

2024 PREFACE

Christian faith is rooted in experiences of the God who reveals himself as Father, Son and Spirit in Scripture. We find in Scripture the stories of millions of ordinary folks like us who were helped by God's kindness and drawn to behold His majesty. This small book introduces that God and the life of his people.

You will find two things in the pages that follow: First (pages 2-119), a statement of Christian faith that is older than the United States of America, with some parts even older than the English language (by far!). Second (pages 120-127), a brief discussion of contemporary issues relating to Christian faith.

Our culture today assumes that **old** is always negative – and, of course, nobody wants an old toothbrush, old loaf of bread, or old haircut. But age adds value to some things – like a bottle of wine, an artifact, or a friendship.

When it comes to faith, we rightly reach for what is **old**. Because then we know it has been tested and proven in a million situations and difficulties. May your faith come alive as you explore in the pages that follow a God who is dependable!

Rev. Dr. Andrew Keuer

Part 1:
ESSENTIALS OF THE CATECHISM

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The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father
Almighty, Maker of heaven and
earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only
begotten Son, our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born
of the Virgin Mary; suffered under
Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead,
and buried; he descended into
hell; the third day he rose again
from the dead; he ascended into
heaven, and sitteth at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to
judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one
holy universal Christian Church;
the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the
life everlasting.

Amen.

THE SUMMARY OF THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that he has given me and still preserves my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, also food and clothing, home and family, and all my possessions; that he daily and abundantly provides me with all the necessaries of life, protects and preserves me from all danger; and all this he does out of sheer fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness on my part. For all this I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey him. This is most certainly true.

THE SUMMARY OF THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord, who has redeemed, purchased, and delivered me, a lost and condemned creature, from all sins, from death, and from the power of satan, not with silver or gold, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death; that I may be his own, live under him in his Kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

THE SUMMARY OF THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe that I can not by my own reason or strength believe in my Lord Jesus Christ, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; even as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and preserves the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church he daily and abundantly forgives me and all believers all sins, and on the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give unto me and all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

The Ten Commandments

(Exodus 20:1-17)

I

I am the Lord thy God, who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II

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.

III

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.

IV

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, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, 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 is in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath-day and hallowed it.

V

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt not kill.

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal.

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness
against thy neighbor.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's
house, thou shalt not covet thy
neighbor's wife, nor his man-
servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his
ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is
thy neighbor's.

THE SUMMARY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (Deut. 6:5) Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (Lev. 19:18) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Matt. 22:40)

God says: “Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them.” (Deut. 27:26; Gal. 3:10) “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord.” (Lev. 18:5; Luke 10:28)

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3-10)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who 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. (Matthew 6:9-13)

The Institution of Holy Baptism

Matt. 28:18-20: “All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

The Institution of the Lord’s Supper

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took

bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

In like manner also he took the cup, after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do ye, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20)

The Books of the Bible

The Old Testament (39 Books)

Historical Books (17)

Genesis	Ruth
Exodus	1 & 2 Samuel
Leviticus	1 & 2 Kings
Numbers	1 & 2 Chronicles
Deuteronomy	Ezra
Joshua	Nehemiah
Judges	Esther

Poetical Books (5)

Job	Ecclesiastes
Psalms	Song of Solomon
Proverbs	

Prophetical Books (17)

a. The Greater Prophets

Isaiah Ezekiel

Jeremiah Daniel

Lamentations

b. The Lesser Prophets

Hosea Jonah

 Zephaniah

Joel Micah Haggai

Amos Nahum Zechariah

Obadiah Habakkuk Malachi

The New Testament (27 Books)

Historical Books (5)

Matthew Luke The Acts

Mark John

Doctrinal Books (The 21 Epistles)

a. The Epistles of St. Paul (13)

Romans

1 & 2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 & 2

Thessalonians

1 & 2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

b. The Epistle to the Hebrews

c. The Seven General Epistles

James

1 and 2 Peter

1, 2 & 3 John

Jude

The Prophetic Book (1)

The Revelation of St. John

Part 2:
INTRODUCTION:
THE BIG PICTURE



Q&A 1-5..... 21-22

1. What should be the chief concern of each person?

Each person's chief concern should be to seek after the Kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Matt. 6:33. Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt. 16:26. For what shall a person be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? Or what shall a person give in exchange for his life?

2. How do we obtain righteousness?

We obtain righteousness through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we are saved.

Acts 16:31. Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house.

3. What then must we do to be saved?

We must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:40. For this is the will of my Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at that last day.

4. Where are we told what we must do to be saved?

God has told us what we must do to be saved in his Word, the Holy Bible, which was written by people who were moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Pet. 1:21. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

2 Tim. 3:15-17. From a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.

Ps. 119:105. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.

5. In what two ways has God in the Bible revealed his will toward humanity?

In the Bible God has revealed his will toward humanity by the Law and by the Gospel.

Part 3:
GOD
AND HIS ATTRIBUTES



Q&A 6-10.....24-30

6. What has God revealed about himself in the Bible?

In the Bible God has revealed to us that he is One God, that he is Spirit, and that he is Life, Light, and Love.

Deut. 6:4. Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.

John 4:24. God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

1 John 5:20. This is the true God, and eternal life.

1 John 1:5. God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

1 John 4:8. God is love.

7. What do we mean when we say: “God is Life”?

“God is Life” means that he is eternal, unchangeable, and ever present.

God is eternal:

Ps. 90:1-2. Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Rev. 1:8. I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

Isa. 26:4. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord, even the Lord, is an everlasting rock.

Unchangeable:

Mal. 3:6. For I, the Lord, change not.

Jas. 1:17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning.

Ever present:

Jer. 23:23-24. Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places so that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.

Acts 17:27-28. He is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being.

Ps. 139:7-10. Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Ps. 23:4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

8. What do we mean when we say: “God is Light”?

“God is Light” means that he is true, all-knowing, all-wise, holy, almighty, and just.

Num. 23:19. God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and will he not do it? or hath he spoken, and will he not make it good?

1 John 5:10. He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he hath not believed in the witness that God hath borne concerning his Son.

Ps. 119:89-90. Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations.

All-knowing:

Ps. 139:1-4. O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and my uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.

1 Sam 16:7. For man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

Matt. 6:8. Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of.

All-wise:

Isa. 55:8-9. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Ps. 104:24. O, Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Rom. 8:28. And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good.

1 Pet. 5:7. Casting all your anxiety upon him, because he careth for you.

Jas. 1:5. But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not.

Holy:

Lev. 19:2. Ye shall be holy; for I the Lord your God am holy.

Isa. 6:3. Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Rev. 15:4. Who shall not fear, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou art holy; for all the nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy righteous acts have been made manifest.

