

CHRISTIANITY, THE WAY OF LIFE

A Bible study of the Basic Christian teachings as summarized in Luther's Small Catechism

INTRODUCTION LIFE LINES

- I. This Study - Learning about life
- II. The Bible - God's Word in the language of men
- III. Bible Study - Read, mark and inwardly digest
- IV. Law and Gospel - Double edged truth.

UNIT ONE: Commandments LIFE STYLE

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- I. God's Law - God's for good, ours to keep
- II. 1st Commandment –
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- X. 9th & 10th Commandment - Desires and ambitions

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UNIT THREE Lord's Prayer LIFE CYCLE

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- X. Worthy Reception - Given for you

APOSTLES' CREED I [LSCE page 102f]

**CREEDS AND FAITH
I Believe in One God**

1. What is a Christian believer?

A. Christians have saving faith.

- a. Rom. 1:17 also Hab. 2:4, Luke 7:50, John 3:16,
What makes us righteous? Rom. 3:22-24, Gal. 3:11,
Eph. 2:8-9
- b. John 17:3 also John 8:32, 2 Thes. 2:13, Matt. 10:33
What must we believe in?

B. Being a Christian means genuine faith.

- a. John 6:69 also Rom. 10:14, 17 John 8:32, 17:3
What is included with real believing?
- b. Phil. 4:7 also Job 11:7, Psal. 145:3, John 8:32, 17:3,
What does faith Rom. 11:33, Eph. 3:20, Phlp. 4:7
not require?
- c. Heb. 11:1 also John 10:25, Rom. 4:20-21,
What is included in real faith? James 1:6, 2:19,
What does faith not require? also John 20:29
- d. 2 Tim. 1:12 also Psal. 31:14, 78:22, Mark 9:24,
What else is included in believing? Luke 17:6

*Can you eat without eating something particular?
Can you see something without knowing what it
looks like? Can you truly believe a God without
having any idea what he is like?*

*One man plans to fly 1000 miles away in an
ultralite plane which he built by himself from a kit.
He is certain he can do it. Another man plans to fly
1000 miles away in a large passenger plane, even
though he is very afraid of flying. He barely has the
courage to get on the plane.*

*Which man is more sure to get where he is going?
Each has to have some faith in their airplane in
order to go. Which is more important, the amount of
faith they have or what they put their faith in?*

Christians are those who are saved by believing in
the one true God.

Genuine saving faith includes:

- knowing the truth, which does not require
understanding how God is and does what he does.
- accepting and agreeing with the truth, which is not
based on rational proofs but being convinced by
God.
- trusting God to keep his promises, which depends
not on the strength of our faith but the truth of what
we believe.

2. What is a Creed?

A. A Creed is a statement of faith about God.

- What do each of these statements say about God?
- a. Deut. 6:4 also 1 Cor. 12:3
- b. 1 Tim. 1:15 also Titus 3:4-8

B. Christians state the true faith in creeds.

- a. Matt. 16:15-16 also John 11:27, 1 Cor. 12:3,
Who's faith is stated here? 2 Cor. 4:13-14
- b. 1 Cor. 15:3-4 also Phil. 2:6-11, 1 Tim. 3:16,
What is Paul doing with this 1 Pet. 3:15
statement of faith?
- c. Titus 1:9 also 1 Cor. 1:10
What should we do with what we believe?

*Some people will carry with them a picture of their
family. They may use it to remind themselves of
people they love. They may use it to show others
those they love. If one is lost, they may use it to
identify exactly who it is. How might someone
"picture" or describe you to distinguish you from
others? How would you "picture" or describe your
God in a way that is distinct from false Gods?*

A creed is a clear summary of what the Bible
teaches about God.

Christians use creeds to clearly state what they
- believe personally for themselves
- teach and share with others
- confess ("agree on") in order to reject false
teaching.

All true Christians believe the truths of the three
"ecumenical" creeds.
The Apostles' Creed summarizes the teaching of the
Apostles and is used especially with Holy Baptism
The Nicene Creed explains who God is in more
detail and is used especially with Holy Communion.
The Athanasian Creed, a longer explanation of the
trinity and incarnation, is used on Trinity Sunday.

3. Who is God?

A. The one true God is Triune.

- a. 1 Cor. 8:4 also Deut 6:4, John 17:3, Eph. 4:4-6
How many true God's are there?
- b. Gen. 1:26 also John 10:30
What pronouns does God use to refer to himself?
- c. Matt. 28:19 [282] also Matt. 3:16-17, John 14:16-17
Who are the three persons of God?

