

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Family Catechism

April 2014

The Atonement of Christ

New Life Christian Center | www.nlccministry.org

Catechism Introduction

A Catechism? (Adopted from a teaching by Pastor John Piper)

I. What is a catechism?

In 1 Corinthians 14:19 Paul says, "In the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue." In Galatians 6:6 he says, "Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches." Acts 18:25 says that Apollos "has been instructed in the way of the Lord."

In each of these verses the Greek word for "instruct" or "teach" is katecheo. From this word we get our English word "catechize". It simply means to teach Biblical truth in an orderly way. Generally this is done with questions and answers accompanied by Biblical support and explanation.

II. The history of these catechisms

These catechisms come from the Baptist tradition. Although CRCC is non-denominational, these catechisms can serve as a solid foundation for our families. We may add a few elements to it as catechism becomes more ingrained in the culture of our church.

III. Is there a Biblical pattern of doctrine?

Several texts teach that there is. For example, in Romans 6:17 Paul gives thanks that "you have become obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were committed." 2 Timothy 1:13 says, "Follow the pattern of sound words which you heard from me." Acts 2:42 says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching." 2 Thessalonians 2:15 says, "Stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us." And Acts 20:27 says, "I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

So it appears that there was a body of authoritative instruction and even a way of teaching it in the early church.

IV. Why is it important?

- 1) *We are required to "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast" (Col. 1:23).*
- 2) *We are urged to "attain to the unity of the... knowledge of the of the Son of God...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:13-14).*
- 3) *There are many deceivers (1 John 2:26).*
- 4) *There are difficult doctrines "which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16).*
- 5) *Leaders must be raised up who can "give instruction in sound doctrine and also confute those who contradict it" (Titus 1:9).*
- 6) *We are commanded to teach and disciple our children (Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 6).*

V. How shall we begin?

We are asking every family or small group within NLCC (especially fathers) to hold weekly worship and family/group bible study using catechism lessons provided by the church.

We are also asking that Wednesday be your designated worship and family or group bible study day. If Wednesday doesn't work for your family or group, feel free to choose another day. Our goal is to learn and grow as a family through biblical teaching.

Let's get excited about building a "stable and firm" generation who knows and serves Christ!

Other Information

Sometimes there are other ways to express a true answer to these questions. Feel free to use scripture to formulate other true answers where possible and helpful. The aim of a catechism is not to be exhaustive but to give a solid foundation from which to "keep growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:17). The biblical basis for family and group bible study is Deuteronomy 6:1-8.

How To Study

Each catechism lesson will be studied for the entire month. The lesson will include a number of questions with biblical answers. Each question will have corresponding scriptures for biblical reference. Each question will also have discussion questions, geared to help your family have great discussions about the truth that was learned. We hope that you all will take the time to write down responses and questions for further study.

The Children Catechism is very similar to the family lesson, in that it is based off of the same questions. However, the questions and the answers are written in such a way that children can understand and memorize. Remember to allow your children to ask questions and give input in discussion. You may be surprised what revelation God may reveal to your child.

With every answer, try to commit them to memory. The scripture says Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Scripture memory is important, because it helps the believer gain knowledge and revelation of the scripture. Also, memorizing the scripture proves to be beneficial when in hard times in life. Bringing back to mind a scripture and a truth from the word of God will help you gain victory from every storm of your life.

Make sure that you start and end each lesson that you have with a word of prayer. Pray to the Father that He would bless you and your family to understand the word of God, and that revelation would flow from heaven. At the end of the lesson, make sure to pray that the seed of the Word of God is not stolen or destroyed from the enemy. The scripture says John 10:10 "The thief (satan) comes only to steal and kill and destroy." The enemy seeks to destroy the seed of the word that was planted during your time of devotions. Lastly, in your closing prayer, pray that the seed of the word will fall on good ground. Remember, the enemy comes to destroy and steal the word. Read for yourself Mark 4:1-20 to see the desire of the enemy. Pray that this does not happen to your family.

Lastly, challenge yourself! Everyone likes a good challenge every now and again. Challenge yourself and your family to memorize the scriptures. Create ways in which to remember the answers to the questions. Develop games and family challenges to bring the word of God to life. Having this foundation of the Word of God in our life is essential to the disciple of Jesus Christ (John 8:31-32).

Our prayer is that you will have the tools you need to succeed. If you ever need assistance at any time, check out the resource page on our church website at www.nlccministry.org, or write down questions and ask questions to your caretaker leader or church leader. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't know. Furthermore, if you don't know do not give answers you don't know. Let your family know 'I don't know, but I will study and find out.' As the lessons go along, you will begin to develop more understanding and revelation from the Word. Further enabling you to better teach and disciple your family.