1 Pet. 1:15-16. But like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy.

Almighty:

Gen. 17:1. I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Luke 1:37. For no word from God shall be void of power.

Ps. 33:8-9. Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For

he spake and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast.

Isa. 40:26. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who hath created these, that bringeth out their host by number; he calleth them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and for that he is strong in power, not one is lacking.

Just:

Ps. 145:17. The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and gracious in all his works.

Ps. 103:6. The Lord executeth righteous acts, and judgments for all that are oppressed.

Ps. 5:4. For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: evil shall not sojourn with thee.

Rom. 2:6. God will render to every man according to his works.

Isa. 41:10. Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Ps. 37:25. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

9. What do we mean when we say: “God is Love”?

“God is Love” means that he is blessed, good, gracious, and merciful.

1 Tim. 6:15-16. God is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in light unapproachable; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power eternal. Amen.

Good:

Ps. 145:9. The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works.

Ps. 107:1. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.

Ps. 36:5. Thy lovingkindness, O Lord, is in the heavens; thy faithfulness reacheth unto the skies.

Gracious and merciful:

Ps. 103:8-10. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness. He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger forever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us after our iniquities.

Ps. 103:13. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

Ps. 103:17-18. But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his precepts to do them.

Lam. 3:22-23. It is of the Lord's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

2 Chron. 30:9. The Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

Luke 6:36. Be ye merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

10. What mystery concerning God does the Bible reveal?

The Bible reveals to us the mystery that in the one God there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are one.

Matt. 28:19. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 13:14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Matt. 3:16, 17. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway from the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon him: and lo, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Num. 6:24-26. The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Part 4:
THE THREE ARTICLES OF
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

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11. In what creed does the Christian Church confess its faith in the Triune God?

The Christian Church confesses its faith in the Triune God in the Apostles' Creed.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate: was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The First Article of the Christian Faith

12. What is the First Article of the Christian Faith?

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

13. Of what does the First Article of the Christian Faith treat?

The First Article of the Christian Faith treats of God the Father and of the work of creation.

14. What do we mean when we say, “God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth”?

In the beginning God created heaven and earth by the power of his Word.

Gen. 1:1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Ps. 33:6. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Heb. 11:3. By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear.

15. How does God constantly prove himself to be the Creator? (See also

FPC Supplemental Q&A 8 on pages 124-5)

God constantly proves himself to be the Creator by his fatherly providence, whereby he preserves and governs all things.

Gen. 8:22. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Ps. 145:15-16. The eyes of all wait for thee; and thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest thy hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing.

Deut. 8:10. And thou shalt eat and be full, and thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Matt. 6:25. Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment?

Ps. 121:3-4. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Gen. 50:20. And as for you, ye meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Prov. 16:9. A man's heart deviseth his way; but the Lord directeth his steps.

16. What has God done for you?

I believe that God has made me and all

creatures; that he has given me and still preserves my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, also food and clothing, home and family, and all my possessions.

17. What does God still do for you?

God daily and abundantly provides me with all the necessities of life, protects and preserves me from all danger.

18. Why does God do this for you?

God does all this out of sheer fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness on my part.

19. What do you owe God for all this?

For all this I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey him.

20. Who are the angels?

The angels are ministering spirits who are sent forth by God to do his will.

Ps. 103:20. Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that are mighty in strength, that fulfill his word.

Heb. 1:14. Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall

inherit salvation?

Ps. 91:11-12. For he will give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Ps. 34:7. The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Luke 15:10. Even so, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

21. Have all the angels always obeyed the will of God?

No; for many of the angels once sinned against God and were banished to hell as enemies of God and man. The chief among the evil spirits is called the devil, or satan.

2 Peter 2:4. God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.

Eph. 6:12. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

1 Peter 5:8. Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Jas. 4:7. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

22. What is the principal creature on earth? *(See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 10-11 on pages 125-7)*

The principle creature on earth is humanity, created in the image of God, so that we could know him and live in blessed fellowship with him.

Gen. 1:27. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.

Gen. 1:31. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

23. Did humanity remain as he was created?

No; for our first parents fell away from God when they permitted satan to lead them into unbelief and disobedience.

Read Genesis 3.

24. What were the sad consequences of this fall of humanity?

By this fall humans lost the strength and beauty of God's image and came under the power of satan, sin, and death. This corruption has been transmitted from Adam to all mankind.

Gen. 2:17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen. 3:17-19. Because thou hast harkened unto the voice of thy wife, and has eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Rom. 5:12. As through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned.

Rom. 7:14. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

1 John 3:8. He that doeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

25. What is humanity's condition since the fall?

Since the fall, humanity is not prepared to do good, but inclined to do evil. This inherited corruption is called original sin.

Gen. 8:21. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.

John 3:6. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

1 John 1:8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

26. What is sin?

Sin is unbelief and disobedience in thought and desire, word and deed, whereby evil is done or good is neglected, whether thoughtlessly or willfully.

Ps. 19:12. Who can discern his errors? Clear thou me from hidden faults.

Matt. 15:18. But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man.

Jas. 4:17. To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Luke 12:47. And that servant, who knew his lord's will, and made not ready, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

1 Tim. 5:22. Neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

27. What is the punishment of sin?

The punishment of sin is death, as it is written in Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death."

28. How manifold is this death?

This death is threefold: physical, spiritual, and eternal.

Ps. 90:7-8. For we are consumed in thine anger, and in thy wrath are we troubled. Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

Matt. 10:28. Be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matt. 25:41. Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels.

Eph. 2:1. And you did he make alive, when ye were dead through your trespasses and sins.

29. What did God in his mercy resolve to do to save humanity from sin and its punishment?

God in his mercy resolved from all eternity to save fallen humanity through his only begotten Son.

2 Tim. 1:9. God saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before times eternal.

30. How did God prepare humanity for the coming of the Saviour?

God prepared humanity for the coming of the Saviour by the promises given in Paradise and

to the patriarchs of Israel, by the Law delivered to Moses, by forms of worship in the Old Covenant, and by the preaching of the prophets.

Gen. 3:15. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Gen. 22:18. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Gen. 49:10. The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the obedience of the peoples be.

Jer. 33:15-16. In those days, and at that time, will I cause a Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely; and this is the name whereby she shall be called: The Lord is our righteousness.

Micah 5:2. But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, which art little to be among the thousands of Judah, out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

Isa. 9:6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Acts 10:43. To him (Jesus) bear all the prophets witness, that through his name everyone that believeth on him shall receive remission of sins.

Gal. 3:24. The law is become our tutor to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Subsection of First Article: The Law of God

(See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 6 on page 123)

31. Where do we find the law of God in brief form?

We find the law of God briefly given in the Ten Commandments.

(Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21.)