B. God is our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

APOSTLES' CREED II [LSCE page 11of]

CREATION
Maker of Heaven and Earth

1. How is God the Creator?

A. God made everything.

a. Gen. 1:1 [325] also Psal. 90:2, John 1:1, Col. 1:16-17
 What existed from the very beginning?

b. Col 1:16 [328] also 1 Cor. 8:6, John 1:3
 What did God make?

c. Gen. 1:3 also Ps. 33:6, John 1:1-3, Heb. 11:3
 How (by what) did God make everything?

d. Psal. 95:5-6 also Psal 24:1, 100:3
 Who does everything belong to? Why?

B. God made everything complete.

a. Exod. 20:11 also Gen. 1:31, 2:2
 How long God's creation take?

b. Gen. 1:31
 What was creation like when God was done?

The scientific laws of thermodynamics state that everything is continually breaking down as matter decays and releases energy with dissipates. Does this law agree more with the theory of evolution or the Bible statement that everything was originally created perfectly.

God's word causes what he says to be true, even if it was not true before. What does this mean when God says in your baptism that you are his child, when God says in absolute that you are forgiven, or when God says in Holy Communion that it is Jesus body and blood?

When nothing existed except God himself, God made everything in the universe, visible and invisible, so everything belongs to God. He did it in six consecutive days by simply speaking his word (except humans). Everything was originally complete and good.

2. What did God create?

A. Identify what God did on each day.

a. Gen 1:3-4 (first day) _____

b. Gen. 1:6-7 (second day) _____

c. Gen. 1:9, 11 (third day) _____

d. Gen. 1:14 (fourth day) _____

e. Gen. 1:20 (fifth day) _____

f. Gen. 1:24 (sixth day) _____

B. God created all life

a. Matt 10:28 also John 3:6, 6:53-54, Luke 24:29
 What kinds of life does God give humans?

b. Gen. 1:21 also Gen. 1:11, 11-12, 24-25
 How did God make every living thing?

Science studies the five things that exist. Unscramble them from the list below and write them in the blanks next to the day of creation in which they are seen.

RETAMT GREENY IFEL MIET PEACS

Plants are alive. What does this mean they are able to do? Animals are alive. What can they do that plants cannot? People are alive. What kind of life do they have that animals do not?

God is the creator of everything that exists, including energy, space, matter, time and life. God created both physical and spiritual life.

Physical life requires a material body. Spiritual life requires no body. God created each kind of living thing (species) in its own individual form.

3. What is God's greatest visible creation?

A. We are specially made.

a. Gen. 2:7 [341] also Gen 2:22, Psal. 119:73, 139:13,
 How did God make people?

b. Isa. 44:24 also Isa 44:2, Jer 1:6, Acts 17:26
 What does God continue to do?

B. We are given spiritual life.

a. Rom. 8:10 also Gen. 2:7, Eccl. 12:7
 What special kind of life does God give people?

b. Matt 25:46 also Eccl. 12:7, Mark 9:47-48
 How long are people made to last?

C. We are made for a special purpose.

a. Gen. 1:26 [342] also Gen. 1:28, 9:1-3; Psal 8:4-8
 What role did God give people?

b. Gen. 1:27 [342] also Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:23-24
 What did God make people to be like?

- c. In what ways are we to be like God?
Col. 3:10 [354]

Eph. 4:23

Eph. 4:24 [355]

If people were only a result of evolution, what would this tell you about how important you are, your purpose in life, and what to think about those who are weak, sick or disabled?

Since you are specially formed by God, what does this tell you about how important you are, your purpose in life, and what to think about those who are weak, sick or disabled?

God's greatest visible creatures are humans, which are individually formed, beginning with single individual. People are made to have spiritual life in an eternal soul, and are given authority to take care of the rest of creation.

People were made originally in God's image, that is, like God in perfectly knowing what is right, desiring what is right and having the ability to do what is right.

4. What is God's greatest invisible creation?

A. Angels are alive without a body.

- a. Heb. 1:14 [335] also Luke 24:39, Acts 12:7-10,
What kind of beings are angels? Eph. 6:12

- b. Luke 24:4 also Gen. 19:15-16, Matt 28:2-4,
In what form may they appear? Luke 1:11, 2:9-13,
Acts 1:10-12, Heb. 1:7

B. Angels are powerful.

- a. Rev. 5:11 also Dan. 7:10, Luke 2:13, Heb. 12:22
How many of them are there?

- b. Luke 20:35-36 also Matt. 22:30
Why does the number of angels not change?
(v. 35
(v. 36)

- c. Psal. 103:20 also 2 Kg. 19:35, Dan. 6:22,
What do angels do? 2 Thess 1:7, Heb. 1:3, 2:7

How are they able?

- d. What kind of angels are there?