You Ready?!? Let's Begin our journey in the word of God.

The Atonement of Christ

1. What was Christ's chief work as Savior?

Christ died and rose again for His people

Scriptural Reference: *2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 4:25*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *What exactly was accomplished in Christ's rising?*
- 2) *Why was His resurrection so important to believers? Do unbelievers fall into the category of 'His People'?*

2. Did Christ voluntarily allow Himself to be slain?

Yes, Christ laid down his life of Himself

Scriptural Reference: *John 10:17-18*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Do you believe Jesus' decision to voluntarily allow Himself to be slain was an easy decision?*
- 2) *Does this voluntary act diminish Jesus' flesh nature?*

3. Was this Christ's design in coming into the world?

Our Lord says that He came "to give His life a ransom for man."

Scriptural Reference: *Mark 10:45*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Was Christ's only purpose for 'being' to come and die?*
- 2) *Would you believe Jesus' work to be finished, seeing that there are so many who still do not believe? Give biblical reference.*

4. For what purpose did the Loving God give His only Son?

God gave His only Son "that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal Life"

Scriptural Reference: *John 3:16*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Discuss this truth among your family/group. How does that make you feel, knowing that God sent His only son to die for us.*
- 2) *Did God send His son for unbelievers?*

5. How could Christ's dying give us life?

Christ took our place and died like a sinner, that we might take His place and be righteous in Him.

Scriptural Reference: *2 Corinthians 5:21*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *What place did Christ take of ours; who were not even born during that time?*
- 2) *According to scripture, what was the penalty for our sin? And why was Christ the answer?*

6. Was it right that the just should die for the unjust?

The Savior was not compelled, but He chose to die for the benefit of others.

Scriptural Reference:

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Do you think at anytime in Christ's walk, He thought twice about His decision? Knowing His humanity and His coming torture?*

7. Is it right for God to pardon men because the Savior died?

God declares it to be right for Him to pardon men if they seek salvation only through Christ.

Scriptural Reference: *Romans 3:26*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Is it a truth that this pardon from our coming damnation is only found through seeking Christ?*
- 2) *Is this promise to 'good' people who have not yet believed?*

8. May a man go on in sin and expect to be saved through Christ's atoning death?

No, we must live for Him who died for us.

Scriptural Reference: *2 Corinthians 5:15*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Explain why an unbeliever may feel that they can do such a thing.*
- 2) *Why is it possible for unbelievers to confess and then go back into their sin? Try to pinpoint the area that kept them from continuing in freedom.*

9. Is salvation offered to all men through the atonement of Christ?

Yes, salvation is offered to all, and all are saved who really take Christ for their Savior.

Scriptural Reference: *Ezekiel 18:23, 2 Peter 3:9*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Why is hard for some to believe that the atonement of Christ was offered to them.*
- 2) *Is there a penalty for not believing in the atonement?*

10. What is Christ now doing for men's salvation?

Christ is interceding for all those who trust in His atonement.

Scriptural Reference: *Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *What should the body of Christ be doing as Christ is interceding for us?*
- 2) *In what aspects of life is Christ interceding for you. Discuss among your family/group.*

Advanced Discussion Questions

Moderator: As these are advanced discussion questions, these require more thought and discussion time. To get better results from your group time, ask these questions first and obtain answers. After all answers are in, read the answer below and then discuss the findings as a group.

We encourage you to write down the answers and pull our similarities and differences from the answers as well as specific facts from scripture that support your answers.

Is the atonement of Christ sufficient for all men?

The atonement of Christ is sufficient for all, and would actually save all if they would repent and believe

Scriptural Reference: *John 1:29; 3:17, 1 John 2:2; 4:14*

Does God desire the salvation of all men?

God "wishes all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth"

Scriptural Reference: *1 Timothy 2:4*

If any who hear the gospel are not saved, can they complain?

No, they cannot justly complain, for if they wished to be saved and believed, they would have been saved.

Scriptural Reference: *Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:34*

Are the heathen/sinner, who has never heard the gospel, condemned for not believing it?

No, the heathen are judged by the light they have, and are condemned for violating the law that is written in their hearts

Scriptural Reference: *Romans 1:20; 2:14*

Will God punish those who have not heard the gospel as severely as those who hear and reject it?

No, those who have not heard the gospel will be punished for disregarding what they know or might know, of the true God.

Scriptural Reference: Romans 2:13; 3:23

Has God commanded His people to proclaim salvation to all men?

Yes, God commands His people to proclaim salvation to all men.

Scriptural Reference: Matthew 28:19, Romans 10:13-15