32. What is the First Commandment?

I am the Lord thy God, who have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

33. What is meant by the First Commandment?

God forbids all idolatry and requires that we fear, love, and trust in him above all things.

34. What is the Second Commandment?

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. 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.

35. What is meant by the Second Commandment?

God forbids us to worship him in any image; He requires us to worship him as he has taught us in his Word and revealed himself to us in his Son Jesus Christ.

Isa. 42:8. I am the Lord, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise unto graven images.

Isa. 40:18. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

John 1:18. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 4:24. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

36. What is the Third Commandment?

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.

37. What is meant by the Third Commandment?

God forbids that we profane or abuse his name by cursing, false swearing, witchcraft, or unnecessary oaths, and requires that we use his holy name with fear and reverence.

Jas. 3:10. Out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

Lev. 19:12. And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, and profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord.

Rom. 10:13. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Ps. 50:15. Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Matt. 10:32-33. Every one who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Ps. 92:1. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High.

38. What is the Fourth Commandment?

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, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, 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.

39. What is meant by the Fourth Commandment?

God requires that we hallow the Lord's Day by resting from worldly employment, by diligently going to church, and by using the day for the welfare of ourselves and others, and thus to the honor of God.

Ezek. 20:20. Hallow my Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.

Col. 3:16-17. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in

the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ps. 26:6-8. So will I compass thine altar, O Lord: that I may make the voice of thanksgiving to be heard, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Lord, I love the habitation of thy house, and the place where thy glory dwelleth.

Heb. 10:25. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the custom of some is.

Eccles. 5:1. Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God; for to draw nigh to hear is better than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they know not that they do evil.

Luke 11:28. Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Exod. 20:24. In every place where I record my name I will come unto thee and I will bless thee.

40. What is the Fifth Commandment?

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

41. What is meant by the Fifth Commandment?

God requires that I always honor father and mother by loving, obeying, and serving them, and caring for them in sickness, need, and old age; likewise, that I should respect all who, in God's providence, are my superiors.

Prov. 1:8. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother.

Eph. 6:3. Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Prov. 19:26. He that doeth violence to his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, is a son that causeth shame and bringeth reproach.

Prov. 30:17. The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Heb. 13:17. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit to them: for they watch on behalf of your souls, as they that shall give account; that they may do this with joy, and not with grief: for this were unprofitable for you.

Rom. 13:1. Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the powers that be are ordained of God.

Eph. 6:5-7. Servants, be obedient unto them that according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as unto Christ; not in the way of eye-service, as men-pleasers; but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as unto the Lord, and not unto men.

Acts 5:29. We must obey God rather than men.

42. What is the Sixth Commandment?

Thou shalt not kill.

43. What is meant by the Sixth Commandment?

God forbids not murder, but every deed, word, and thought, whereby my own life or the life of my another is shortened or embittered; God requires that I help my neighbor in every need and seek his welfare for his life and the life to come.

Gen. 9:6. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

Rom. 12:19. Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord.

Matt. 5:21, 22. Ye have heard that it was said to them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, that every one who is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment; and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council; and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire.

1 John 3:15. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Matt. 5:44-45. Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his

sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.

Eph. 4:32. Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.

Isa. 1:17. Learn to do well; seek justice, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Matt. 5:7. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Prov. 24:1-2. Be not thou envious against evil men; neither desire to be with them: for their heart studieth oppression, and their lips talk of mischief.

44. What is the Seventh Commandment?

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

45. What is meant by the Seventh Commandment?

God forbids the breaking of the marriage vow and requires all of us to be chaste in thought, word, and deed.

Matt. 5:8. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

1 Cor. 6:19-20. Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body.

Prov. 4:23. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

1 Cor. 3:17. If any man destroyeth the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, and such are ye.

Eph. 5:3-4. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as becometh saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, or jesting, which are not befitting: but rather giving of thanks.

1 Cor. 15:33. Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

46. What is the Eighth Commandment?

Thou shalt not steal.

47. What is meant by the Eighth Commandment?

God forbids not only robbery and theft, but all unfair and dishonest dealings, and requires that we should help to improve and protect our neighbor's possessions and livelihood.

Hab. 2:9. Woe to him that getteth an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil!

Deut. 25:13-15. Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thy house divers measures, a great and a small. A perfect and just weight shalt thou have; a perfect and just measure shalt thou have.

Deut. 27:17. Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's landmark.

Ps. 37:21. The wicked borrowth, and payeth not again.

Jer. 22:13. Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by injustice; that useth his neighbor's service without wages, and giveth him not his hire.

Eph. 4:28. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing that is good, that he may have whereof to give him that hath need.

1 Thess. 4:11-12. Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your hands, even as we charged you; that ye may walk becomingly toward them that are without, and may have need of nothing.

2 Cor. 9:7. God loveth a cheerful giver.

48. What is the Ninth Commandment?

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

49. What is meant by the Ninth Commandment?

God forbids perjury, slander, and all manner of falsehood, and requires not only that we should be truthful and sincere in our lives, but also that we should protect the honor and good name of others.

Prov. 19:5. A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that uttereth lies shall not escape.

Ps. 34:13-14. Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Eph. 4:25. Wherefore, putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

Lev. 19:15. Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people.

Luke 6:37. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: release, and ye shall be released.

Isa. 5:20. Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.

Phil. 4:8. Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

50. What is the Tenth Commandment?

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

51. What is meant by the Tenth Commandment?

God forbids all evil lusts and desires for wrongful possession or enjoyment, and requires that we seek our joy in him and in his loving care for us.

Jas. 1:14-15. Each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death.

Rom. 6:12. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof.

1 John 2:15-17. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Ps. 37:4. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he will give thee the desires of thy heart.

Prov. 23:26. My son, give me thy heart; and let thine eyes delight in my ways.

52. What is the summary of the Ten Commandments?

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deut. 6:5.) “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” (Lev. 19:18.) “On these

two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matt. 22:40.)

53. What does God declare concerning these Commandments?

God says: “Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them.” (Deut. 27:26; Gal. 3:10.) “Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and mine ordinances; which, if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord.” (Lev. 18:5; Luke 10:28.)

54. What is meant by this declaration?

God threatens to punish all who break his Commandments, but to those who keep them he promises grace and blessing. We should therefore fear to do wrong and seek to do God’s will.

55. Have you, or has anyone, ever perfectly kept the Law of God?

No one has ever perfectly kept the Law of God. By nature we are inclined to do evil and have in many ways disobeyed God’s Commandments and therefore well deserve the curse of the Law.

Ps. 130:3. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

Ps. 143:2. Enter not into judgment with thy
servant; for in thy sight no man living is righteous.

Rom. 3:20. By the works of the law shall no flesh
be justified in his sight; for through the law cometh
the knowledge of sin.