Gen. 3:24 also Psal. 80:1

Isa 6:2

Jude 9 also 1 Thes. 4:16

C. Angels serve God.

- a. Heb. 1:6 also Isa. 6:3, Luke 2:13, 15:10,
What are angels to do? Rev. 5:11-12, 7:11

- b. Psal. 91:11-12 [334] also Gen. 24:7, Dan. 6:22,
What are angels to do? Luke 16:22, Acts 12:7-10,
Heb. 1:14

- c. Luke 1:19 also Matt. 28:5-7, Luke 1:26-28, 2:9-11
What do angels do?

God created many kinds of things. How many things can you think of which are powerful but invisible? Name something that is visible and material but not alive. Name something that is both visible and physically alive. What is visible and both physically and spiritually alive. What is spiritually alive but not visible.

God's greatest invisible creatures are angels, which are active living beings without a body, although they can appear in various forms.

God made a great number of them, which does not change, of various types and ranks, to worship God, protect and serve believers, and bring his messages. They are each very powerful and the holy angels always do God's will.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

First Article & meaning, part a

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul,
eyes, ears, and all my members,
my reason and all my senses,
and still takes care of them.

Gen. 1:1

In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.

Psal. 91:11-12

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;

Gen. 1:27

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Creed III [LSCE page 109, 112, 115]

THE FATHER AND THE FALL Fall into Sin

1. What has happened to God's perfect creation?

A. Creation is ruined by sin.

a. Gen. 3:17-18 also Rom. 8:20-22
What is God's perfect creation like now?

b. 2 Pet. 1:4 also Gen. 3:14-19
What caused the world to be ruined?

Remember what everything was like when God created it. Did God create darkness? Where did it come from? Did God create evil? Where did evil come from?

God's perfect creation has all been ruined by sin so that there is now evil and suffering in the world.

2. How did sin begin?

A. Not all angels are "angels".

a. Rev. 12:7-9 also Isa. 14:12-15, Ezek 28:11-19
Who fought against God and his angels? (v. 9)
v. 7
v. 9

b. 2 Pet. 2:4 [330] also Matt 25:41; Heb. 2:14, 16;
What happened to them? Rev. 12:8; 20:1-3

c. Mark 5:8-9
How many are there?

B. Satan refuses to give up.

a. Rev. 12:12 also Eph. 6:11-12, 1 Pet. 5:8-9
Where are the devil and his angels still active?

b. Rev. 12:9 also Gen. 3:4-5, Matt. 4:8-9, 1 Tim. 4:1
What do they try to do?

c. 2 Cor. 11:14 also John
8:44
What does Satan pretend that he still is?

Is the Devil as powerful as God? What do you think Satan wants you to think about him? ...if he wants you to think about him at all!

Satan will always use lies and partial truths to tempt us, trying to make what is bad seem to be good. Can you think of something that is bad for you that some people will think is good?

Sin began when a powerful angel of God (Lucifer) became proud and led other angels in a rebellion against God's authority. The rebellious angels were defeated and thrown out of God's presence in heaven to be forever separated from God in hell.

Now there is a large and powerful group of fallen angels, called demons or devils, led by the Devil, also called Satan ("accuser"). They are a dangerous force on earth, trying to ruin God's world and mislead God's people into the same mistake of rebellion.

3. How did people become sinful?

A. Humans sinned.

a. Gen. 3:1-10, 16-19 also 2 Sam. 11
Identify the verses where these steps happen?
v. 1-3 ___ r. Damnation
v. 4-5 ___ s. Deception by lies
v. 6 ___ t. Decision to do wrong
v. 6 ___ u. Deed, doing wrong
v. 6 ___ v. Denial of wrong
v. 7-10 ___ w. Desire for wrong
v. 12-13 ___ x. Despair of God's love
v. 16-19 ___ y. Disaster & Death
v. 23-24 ___ z. Doubt of God's word

B. Sin ends in death.

a. Gen 5:5 also Gen. 2:17, Rom. 6:23
What happened after Adam sinned?

b. Eccl. 12:7 also Gen. 5:5, 35:18, 2 Cor. 5:1-9
What separates in physical death?

c. 1 Tim. 5:6 also Eph. 2:1
What are sinners like spiritually?

Isa 59:2
what does sin separate us from?

d. Matt 10:28
Where do both kinds of death happen together?

Matt. 25:41 also 2 Thes. 1:9
How long does this last?

C. We inherit Adam's sin.

a. Psal. 51:5 also Gen. 5:3, John 3:6
What are we like from the beginning?

b. Rom. 5:12
What do we all do?

- c. What are humans naturally like now? Gen. 5:3
2 Cor. 4:4 also 1 Cor. 2:14
- Eph. 2:1 also Rom. 7:18, 1 Tim. 5:6
- Rom. 8:7 also Gen. 3:10, 8:21, Eph. 2:3

Satan's sin was pride. He thought he was as great as God, but this was not true. What did he try to get Eve to think? Was this true?

