

First Catechism

53. Q. What kind of death did Jesus die?

A. The painful and shameful death of the cross.

54. Q. What is meant by the atonement?

A. Christ satisfied God's justice by his suffering and death as a substitute for sinners.

55. Q. What does God the Father guarantee in the covenant of grace?

A. To justify and sanctify all those for whom Christ died.

56. Q. How does God justify you?

A. God forgives all my sins and accepts me as righteous through Christ.

57. Q. How does God sanctify you?

A. God makes me more and more holy in heart and conduct.

58. Q. What must you do to be saved?

A. I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

59. Q. How do you repent of your sin?

A. I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.

60. Q. Why must you hate and forsake your sin?

A. Because sin displeases God.

61. Q. What does it mean to believe in Christ?

A. To trust in Christ alone for my salvation.

62. Q. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?

A. No. I cannot repent and believe unless the Holy Spirit changes my heart.

63. Q. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?

A. God has told us to pray for the Holy Spirit's help.

64. Q. How long ago did Christ die?

A. About two thousand years ago.

65. Q. How were sinners saved before Christ came?

A. By believing in the promised Messiah.

66. Q. Before Christ came, how did believers show their faith?

A. By offering the sacrifices God required.

67. Q. What did these sacrifices represent?

A. Christ, the Lamb of God, who would come to die for sinners.

68. Q. How many offices does Christ fulfill as the promised Messiah?

A. Christ fulfills three offices.

69. Q. What are they?

A. The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.

70. Q. How is Christ your prophet?

A. Christ teaches me the will of God.

71. Q. How is Christ your priest?

A. Christ died for my sins and continues to pray for me.

72. Q. How is Christ your king?

A. Christ rules over me, the world and Satan, and he defends me.

73. Q. Why do you need Christ as your prophet?

A. Because I am ignorant by nature.

74. Q. Why do you need Christ as your priest?

A. Because I am guilty of breaking God's law.

75. Q. Why do you need Christ as your king?

A. Because I am weak and helpless.

109. Q. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is praising God, giving thanks for all his blessings, and asking him for the things he has promised in the Bible.

110. Q. In whose name should we pray?

A. Only in the name of Christ.

111. Q. What did Christ give us to teach us about prayer?

A. The Lord's Prayer.

112. Q. What is the Lord's Prayer?

A. The Lord's Prayer is "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen." (KJV)

113. Q. How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer?

A. Six.

114. Q. What is the first petition?

A. The first petition is "Hallowed be thy name."

115. Q. What does it mean to pray, "Hallowed be thy name"?

A. We are asking God to help us and others to respect and honor him.

116. Q. What is the second petition?

A. The second petition is "Thy kingdom come."

117. Q. What does it mean to pray, "Thy kingdom come"?

A. We are asking God to bring more and more people to hear, believe and obey his gospel.

118. Q. What is the third petition?

A. The third petition is "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

119. Q. What does it mean to pray, "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"?

A. We are asking God to make us able and willing to serve him on earth just as he is served in heaven.

120. Q. What is the fourth petition?

A. The fourth petition is "Give us this day our daily bread."

121. Q. What does it mean to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread"?

A. We are asking God to provide us with all that we really need.

122. Q. What is the fifth petition?

A. The fifth petition is "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

123. Q. What does it mean to pray, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"?

A. We are asking God to forgive our sins for Christ's sake, and to make us willing to forgive others.

124. Q. What is the sixth petition?

A. The sixth petition is "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

125. Q. What does it mean to pray, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"?

A. We are asking God to keep us from being tempted and to make us strong enough to resist when we are tempted.