56. Can we in any way escape the curse of the Law and be saved?

We can escape the curse of the Law and be
saved through the grace of God, by which the
Gospel of Jesus Christ is given to us.

57. What has God in his grace and mercy done to save us?

“God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on
him should not perish, but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16.)

“But when the fulness of the time came, God
sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born
under the law, that he might redeem them
that were under the law, that we might
receive the adoption of sons.” (Ga. 4:4-5.)

The Second Article of the Christian Faith

58. What is the Second Article of the Christian faith?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten son, our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

59. Of what does the Second article of the Christian Faith treat?

The Second Article treats of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and of the work of redemption.

60. Who is Jesus Christ? (See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 5 on pages 122-3)

Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person, my Saviour, Redeemer, and Lord.

61. How does the Bible testify that Jesus Christ is true God?

In the Bible Jesus Christ is called God; furthermore, the Bible testifies to his divine nature and works, and demands divine honors for him.

John 1:1-3. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made.

John 10:30. I and the Father are one.

John 20:28. Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

John 17:5. And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John 8:58. Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I am.

Matt. 11:27. All things have been delivered unto me of my Father: and no one knoweth the Son, save the Father; neither doth any know the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to reveal him.

John 5:21, 26. For as the Father raiseth the dead and giveth them life, even so the Son also giveth life to whom he will. For as the Father hath life in himself, even so gave he to the Son also to have life in himself.

Matt. 9:6. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath authority on earth to forgive sins (then saith he to the sick of the palsy), Arise, and take up thy bed, and go unto thy house.

Jon 5:22-23. For neither doth the Father judge any man, but he hath given all judgment unto the Son;

that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father that sent him.

Col. 2:9. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

John 9:35-37.

62. How does the Bible testify that the Son of God became truly man?

Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; he thereby entered into human nature and became in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Luke 1:35. And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; therefore also that which is to be born shall be called holy, the Son of God.

John 1:14. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

Luke 2:52. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Matt. 4:2. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he afterward hungered.

John 19:28. After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now finished, that the scripture might be accomplished, saith, I thirst.

John 4:6. Jesus, therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus by the well.

Matt. 8:24. He was asleep.

Luke 19:41. And when he drew nigh, he saw the city and wept over it.

John 11:35. Jesus wept.

John 19:30. And he bowed his head, and gave up his spirit.

63. How did Christ reveal himself as the Saviour before his death?

Christ revealed himself as the Saviour before his death by his holy life, in which he perfectly fulfilled the Law of God; by his preaching the forgiveness of sin through faith in him; by his miracles, which are all works of life.

John 4:34. Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work.

John 8:46. Which if you convicteth me of sin? If I say truth, why do ye not believe me?

Mark 1:15. Jesus saith, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe in the gospel.

Luke 19:10. For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Acts 10:38. God anointed him (Jesus) with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

John 5:36. The very works that I do bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

64. Whereby did Christ accomplish our redemption?

Christ accomplished our redemption by his suffering and death, in which he endured, in our stead, the wrath of God against sin, thereby redeeming us from sin, satan, and death.

Isa. 53:4-6. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

2 Cor. 5:19. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2 Cor. 5:20. We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 5:21. Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

1 Pet. 1:18-19. Knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver and gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb

without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ.

Titus 2:14. Jesus Christ gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works.

2 Tim. 1:10. Jesus Christ abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Col. 1:13-14. God delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love; in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 John 3:16. Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

65. Why was the death of Christ necessary for our redemption?

The death of Christ was necessary for our redemption because we, lost sinners, could be redeemed neither by teaching nor by example, but only by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ in his suffering and death.

1 Cor. 2:2. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1 Cor. 1:23-24. But we preach Christ crucified, unto Jews a stumbling-block, and unto Gentiles foolishness; but unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

John 1:29. On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!

Heb. 7:26-27. For such a high priest became us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needed not daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people: for this he did once for all, when he offered up himself.

John 15:13. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

66. Of what importance is Christ's burial?

Christ's burial is a testimony that he had really died.

67. What is meant when we say, "He descended into hell?"

This statement means that Jesus went to the place of departed spirits and brought them the message of salvation.

1 Pet. 3:18-20. Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, that aforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah,

while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

68. What does it mean to us that Jesus Christ rose from the dead?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that he is the Son of God; that he is our Redeemer, in whom we have newness of life; and that we also shall be raised from the dead.

Rom. 4:25. Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses, and was raised for our justification.

Rom. 1:4. Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

2 Cor. 5:15. And he died for all, that they that live should no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again.

1 Cor. 15:17-18. If Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are asleep in Christ have perished.

1 Cor. 15:20-21. But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

Rom. 8:11. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, he, that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead, shall give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Rom. 6:4. That like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

John 11:25-26. I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.

69. What does it mean to us that Christ ascended into heaven? *(See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 8 on pages 124-5)*

Forty days after his resurrection, Christ was visibly taken up into heaven, there to prepare a place for us.

John 14:2-3. For I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 17:24. Father, I desire that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me.

Read Acts 1:1-11.

70. What do we confess by the words “He sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty”?

By these words we confess that the risen and ascended Christ is in heaven in the full power and glory of God.

Ps. 110:1. The Lord saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Eph. 1:20-23. God raised Christ from the dead, and made him to sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Rom. 8:33-34. Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth; who is he that condemneth? It is Christ Jesus that died, yea rather, that was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

71. What do we confess with the words “From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead”?

With these words we confess that Christ will come again on the last day with great power and glory to take into eternal life those who believe, and to deliver into eternal death those who do not believe.

Acts 1:11. This Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven.

Luke 21:27-28. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; because your redemption draweth nigh.

Matt. 25:31-32. But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats.

2 Cor. 5:10. For we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

72. In what passage of Holy Scripture do we find the humiliation and the exaltation of Jesus Christ briefly described?

We find the humiliation and the exaltation of Christ briefly described in the passage Philippians 2:5-11: “Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even

unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name; that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

73. A Summary of the Second Article of the Christian Faith.

1. Who is Jesus Christ?

I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.

2. What did Christ do for you?

He has redeemed, purchased, and delivered me, a lost and condemned creature, from all sins, from death and from the power of satan.

3. How did he redeem you?

Not with silver or gold, but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death.

4. To what purpose did he redeem you?

That I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting

righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns in all eternity.

The Third Article of the Christian Faith

74. What is the Third Article of the Christian Faith?

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy universal Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

75. Of what does the Third Article of the Christian Faith treat?

The Third Article of the Christian Faith treats of God the Holy Spirit and of the godly life which he makes possible.

76. What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Holy Trinity, with the Father and the Son, true and eternal God, a Lord and distributor of all gifts, who enables us to come to Christ, our Lord, and to remain with him forever.

