

"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

July 2014

Justification & Sanctification

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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.

July 2014 – Justification and Sanctification

1. What does the bible mean by justification?

Answer: *God justifies a sinner in treating him as just, for Christ's sake.*

Scriptural Reference: *Romans 8:30*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Why did/does man need God's justification?*
- 2) *Why is it hard for us to receive Christ's justification at times?*

2. Can anyone be justified by their own works?

Answer: *By works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

Scriptural Reference: *Romans 3:20*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *If we cannot be justified by good works, why does scripture encourage good works? Give two reasons.*
- 2) *True or False. Man was saved by grace to prevent him from taking the credit.*

3. How are we justified?

Answer: *Believing in Christ our Savior, we ask and receive justification for His sake alone.*

Scriptural Reference: *Romans 3:24; 5:1*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *Based upon Romans 3:24 is it accurate to say that without justification we are enemies of God? Explain.*

4. Has this faith that justifies any connection with our works?

Answer: *The faith that justifies will be sure to produce good works.*

Scriptural Reference: *Galatians 5:6, James 2:17*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *How does faith produce good works? That is, how does one's belief in God lead them to do good works?*
- 2) *Does our motive affect who our good works represent?*

5. What does it mean to be sanctified?

Answer: *To be sanctified is to develop holiness in one's heart and life.*

Scriptural Reference: *2 Corinthians 3:18*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *What example of holiness does the believer have from the Word of God?*
- 2) *From your experience, is holiness a one-time decision or a daily journey?*

6. Is sanctification complete all at once?

Answer: *No, sanctification is gradual, and ought to go on increasing to the end of the earthly life.*

Scriptural Reference: *Philippians 3:13, 14*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) *At what point will the believer reach the pinnacle of sanctification?*
- 2) *Based on Proverbs 24:16, when the believer fails to walk in sanctification, what should he do in order to move forward? What does it mean to "rise again"?*

7. Is it certain that a believer in Christ will be saved until the end of their life?

Answer: *Yes, God will preserve a true believer in Christ to the end.*

Scriptural Reference: *John 10:28, Philippians 1:6*

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does it mean to be a “true believer” versus being a “religious” person?
- 2) How does the believer walk with God in order to be preserved? Describe characteristics, habits, etc.

8. What is the sure proof of being a true believer?

Answer: The only sure proof of being a true believer is growing in holiness and in usefulness, even until death.

Scriptural Reference: 2 Peter 1:10

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are some observable fruits of holiness?
- 2) How does disobedience affect one’s growth in holiness and usefulness?

9. Why is justification and sanctification needed? What is its usefulness at the end of our lives?

Answer: Justification and Sanctification will lead to the glorification of our mortal bodies in heaven.

Scriptural Reference: Romans 5:2, 8:30, Matthew 25:21

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What does the bible mean when it says our bodies will be glorified?
- 2) Is it possible to make it to heaven without being justified through faith?

Advanced Questions

These questions are used for further discussion of the topic. Use biblical tools to find answers and further discuss issues as a group/family.

DISCUSSION TIP – BEFORE YOU READ THE ANSWER ALOUD, ALLOW YOUR GROUP/FAMILY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION AND EXPLAIN, BEFORE YOU GIVE THE PROVIDED ANSWER BELOW.

1. How can it be right for God to treat a new believer as just, when he has just begun to live a holy life?

Answer: God treats a believing sinner as just for Christ’s sake, and God will be sure to make him completely holy at the end of their lives.

Scriptural Reference: Romans 3:26

2. Does our faith in Christ make us deserving of justification?

Answer: No, faith does not make us deserving of justification; faith only brings us into union with Christ, for whose sake we are justified.

Scriptural Reference: Romans 8:1