn at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Therefore recite the Lord's Prayer.*

either

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

or

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day
our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Give us today
our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Q14 *What do you ask God for in this prayer?*

A I ask God our heavenly Father, the giver of all goodness, to send his grace to me and to everyone, so that we may worship him, serve him, and obey him as we ought. And I pray God to send us all that we need both for our souls and bodies; that he will show us mercy and forgive us our sins; that he will be pleased to save and defend us in all spiritual and bodily dangers; and that he will keep us from all sin and wickedness, from our spiritual enemy, and from everlasting death. This I trust he will do out of his mercy and goodness, through our Lord Jesus Christ. And therefore I say, Amen, so be it.

Q15 *How many sacraments has Christ ordained in his church?*

A Two only, as generally necessary to salvation: baptism and the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion).

Q16 *What does the word sacrament mean?*

A A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given to us, ordained by Christ himself, as a means by which we receive that grace and a pledge to assure us of it.

Q17 *How many parts are there to a sacrament?*

A Two: the outward visible sign, and the inward spiritual grace.

Q18 *What is the outward visible sign in baptism?*

A Water: in which a person is baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Q19 *What is the inward and spiritual grace?*

A Death to sin and new birth to righteousness; for being born with a sinful nature and being children of wrath, we are by the new birth made the children of grace.

Q20 *What is required of persons to be baptized?*

A Repentance, by which they forsake sin, and faith, by which they firmly believe the promises of God proclaimed to them in that sacrament and through which, when they believe, they are accounted righteous before God solely on account of the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Q21 *Why then are infants baptized when by reason of their age they can neither repent nor believe?*

A Because God has promised to be both our God and the God of our children. At baptism the parent(s) and godparents of infants promise to bring them up in the Christian faith.

Q22 *Why was the sacrament of the Lord's Supper ordained?*

A For the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of the death of Christ and of the benefits we receive from it.

Q23 *What is the outward part or sign of the Lord's Supper?*

A Bread and wine, which the Lord has commanded us to receive.

Q24 *What is the inward part, or thing signified?*

A The body and blood of Christ, which are truly taken and received, only in a heavenly and spiritual manner, by the faithful in the Lord's Supper.

Q25 *What benefits do we who partake receive?*

A We are strengthened and refreshed in our souls by the body and blood of Christ, as our bodies are by the bread and wine.

Q26 *What is required of those who come to the Lord's Supper?*

A They must examine themselves to see whether they truly repent of their sins and have resolved to lead a new life. They must have a living faith in God's mercy through Christ with a thankful remembrance of his death. And they must have love for all.