77. By what means does the Holy Spirit do his work?

The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God and the Holy Sacraments, which are the means of grace.

Jas. 1:21. Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Acts 2:38. Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 10:16. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ?

78. In what manner does the Holy Spirit lead us to Christ?

The Holy Spirit makes known to us the call of God to come to Christ; he teaches us how, because of our sin, we need Christ; he leads us by repentance and faith to accept and follow Christ; he enables us thus to begin and live the new life of a child of God.

Heb. 3:7. The Holy Spirit saith, Today if ye shall hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

John 15:26. When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit

of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall bear witness of me.

John 14:26. But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you.

Rom. 8:9, 14. If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

John 16:13. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth.

79. What is repentance?

True repentance consists in conviction of sin, sorrow for sin, confession and renunciation of sin, and longing for grace.

Ps. 38:4. For mine iniquities are gone over my head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

2 Cor. 7:10. For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Matt. 5:4. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Ps. 51:17. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

1 John 1:8-9. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jas. 5:16. Confess therefore your sins one to another.

Prov. 28:13. He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy.

Isa. 55:7. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Luke 19:8. Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have wrongfully exacted aught of any man, I restore fourfold.

Luke 15:18-19. I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

Luke 18:13. God, be thou merciful to me a sinner.

Matt. 5:6. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

80. What is faith?

Faith is complete trust in God and willing acceptance of his grace in Jesus Christ.

Heb. 11:1. Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.

Heb. 11:6. Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.

1 Tim. 1:15. Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

John 6:40. For this is the will of my Father, that every one that beholdeth the Son, and believeth on him, should have eternal life.

John 6:68-69. Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we have believed and know that thou art the Holy One of God.

Acts 16:31. Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house.

81. What does God do for us when we come to him in repentance and faith?

When we come to God in repentance and faith, he forgives us our sins for Jesus' sake, counts the merit of Christ as belonging to us, and accepts us as his children. This is justification.

1 John 3:1. Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are.

Gal. 3:26. For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 3:23-24. All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Rom. 3:28. We reckon therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

Eph. 2:8-9. For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory.

82. How does the Bible speak of the change in our life brought about by repentance and faith?

The Bible speaks of this change as being born again, or as being converted.

83. What does it mean to be born again?

To be born again means the beginning of the new life within us by the power of God's word and the sacrament of baptism. This is regeneration.

John 3:3. Jesus said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Gal. 3:27. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ.

1Pet. 1:23. Having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth.

84. What does it mean to be converted?

To be converted means to turn from the broad way of the sinful life and to enter the narrow way of the godly life. This is conversion.

Matt. 7:13-14. Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straightened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it.

Ezek. 33:11. As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways.

Ezek. 18:21. But if the wicked turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

1 Pet. 2:25. For ye were going astray like sheep; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

85. Whereby are we assured of our justification?

We are assured of our justification by the testimony of the Holy Spirit, as it were written in Romans 8:15-16: “For ye received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth

witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

86. What is necessary for us to continue in the godly life?

In order that we may continue in godly life the Holy Spirit must daily transform and renew us in all our thoughts and actions and make us acceptable to God. This is sanctification.

1 John 5:4. For whatsoever is begotten of God overcome the world: and this is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith.

2 Cor. 5:17. Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away: behold they are become new.

2 Pet. 3:18. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1 Pet. 2:1-2.

Eph. 4:22-24. That ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth.

Phil. 3:12. Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus.

Heb. 12:14. Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man shall see the Lord.

1 Thess. 5:23. And the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

87. What is meant by “Church” in the Apostles’ Creed? *(See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 2-4 on pages 120-2)*

By the one holy universal Christian Church we mean the entire body of true Christians.

John 17:20-21. I pray for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one.

88. Why is the Church called “one” Church?

The Christian Church is called the “one” Church because it has one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, as it is written Ephesians 4:3-6: “Giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.”

89. Why is the Church called “holy”?

The church is called “holy” because the Holy Spirit works mightily in it by Word and Sacrament to the end that all its members shall be made holy.

Eph. 5:25-27. Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

1 Pet. 2:9. But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

90. Why is the Church called “universal”?

The Church is called universal because God has meant it for all people, and because everyone finds it in what he needs.

John 10:16. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd.

Mark 16:15. Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

91. Why is the Church called the “Christian” Church?

The Church is called “Christian” because Christ alone is its foundation, its head, and its ideal.

1 Cor. 3:11. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Col. 1:18. And he (Christ) is the head of the body, the church.

Eph. 4:13. Till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Eph. 4:15. May we grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even Christ.

92. What is the mission of the Church?

The mission of the Church is to extend the Kingdom of God, that is, to lead all people to Christ and to establish Christian principles in every relation of life.

Acts 1:8. Ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Isa. 52:7. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth.

Rom. 10:14. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they

believe in him whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Luke 9:2. He sent them forth to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Matt. 24:14. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations.

Luke 13:19. The kingdom of God is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast it into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree; and the birds of the heaven lodged in the branches thereof.

Matt. 13:33. The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid it in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened.

93. What is the kingdom of God?

The Kingdom of God is the rule of God established in human hearts and lives.

Luke 17:20-21. And being asked by the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God cometh, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo, here! or, There! for lo, the kingdom of God is within you.

John 18:36. Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not of this world.

Luke 6:31. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

Luke 6:44-45. Each tree is known by its own fruit. For thorns of men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth that which is evil: for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Matt. 5:16. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matt. 5:44-45. I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.

94. Where did Christ set forth the principles of his Kingdom?

Christ set forth the principles of his Kingdom in the Sermon on the Mount. (Matthew, chapters 5-7. Luke, chapter 6, verses 20-49.)

95. Has the Church already become all that we confess concerning it? (See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 2-4 on pages 120-2)

The Church has indeed existed at all times as the true Church, but has frequently erred and been corrupted; its future perfection,

however, is certain, according to God's promise.

Matt. 16:18. And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matt. 13:24-26. The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man that sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. But when the blade sprang up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

96. What do we understand by “the communion of saints”?

By “the communion of saints” we understand that all Christians, as members of one body, should love and help one another in all things.

1 Cor. 12:12-13. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body.

Phil. 2:2-4. Be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; doing nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting the other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.

1 Cor. 12:26. And whether one member suffereth, all the members suffer with it; or one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

97. What do we mean by the words “I believe in the forgiveness of sins”?

The forgiveness of sins is present in Christ for all humanity, and is offered by the grace of God to all sinners.

Luke 24:46-47. Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead, the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all nations.

Mark 3:28. Verily I say unto you, All their sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men.

1 John 2:1-2. If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

Isa. 1:18. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

98. What do we understand by “the resurrection of the body”?

On the last day Christ will raise up all the dead, as it is written (John 5:28-29): For the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come

forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.