If you are spiritually dead but physically alive, can you become spiritually alive? If you are spiritually alive but die physically, can you become physically alive again? If you are spiritually dead when you die physically, can you become alive again?

What are babies like spiritually when they are first born: weak, handicapped, or stillborn?

Adam and Eve gave into temptation to rebel and disobey out of pride, so the perfect life God gave was destroyed by death:

- physical death: separation of soul from body
- spiritual death: separation of sinners from God.
- eternal death: total separation from God forever

This sinful condition is inherited by every human because all are descendants of Adam and Eve. As a result we are all naturally born spiritually

- blind: without knowledge of is right
- dead: without ability to do what is right
- enemies of God: without desire for what is right

4. How is God a Father?

A. The first person of the trinity is the Father

- a. Col 1:3 also Matt 6:9, Luke 1:31, John 20:17
Whom is God the father of?

- b. John 5:17-18 also Matt. 28:19
Who is equal to the Father?

B. God is the father of believers.

- a. John 8:44
Who is the spiritual father of sinners?

b. How does God become our father?

Gal. 3:26-27 also Isa. 63:16

Eph. 1:5 also Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:4-6

John 3:5-7

- c. Col. 3:10 also Eph. 4:24
What do we become like again?

C. God treats us like his children.

- a. 1 Jn. 3:1 also Ps. 103:13, Mal. 2:10, Mt. 6:9, 32; 7:11;

How does God treat us? Rom. 8:32, Heb. 12:7-10

- b. Luke 15:21 also Gen 32:10, Rom. 8:32
Do we deserve this from God? Why?

Can anyone be alive without a father? How can you be spiritually alive?

When a child is adopted by a father, who does the choice and the action?

Would a loving father continue to care for a child even if the child made mistakes and did wrong?

God is called Father because the first person of the trinity is the Father of Jesus Christ.

We can call God Father because, although we are not naturally children of God, believers in Jesus are adopted as God's children and spiritually reborn in his image. God also cares for all as a loving Father, although we do not deserve it.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

First Article & meaning, part b

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

Rom. 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

John 3:6-7

Flesh gives birth to flesh,

but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

AND STILL PRESERVES THEM

Preservation

1. What does God do for his creation now?

- A. God continues to care for his creation.
- a. Psal 32:8 also 1 Kings 4:29, Job 39:27-30, Dan. 1:17
How do we know the best way to use creation?
 - b. Heb. 1:3 [362] also Gen. 8:22; Psal. 36:6; 104:14, 29;
What keeps everything from falling apart? Col. 1:17
 - c. Psal. 91:14-15 also Psal. 34:19-20; 91:1-13; 121:5-8;
What does God continue to do for us? Dan. 3:26-28; 6:21-22, Matt. 10:29-30
 - d. Acts 14:17 also Psal. 145:15-16, Matt 5:45; 6:25-34,
How do we have all we need? Jas. 1:17
 - e. Rom. 8:28 also Gen. 50:20, Deut. 8:2-5, Isa 45:5-7,
What does God do no matter what happens? Jer. 29:11, Heb. 12:4-11
- B. God uses various means.
- a. Gen. 3:19 also Prov. 19:15; 20:13, 2 Thes. 3:10
How does God intend us to get our food?
 - b. Deut 8:17-18
What makes us able to work or benefit from it?
 - c. John 6:13-14 also Mark 4:39-41, Luke 18:43-43
How else can God provide for us?
- C. God does what is best for us.
- a. Jer. 29:11 also Psal. 25:10
What does God intend to do for us?
 - b. Psal. 103:13 also Gen. 32:10
Why does God do these things?
 - c. Isa. 55:8-9 also Rom 11:33-36
Why will we not always understand God's working?

How many things can you list that you have, not because you made or worked for them but because God caused someone to provide them for you?

How many things can you list that God must cause to happen daily so that you can eat a meal?

In spite of sin, God lovingly continues to take care of his creation by:

- sustaining it so it continues to function.
- protecting us from harm.
- providing for everyone's needs
- controlling what happens so evil is limited.
- instructing us to do right through insight, senses, conscience and his revealed word.

God does this through nature and human efforts and may sometimes do it in supernatural ways. The ways and purposes of God's work are something we cannot understand but we can be sure he always does what is kindest and best.