1 Cor. 15:42-44. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

Phil. 3:20-21. For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself.

John 17:24. Father, I desire that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me.

2 Cor. 5:10. We must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

99. What do we mean by “the life everlasting”?

By “the life everlasting” we mean that in the resurrection all children of God shall receive the glory of Christ in body and soul and shall abide with him forever.

1 John 3:2. It is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is.

1 Cor. 13:12. For now we see in a mirror, darkly, but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known.

Matt. 25:34. Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Isa. 35:10. The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Rev. 21:3-4. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God: and he shall wipe every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more.

100. A Summary of the Third Article of the Christian Faith.

1. How do you become a true Christian?

I believe that I can not by my own reason or strength believe in my Lord Jesus Christ, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and preserved me in the true faith.

2. Through what institution does the Holy Spirit work?

The Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and preserves the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

3. What do you receive in the Church through the Holy Spirit?

In the Christian Church the Holy Spirit daily and abundantly forgives me and all believers all sins.

4. What is your hope for the future?

On the last day Christ will raise up me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

Part 5:
PRAYER

Q&A 101-114..... 89-99

101. What is prayer?

Prayer is the conversation of the heart with God for the purposes of praising him, asking him to supply the needs of ourselves and others, and thanking him for whatever he gives us.

Ps. 19:14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer.

Ps. 34:3. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Ps. 103:1-4. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Matt. 6:6. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thine inner chamber, and having shut thy door, pray to thy Father who is in secret, and thy Father who seeth in secret shall recompense thee.

Matt. 7:7-8. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matt. 18:19-20. If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father who is in heaven. For

where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matt. 21:22. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Eph. 5:20. Giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.

Ps. 92:1. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High.

1 Tim. 2:1-2. I exhort, therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men; for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity.

1 Thess. 5:17. Pray without ceasing.

102. In what prayer has the Lord Jesus taught us how to pray?

Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer:

“Our Father who 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.” (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4.)

103. What is the meaning of “Our Father who art in heaven?”

Our heavenly Father desires us and all his children to call upon him with cheerful confidence, as beloved children entreat a kind and affectionate father, knowing that he is both willing and able to help us.

Matt. 7:9-11. What man is there of you, who, if his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone; or if he shall ask for a fish, will give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

John 16:27. For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came forth from the Father.

Rom. 10:12. For the same Lord is Lord of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him.

Ps. 121:1-2. I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains: from whence shall my help come? My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

104. What do we pray for in the first petition: “Hallowed be thy name”?

We pray in this petition that God’s name may be kept holy among us as it is holy in itself. This is done when the Word of God is taught

in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God lead a holy life in accordance with it.

Ps. 72:18-19. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things: and blessed be his glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Matt. 5:16. Even so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

105. What do we pray for in the second petition: “Thy kingdom come”?

In the second petition we pray that we and all others may share in the Kingdom of God which was established by the redemption through Jesus Christ, and that its rule may be extended over all the world.

Luke 17:20-21. And being asked by the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God cometh, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo, here! or, There! for lo, the kingdom of God is within you.

Rev. 11:15. The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Compare Matt. 13:44 – The parable of the mustard seed, and

Matt. 13:45 – The parable of the leaven.

106. What do we pray for in the third petition: “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”?

In the third petition we pray that God’s good and gracious will may be done by us and all men as cheerfully as it is done by the angels in heaven.

1 John 2:17. The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Rom. 12:2. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Heb. 13:21. The God of peace make you perfect in every good thing to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be the glory forever and ever.

107. What do we pray for in the fourth petition: “Give us this day our daily bread”?

In the fourth petition we look to God as the One who supplies the needs of our body as well as of our soul, and we ask him to make us truly thankful for these his gifts.

Matt. 5:45. For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.

Ps. 145:15-16. The eyes of all wait for thee; and thou givest them their food in due season. Thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

Prov. 30:8-9. Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with good that is needful for me; lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor, and steal, and use profanely the name of my God.

Matt. 6:34. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Ps. 127:1-2. Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is in vain for you that ye rise up early, to take rest late, and eat the bread of toil; for so he giveth unto his beloved sleep.

2 Thess. 3:10. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, If any will not work, neither let him eat.

Deut. 8:10. And thou shalt eat and be full, and thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Matt. 4:4. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

108. What do we pray for in the fifth petition: “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”?

In the fifth petition we ask God for gracious forgiveness of our sins, and for willingness and strength to forgive others.

Ps. 51:1-3. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.

Matt. 6:14-15. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matt. 18:21-22. Then came Peter and said to him, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? until seven times? Jesus said unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times; but, Until seventy times seven.

109. What do we pray for in the sixth petition: “Lead us not into temptation”?

In the sixth petition we pray that whenever we are tempted by satan, the world, and our flesh to do evil, God may protect and keep us from sinning.

Jas. 1:13. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempteth no man.

1 Cor. 10:13. But God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it.

1 Pet. 2:11. Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

1 John 5:4-5. This is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith. And who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

110. What do we pray in the seventh petition: “But deliver us from evil”?

In the seventh petition we pray that the heavenly Father may deliver us from every evil of body and soul; and finally, when our last hour has come, graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.

John 17:15. I pray not that thou shouldest take them from the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil one.

2 Tim. 4:18. The Lord will deliver me from every evil work, and will save me unto his heavenly kingdom.

Rom. 8:23. We ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for our adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

111. What is the meaning of the closing words: “For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory forever”?

By these closing words we mean to express our confidence that God will hear and answer our petitions; for he himself has commanded us thus to pray and promised that we shall be heard. Amen: That is, Yeah, yeah, it shall be so.

2 Cor. 1:20. For how many soever be the promises of God, in him is the yea: wherefore also though him is the Amen, unto the glory of God through us. Eph. 3:20. Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and ever. Amen.

112. Why is prayer necessary?

Prayer is necessary because God will give his grace and his Holy Spirit only to those who earnestly and without ceasing ask them of him and render thanks unto him.

Luke 18:7. Shall not God avenge his elect, that cry to him day and night, and yet he is longsuffering over them? I say unto you, that he will avenge them speedily.

Luke 11:13. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Ps. 55:16-17. As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord will save me. Evening and morning, and at noonday, will I complain, and moan; and he will hear my voice.

Jas. 5:16. Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working.

113. How should we pray?

We should pray humbly because of our need and unworthiness; and yet with faith, believing that for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, God will certainly hear our prayer.

Dan. 9:18. We do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousness, but for thy great mercies' sake.

Matt. 21:22. All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

John 15:7. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Jas. 1:6. Let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubeth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed.