2. How should we respond to all God does?

- A. We worship God.
- a. Rom. 11:35-36 also Psal. 103:1-2, Matt 4:10,
Where does everything come from? 1 Cor. 10:31

What does he deserve?
 - b. Psal. 105:1-2 also Psal. 95:2, 100:4, 136:1-3;
How do we respond to what God does? 2 Cor. 9:15, Eph. 5:20,
(v. 1) Col. 3:17, 1 Thess. 5:18
(v. 2)
 - c. Phil. 4:6 also 1 Pet. 5:7, Matt 6:25-32
What do we not need to do?
 - d. Psal. 37:5 also Deut 4:30-31, 1 Tim. 6:17
What can we do instead?
- B. We serve God.
- a. 1 Cor. 6:19-20
What should we do because of what we have received from God? (v. 20)
 - b. Acts 5:29 also Deut. 11:26-28, 13:4, Jer. 11:3-4
What does God deserve for us to do?
 - c. 1 Pet. 4:10-11 also Gen. 2:15, Deut 10:12,
How should we use the gifts God provides? Matt 25:14-30,
1 Cor. 4:1-2, 15:58
 - d. 1 Tim. 6:17-18 also Prov. 19:17, 1 Chr. 29:14,
What should we do because God provides for us? 1 Cor. 16:1-2,
(v. 18) 2 Cor. 9:6-15

Write a prayer that you could use regularly to thank and praise God for his earthly blessings.

What are some things you can do or not do to take good care of the body God gave you?

What are some things you can do or not do to take good care of the earth God gave us to live in?

Because of all God does for us, we can and should

- praise and worship him for his goodness.
- thank him for all he does.
- trust him for all we need.
- obey him as our God.
- serve him with all we have.
- share with others what he has given us.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

First Article meaning, part c

He defends me against all danger
and guards and protects me from all evil.
All this He does only out of fatherly, divine
goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me.
For all this it is my duty to thank and praise,
serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

1 Pet. 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to
serve others,
faithfully administering God's grace
in its various forms.

Acts 14:17

Yet he has not left himself without testimony:
He has shown kindness
by giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons;
he provides you with plenty of food
and fills your hearts with joy.”

Creed V [LSCE page 121f]

SON OF GOD AND SON OF MAN
Jesus' Incarnation1. Who is Jesus?

A. Jesus is the Son of God.

- a. Matt 28:19 also Matt. 3:17, 16:16,
What is the second person John 3:16, 20:26, 28;
of the trinity called? Rom. 9:5, Titus 2:13

- b. John 5:18 also John 1:18, 10:30, 33; 20:28,
What is Jesus the same as Rom 9:5, Acts 20:28
or equal to? Phil 2:5-6, 1 Tim. 2:
Titus 2:13, 1 Jn. 5:20

- c. John 1:1, 14 also John 17:5
How long has this been true? (v. 1)

B. Jesus is the same as God also Isa. 43:10-11,

- a. 1 John 5:20 Hos. 13:4/Acts 4:10, 12, 16:31,
What different titles are Rom. 10:9-13
used for this one person? Isa. 9:6/Matt. 1:23
John 1:14, 10:30, 20:28,
Rev. 1:8, 17-18; 22:12-13, 16, 20

- b. John 5:19-22 also John 1:3, 5:27, Matt. 9:16,
What does Jesus do Heb. 1:3, 8, 10-12
that only God can do?
(v. 21)
(v. 22)

- c. John 5:23 [399] also John 17:5, Matt. 4:10,
How are we to treat Jesus Phil. 2:10, Heb. 1:6
as only God is treated?

- d. John 5:26-27 also John 1:1-2, 14-18; 8:58, 17:5,
What is Jesus described as Matt 18:20; 28:18, 20
having, as only God has?
(v. 26)
(v. 27)

- e. How is Jesus described, as only God is?
John 21:17 [393]

Heb. 13:8 [391]

If a cow has a baby what will it be? If a cat has a baby what will it be? If God has a son, what will he be? In what ways is Jesus just like his father?

Why is it so important that Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary without a human father?

Jesus, the second person of the trinity, is called the only begotten Son of God because he is God (divine) in the same way the Father as God, always has been, and always will be.

We can be sure of this because the Bible

- calls him names God is called,
- describes him as God is described,
- says he does what God does and
- says he is to be honored as God.

2. What is Jesus, in addition to being true God?

A. Jesus is a real man.

- a. 1 Tim. 2:5 [401] also Isa. 9:6, Matt. 1:1,
What is Jesus at the Luke 2:11-12, 43, Acts 17:31,
same time he is God? Rom. 1:3, Col. 2:9, 1 Tim. 3:16

- b. Heb. 2:14 also Luke 24:39, John 1:14, Acts 1:9
What is Jesus Gal. 4:4, Phil. 3:21, Col. 1:22,
described as having? Heb. 10:5, 1 Tim. 3:16

c. How is Jesus described?

Matt. 4:2 [404] also Mark 4:38; 11:12, John 19:28

Matt. 26:38 [403] also John 11:35

- d. What did Jesus do? also, Mark 4:38, John 11:35
Luke 2:11

Luke 2:40 also Luke 2:52

1 Cor. 15:3 Matt. 20:28; 27:50, John 19:33, Heb. 2:14

B. Jesus is unlike other humans

- a. Luke 1:35 also 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 1:18-19
What was Jesus like when he was born?

- b. Heb. 4:15 also Luke 23:41, John 8:46, 1 Pet. 2:23
How is Jesus like us?

How is Jesus unlike all other humans?

C. Jesus is both God and man.

- a. John 1:14 [408] also Isa 9:6, 1 Tim. 3:16
What did Jesus become?

- c. Acts 3:15 [414] also Col. 2:9
What was Jesus when he died?

- b. 1 Tim. 2:5 [401] also Matt. 28:20
What is Jesus still now?

What did Jesus have because he was born of a human mother? What did he not inherit from his

JESUS THE SAVIOR

Jesus' humiliation

1. What has Jesus done for us?

A. Jesus is our savior.

- a. Matt 1:21 [377] also Acts 13:23, 4:12
What does Jesus' name mean?

B. Jesus lowered himself to help us.

- a. Phil. 2:5-8 [447] also Matt 26:53, Mark 10:45,
What did Jesus have Luke 2:51-52,
a right to claim? (v. 6) John 5:30, 14:31;
2 Cor. 8:9,
What did Jesus do instead? (v. 8) 1 Pet. 2:23

- b. Matt. 1:18 also Isa. 7:14, Luke 1:35, Gal. 4:4
How did Jesus become a human?

How did this start? also Matt 1:19

- c. Mark 15:15 also John 19:1-3, 16-18; 25:25-27,
What did Pilate do with Jesus? Luke 23:23-25,
Heb 12:2

- d. John 19:30, 33 also Matt 27:50, Mark 15:37,
What did Jesus do when 1 Cor. 15:3, Phil. 2:8
he was finished?

- e. Mark 15:44-46 also Matt 27:59-60, 1 Cor. 15:4
What happened to Jesus body?

C. Jesus endured all we suffer.

- a. Matt 8:20 [453] also Luke 2:7, 2 Cor. 8:9
What did Jesus not have?

- b. John 11:33 also Matt 26:37-39, Luke 19:41
How did Jesus feel? Mark 3:5, 8:12, 14:33,
John 11:35-36, 12:27, 13:21

- c. Isa. 53:3 [454] also Matt 2:13, Luke 4:29,
How was Jesus treated by others? John 7:5, 8:40

- d. Heb. 2:18 also Luke 22:44
What made Jesus suffer?

- e. Matt 27:46 [458] also Gal. 3:13, 2 Cor. 5:21,
What happened to Jesus on the cross? 1 Pet 2:24

During his humiliation, Jesus still was fully God, but put his abilities "on the shelf" and did not use them for his own benefit. What does it show when one can win with "one arm tied behind their back"?

Which attributes of God did Jesus of God did Jesus not use when he...

- Was hungry but did not turn stone to bread (Luke 4:3-4)

- Was not there when his friend, Lazarus died (John 11:21)

- Did know when the end of the world will come. Mark 13:32

When you have problems, it helps to talk to someone who has had the same problem and knows what it is like. What specific difficulties or suffering have you experienced which you think Jesus could also have experienced.

The Son of God is named Jesus because he is the savior of the world.

In order to save us, Jesus humbled himself, not always completely using his power as God. He humbled himself by being conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

During his life, Jesus endured all that we suffer, including physical, emotional, social and spiritual suffering.

2. How does Jesus suffering benefit us?

A. Jesus' suffering is innocent.

- a. Luke 23:41 also John 8:46, Heb. 4:15, 7:26-27,
Why did Jesus not deserve suffering? 2 Cor. 5:21

B. Jesus' suffering is vicarious.

- a. Heb. 7:26-27 also Isa. 53:4-5, Matt 20:28, Heb. 9:15
Who's sins did Jesus pay for?

- b. 1 Pet. 1:18-19 [477] also Lev. 17:11, Heb. 9:12,
What pays for our sins? Eph. 1:7, 1 Jn. 1:7,
Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9

- c. 2 Cor. 5:14, 19, 21 also Isa. 53:4-6, 1 Tim. 2:5-6,
Who benefits from Jesus' death 1 Jn. 2:2
(v. 14)
(v. 19)

What happens for us as a result? Rom. 4:5-8, 5:19
(v. 19)
(v. 21)

- d. Heb. 10:14 also Isa. 40:1-2, John 19:30
How long is Jesus' redemption good for?

If children were playing ball and broke a neighbor's window, someone would have to pay to make up for the damage done. That is "atonement".

If the children did not have the money but a parent or other person paid it for them, that is "vicarious".

If a person breaks a law and has to pay a fine, that is:

WHO LIVES AND REIGNS Jesus' Exaltation

1. What did Jesus do after his humiliation?

A. Jesus is exalted

a. Heb. 2:9 also Luke 24:26, Jn. 17:5, 19:30, Phil. 2:9-11
What happened after Jesus finished suffering?

b. 1 Pet. 3:18-19 [488] also Col. 2:15
Where did Jesus go when he was made alive?