114. Are all our prayers answered?

All our prayers are answered either in the way we expect God to answer them or in the way God knows will be best for us.

2 Cor. 12:8-9. Concerning this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he hath said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my power is made perfect in weakness.

Ps. 40:1. I waited patiently for the Lord: and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Hab. 1:2. O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear? I cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save me.

Gen. 32:26. Jacob said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Ps. 10:17. Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the meek: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear.

Matt. 26:39. And Jesus fell on his face, and prayed, saying, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Part 6:
THE SACRAMENT
OF HOLY BAPTISM

Q&A 115-122.....101-104

115. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a holy ordinance of the Church instituted by Christ himself in which by visible signs and means he imparts and preserves the new life.

116. How many sacraments has Christ instituted?

Christ has instituted two sacraments, Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

117. With what words did Christ institute the sacrament of Holy Baptism?

Christ instituted the sacrament of Holy Baptism with these words in Matthew 28.18-20: "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and look, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

118. What does God do for us in Holy Baptism?

In Holy Baptism God imparts the gift of the new life unto humanity, receives him into his fellowship as his child, and admits him as a member of the Christian Church.

119. What does Holy Baptism require of us?

Holy Baptism requires of us that we by daily repentance renounce all sinful longings and desires, and by faith arise to a new life.

Rom. 6:3-4. Are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.
Col. 3:9-10. Seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him.

120. Why should little children be baptized? *(See also FPC Supplemental Q&A 12 on pages 127)*

Little children should be baptized because the new life is a gift of God's love, which little children need as much and are as able to

receive as adults, for the Lord Jesus has promised unto them his kingdom.

Acts. 2:39. For to you is the promise, and to your children.

Mark 10:13, 14, 16. And they were bringing unto him little children, that he should touch them: and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was moved with indignation, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not; for to such belongeth the kingdom of God. – And he took them in his arms, and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

121. What does the baptism of children require of the parents?

The baptism of children requires of the parents that they help their children to grow in godly life by Christian teaching and training, by prayer and example.

Matt. 28:20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you.

Eph. 6:4. And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.

122. What is confirmation?

Confirmation is the renewal of the baptismal covenant. The baptized children, having been

instructed in the Christian faith, publicly confess their faith in their Saviour Jesus Christ, promise obedience to him until death, and are received by the Church into active membership.

Part 7:
THE SACRAMENT
OF THE LORD'S SUPPER,
WITH CONFIRMATION,
CONFESSION &
A PRAYER FOR
THE CHURCH

Q&A 123-128.....106-113

123. With what words did Christ institute the sacrament of the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion?

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.’

“In like manner also he took the cup, after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.’” (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

124. What are the visible signs and means of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

The visible signs and means of the sacrament of the Lord's Super are bread and wine, partaken of by the communicant.

125. What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is the sacrament by which we receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ as the nourishment of our new life, strengthen the fellowship with Christ and all believers, and confess that he has died for us.

126. What blessings do we receive as we eat and drink the Lord's Supper?

As we eat and drink in the Lord's Supper we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. For so it is written: Broken and shed for you for the remission of sins.

John 6:51. I am the living bread which came down out of heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: yea and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.

John 6:55-56. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood abideth in me, and I in him.

Eph. 5:30. We are members of his body.

1 Cor. 10:17. Seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Cor. 11:26. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come.

127. On what condition do we receive the blessings of the Lord's Supper?

We receive the blessings of the Lord's Supper only as we eat and drink with heartfelt repentance and true faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 11:28. But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup.

2 Cor. 13:5. Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves.

Ps. 139:23-24. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

1 Cor. 11:27. Wherefore whosoever shall eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

1 Cor. 11:29-30. For he that eateth and drinketh, eateth and drinketh judgment unto himself, if he discern not the body. For this cause many among you are weak and sickly, and not a few sleep.

128. What does our communion daily require of us?

Our communion requires that we daily keep in remembrance the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus, and that we consider well how hard it was for our Saviour to bear our sins and the sins of the whole world, and to gain eternal

salvation for us by offering up his life and shedding his blood. And since our sins caused the Lord Jesus the greatest sufferings, yea bitter death, we should have no pleasure in sin, but earnestly flee and avoid it; and being reclaimed by our Saviour and Redeemer we should live, suffer and die to his honor, so that at all times and especially in the hour of death we may cheerfully and confidently say:

Lord Jesus, for thee I live, for thee I suffer, for thee I die! Lord Jesus, thine will I be in life and death! Grant me, O Lord, eternal salvation! Amen.

THE CONFIRMATION VOW

The Minister says: Beloved sons and daughters, the hour is come in which you are publicly to confess your faith in the Triune God and promise obedience unto your Lord. You may now make confession of the faith upon which you were baptized.

The confirmands repeat the Apostles' Creed.

The Minister continues: I ask you, my friends, before this assembly and in the presence of God, who knows the secrets of all hearts:

1. Do you this day renew the solemn promise made in your name at your baptism, confirming and ratifying the same, and do you desire to be received into the fellowship of the Church of Jesus Christ and to partake of Holy Communion? *Then answer: I do.*
2. Do you renounce sin and all ungodliness, and do you promise unto your Lord obedience unto death? *Then answer: I do.*
3. Do you promise with the assistance of the Holy Spirit to live according to the

doctrines and precepts of Christ, as presented in the Holy Scriptures, and to remain faithful to the confession of the Evangelical Church? *Then answer: I do.*

Let us kneel and pray:

Come, O Holy Spirit, into our hearts, and dwell in us, now and forever. Confirm and establish our promises, and help us to keep them always. Lord Jesus, thou good and gracious Shepherd, shield us that none of us may go astray. Draw us, O Father, to thy Son, that we may abide with him, and at last inherit everlasting life. Amen.

THE CONFESSIONAL

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a poor sinner, acknowledge and bewail my manifold sins and wickedness, which I have from time to time committed against thy holy commandments by thought, word, and deed, from unbelief, ingratitude, unfaithfulness, and want of brotherly love; which have marred all my life, provoking against me most justly thy wrath and indignation, in this world and in the world to come. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my transgressions, the remembrance of which is grievous unto me; the burden of them is intolerable. I have no other comfort or trust than thy grace, which aboundeth above my guilt, and the precious merits of my Lord Jesus Christ. Longing after this grace, I say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight and am no more worthy to be called thy child; but I come at this time of grace to ask of thee pardon and peace, new confidence toward thee, and strength to lead a new and righteous life through thy good and holy Spirit. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

We thank thee, our Father, for the Church; we praise thee for loving and blessing it. Thou hast been patient with its weaknesses and imperfections; it is still a city, set upon a hill, defended by thy strong arm and prospered by thy grace.

We thank thee for using thy Church as a great channel through which thy blessings unceasingly flow into the ocean of human need, created by our sin, which taints and corrupts our very souls. We praise thee for its service to sinners and saints, to our homeland and the whole world.

Let thy favor ever be upon thy Church; increase our love for it, and give us a growing understanding of its world-wide task. Make it thy voice to our conscience, to keep our feet in the path of duty, and our minds in the love of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Part 8:
SUPPLEMENTS FOR
FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH

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CQ 11: Humans as male & female?

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The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us humans and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was

incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made human; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father (and the Son); who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped

and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Chalcedonian Creed

We confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord,

Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

Supplemental Q&A's on Contemporary Issues

*(Drafted by Rev. Dr. Andrew Keuer,
Approved by Lyons Evangelical Church, 2022,
and Proposed to First Protestant Church, 2024)*

1. What is unique about the Bible, in comparison with all other writings?

God breathed forth these writings (2 Timothy 3:16), inspiring: the authorship process (2 Peter 1:20-21), every resulting letter on the page (Matthew 5:18), the subsequent copies that together preserved all words from the original that carry meaning, and the binding together of all such writings into one book (Hebrews 4:12-13). As a result of this process of inspiration, the Bible alone imparts saving knowledge of God's Triune being and works (cf. 2 Timothy 3:14-17).

2. In light of Q&A 87-92 & 95, what is the essence of Christ's Church, and how is

it different from other human institutions or communities?

‘Church’ means ‘gathering’ and refers to the end-time meeting of all of God’s people (Psalm 1:5). We foretaste this final gathering each Lord’s Day through preaching, worship and sacraments. Jesus Christ established (Matthew 16:18-19) the church in this age through His death (Ephesians 2:14-16) and promised to accompany it (Matthew 18:20) through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:4-16) until He returns. The church exists in worship and service (Matthew 20:20-28; Philippians 2:3-11), thus imaging Christ’s life on earth for all other human communities to emulate (Matthew 5:14; 1 John 4:17).

3. What are the identifiable marks of a true church?

The Reformers discerned three identifiable marks of a gathering wherein Christ’s promised presence will be experienced: the Gospel is preached; the sacraments are properly administered; the membership is disciplined according to the Gospel. Lacking

any such mark implies the gathering is under human rather than divine authority.

4. What is the meaning of each of these three marks of a true church?

The first mark clarifies that the Law is proclaimed as an essential preparatory message, paving the way for the Gospel as the church's final divine word to the world. The second mark entails ordained clergy performing baptisms and the Lord's Supper so Christ's mystical presence conveys grace to repentant sinners. The third mark states that the true church is knit together not by human ties (such as family, business connections, ethnicity, etc.) but by common union with the Triune God of grace.

5. In light of Q&A 60-62 above, is Jesus Christ unique in human history, or is he one of many significant religious leaders?

Jesus Christ is the only incarnation of God in all history (John 1:14; 3:16), and thus he differs

categorically from the human founders of other religious systems. While every religion has wisdom and truth within its teachings and practices, only Jesus Christ provides union with God (John 14:6).

6. The Ten Commandments (see Q&A 31-55) seem to address ancient Jewish adult males, so why has the church always proclaimed them as binding on everyone (men, women, boys and girls) up to today?

The Ten Commandments were recorded on stone tablets by God's very hand (Exodus 31:18) to symbolize their enduring importance for subsequent generations. Both the Old and New Testament writings apply the Ten Commands to all people (for example, Numbers 27:1-11, Hosea 13:4, Ephesians 6:1-4, etc.), extending the male-only and Israel-only language in Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:1-21 to both sexes and all age groups.

7. What is this Gospel of Jesus Christ that is the main message of the church?

The Gospel is the good news that the same God who created all that is and who drew Israel out of Egypt has now acted in history to forgive, redeem and impart immortality to humanity's fallen and vulnerable nature. The Triune God accomplished redemption in five acts: the Father and Son formed a plan to save (1 John 4:9-10); the Son became incarnate in Jesus (John 1:14); Jesus was crucified to atone for human sin (1 John 1:9-10; 4:9); Jesus was resurrected from the dead (1 John 1:1-3); and Jesus ascended into heaven from whence he sent his Spirit (John 15:26; 16:28; 17:13).

8. In light of Q&A 69-70, how is the ascension of Jesus Christ essential to the Gospel message?

The ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven is essential to our salvation because in it, the Son of God committed to ongoing union with our nature (Hebrews 2:14-16; Acts 9:4), raising

it into the heavenly realm, indeed into the very heart of God, for all eternity future (John 17:19).

9. Is this life always worth living, even in times of severe difficulty, pain and tragedy?

Yes, life is always worth living for at least three reasons: First, God the Father sustains every human life with some degree of joy and freedom (Psalm 104; Q&A 15-19). Second, in the Son of God's incarnation, resurrection and ascension, God emphatically reaffirmed the created goodness of each person and of the cosmos that nurtures life, even amidst pain and sin (2 Corinthians 1:18-20). Third, each person is called to be an example of steadfast continuance in their social context (1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 1:25-26).

10. In light of Q&A 22-24 above, what does it mean that humans are "made in the image of God"?

“The image of God” describes the essence of our humanity (Genesis 1:26-28), which is to reflect God as holy, righteous and loving in this world. A person images God by hearing and responding to the divine revelation that claims all aspects of one’s life (including the physical, psychological, social, etc.). Because God addresses all people, even from the womb (Luke 1:41-44), we owe every person respect (James 3:8-10; Psalm 8), as they are a unique expressions of God’s character (Matthew 25:34-36).

11. What was God’s purpose in creating humans “male” and “female”?

Genesis 1:26-28 states that two sexes were created for the continuance of humanity through procreation, a duty God commands originally to each and every person (Genesis 1:28; Matthew 19:4-6). After Christ’s incarnation, however, Scripture generalizes the procreative command, giving some individuals direct responsibility to bear and raise children in their marriage (1 Corinthians 7:3), while giving others indirect responsibility

to support such natural childbearing and childrearing through wholesome care of children and affirmation of their own and each child's maleness or femaleness (Matthew 19:12-15; 1 Corinthians 7:6-7).

12. In light of Q&A 118 and 120 above, what does the Scripture declare regarding the fate of unbaptized infants?

In Matthew 18, our Lord proclaimed the high status of children in his kingdom, and in the next chapter (Matthew 19), Jesus taught the same to be the case for non-Jewish children. Deuteronomy 1:39, Job 3:16-19, Ecclesiastes 6:5 and Jeremiah 19:4 state the innocence of all deceased children, and God calls even the children from unbelieving families "my children" in Ezekiel 16:21. In sum, the Scriptures teach that all children who die are brought immediately into God's presence where they remain in peace and rest.