What did he do there?

B. Jesus is resurrected. also Matt. 28, Mark 16,

a. 1 Cor. 15:4-8 [491] Luke 24, John 20-21
What happened as predicted? (v. 4) also Psal. 16:10, Hos. 6:2, Matt 16:21, Luke 24:44-46

John 2:19

When did this happen? (v. 4) also Luke 23:54-24:3

How can we be sure this is true?(v. 6) also Acts 1:3, 10:40-41

b. What kind of body did the risen Christ have?

Luke 24:37-39 (v. 42) also Luke 24:40-42, John 20:20

Phil 3:21 also Luke 24:16, John 20:19

C. Jesus' resurrection gives us faith.

a. Rom. 1:4 [493] also Matt 12:39-40, 26:63-64
What does Jesus' resurrection prove he is?

b. Matt. 27:62-63 also Matt 12:39-40, 16:21, 17:22-23
What does the resurrection show about what he says?

c. 1 Cor. 15:17 also Rom 4:25
What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us?

d. 1 Cor. 15:20-22 also John 11:25-26, 14:19, 1 Pet. 1:3-5
What does Jesus' resurrection mean when we die?

The suffering of hell is separation from God. Do you remember when Jesus experienced this and what he said about this just before he died?

What two kinds of spirits would be kept in the prison of hell? Can they still repent and be saved? Would Jesus' message for them be law or gospel?

Imagine a small cabin in the woods with no windows and only one door. Just as you return from a walk, you see a bear enter the cabin. A brave friend enters the cabin with a gun and the door slams shut. You hear a great struggle, a single gunshot and then silence. What happened? Is the

bear dead, or is your friend dead and the bear waiting for the next one who enters? How can you know? What if your friend came back out?

Our sin is like a great bear, ready to destroy us. Jesus has fought it in a great struggle to the death, was buried, and the grave was shut. Who won? Was our sin more than enough to kill Jesus and still waiting to finish us off? How can we know?

Now that our salvation is complete, Jesus is exalted. That is, while he is still completely human, he uses all the powers of God which are always his.

After Jesus finished suffering, had died and was buried, he returned to life and descended into hell to announce his victory over the Devil and his angels.

On the third day after his death, Jesus rose to life again with a glorified body, just as predicted in the Old Testament and by Jesus himself.

Jesus resurrection proves and guarantees that

- he is truly the divine Son of God.
- all that he says is true.
- he has forgiven all our sins, as he promised.
- we too will be raised from the dead.

2. What did Jesus do after his resurrection?

A. Jesus ascends to heaven.

a. Acts 1:3 [492]
How long did Jesus continue appearing?

b. Luke 24:51 [502] also Acts 1:9-10, Eph. 4:10
What did Jesus do after this?

c. John 14:2-3 [504] also John 17:24
What is Jesus doing for us in heaven?

d. Matt 28:20 also Matt 18:20, Eph. 4:10
Where does Jesus continue to be?

e. What does Jesus now send us?
John 16:7 also Acts 1:8, Eph. 4:10-11

B. Jesus reigns in heaven.

a. Eph. 1:20-23 [506] also Mt. 22:44; 28:18, Acts 5:31, Phil. 2:9-11, Col 3:1
What does Jesus do now? (v. 20)
What does this mean? (v. 21)

b. Rom. 8:28 also Rom. 8:31, 38-39, Eph. 1:22
What does Jesus do with his power?

c. Rom. 8:34 also 1 John 2:1
What does Jesus do in his position?

If Jesus was still here in a visible body, how many places could he be at once? Where can he be now?

Did Jesus still have a body when he left the disciples? If Jesus is still God and man in one person, can his human body be everywhere also?

In the time of kings, his “right hand man” was the Prime Minister. Which one ran the country?

When people elect legislators, where do they send them? Why are they sent there and what can they do? If Jesus is in heaven, does that mean he is far away and less able to help us?

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus’ visible body disappeared as he ascended to heaven.

Because of Jesus’ ascension, we can be sure that

- he will also take us to heaven to be with him.
- he will always be with us everywhere.
- he sends the Holy Spirit with gifts and power.

Jesus now sits at the Father’s right hand, that is, he holds a position of power over all creation. This assures us that...

- he controls all things for our good.
- he is constantly asking the Father to bless us.

3. What remains for Jesus to do?

A. Jesus will come again.

a. Acts 1:11 [515] also Thess. 2:2
What will Jesus do?

b. Luke 21:27 also Matt. 24:26-30, Mark 13:26,
What will this be like? Titus 2:13, Rev. 1:7

c. When will this happen?
Rev. 22:20 also Mark 13:30, 1 Pet. 4:7, Rev. 22:12

Mark 13:31-32 also Matt 24:35-36, 44, 50; 25:13, 31

d. 2 Tim. 4:1 also Matt. 13:30, 49, John. 25:27-30,
What will Jesus do Acts 10:42; 17:31,
when he appears? 2 Cor. 5:10, Rev. 20:11-15

B. Jesus’ judging gives us faith.

a. Luke 21:28 also Heb. 9:28, Rev. 11:17-18
What does Jesus’ coming as judge mean for us?

b. 2 Tim. 4:8 also Matt 25:34-40, 46; Rom. 8:1-2, 34-39
What will Jesus’ judgment give us?

c. John 3:17-18 also John 3:18; 12:48, 5:29,
Who will be condemned? (v. 18) Matt 25:41-46,
Rev. 20:15
Who will be saved? (v. 17) also Mark 16:16

What does the Bible say about these false ideas about Jesus return: Before the end of the world, Jesus will come back invisibly and take all believers away to heaven while unbelievers continue on earth. Later he will return and rule an earthly kingdom with the believers for 1000 years before the last judgment day.

Soon, at the last day, which is known only to God, Jesus will visibly return once more to judge all people.

Because Jesus is the coming judge, we can be sure that those who believe Jesus will be saved because of his grace while those who do not believe will be condemned justly because of their sins.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

Second Article

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

John 14:2-3

In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Rom. 8:34

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 Cor. 15:3-4

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Creed VIII [LSCE page 120, 127f, 145f]

CHRIST THE LORD Offices of Christ

1. Who is the Christ?

A. The anointed one is a special position.

a. 1 Kings 19:16

What special job did Elisha have?

How did he become this?

b. Deut 18:18, 22

What is this kind of person to do?

c. Exod. 30:30 also Exod. 28:41

What special job did Aaron have?

How did he become this?

d. Heb. 5:1

What is this kind of person to do?

e. 1 Sam. 16:1, 13

What special job did David have? (v. 1)

How did he become this? (v. 13)

What did God give him then? (v. 13)

f. 1 Sam. 8:20

What did this kind of person do?

B. Jesus is the Christ

a. Acts 10:37-38 also Luke 4:14-20, John 3:34-35;

What did God show that Jesus was? Acts 4:25-27

b. John 4:25-26 also Mark 8:29, John 1:41; 11:27, 20:31;

What is this special person called? Acts 2:36

*If you lived in the time of the old Testament kings,
who would you go to if you felt guilty?
...if you were worried about the future?
...if you were being attacked by enemies?
To whom can you go with these things today?*

In the Old Testament, anointing (pouring on) with oil was a way to officially appoint to the office of prophet, priest and king.

Prophets preached God's word and predicted the future.

Priests sacrificed and prayed for the people.

Kings fought to defeat enemies and ruled the people.

The Hebrew word "Messiah" and the Greek word "Christ" are official titles that mean "one who is anointed". Jesus was designated as the Christ by the Holy Spirit "poured out" on him.

2. What does Jesus do as the Christ?

A. Jesus is our prophet.

a. Luke 4:14-20

What did Jesus do

as a prophet?

also Deut. 18:15, Matt 7:5,

Mark 1:21-22,

John 1:17-18; 4:29; 7:40

b. John 14:28-29

What did Jesus do

as a prophet?

also Matt. 23:39; 24:2; 26:2,

Mark 13:22-23,

John 13:19; 16:4

c. Eph. 4:10-11

How does Jesus continue

to do this work?

also Matt 28:19-20, Luke 10:16,

1 Cor. 7:10, 2 Cor. 5:20,

1 Thess. 2:13, Rev. 2:8, 18

B. Jesus is our priest.

Heb. 3:1; 5:5-10

a. Heb 7:27 [441]

What did Jesus do for us as a priest?

also Eph. 5:2, Heb. 9:11-14, 26,

1 John 2:2

b. Heb. 7:24-25

What does Jesus continue to do

for us as a priest?

also John 17:20-24, Rom. 8:34,

1 John 2:1

C. Jesus is our king

Isa. 9:6-7, Jer. 23:5, Jn. 18:33-37

a. Col. 1:13-14

What did Jesus do for us as a king?

also 1 Cor. 15:56-57

b. Rev. 12:5

What does Jesus do as a king?

also Psal. 2:2, 6-9

c. Matt. 28:18 [444]

What makes him able to do this?

also Eph. 1:22

d. Col. 3:15

What does Jesus do as king?

e. 2 Cor. 5:14-15

How does he do this?

also Eph. 3:7; 5:1-2,

1 Jn. 4:11, 19; 5:3

f. Matt 25:31

What will Jesus do as king?

also Phil. 3:20-21, 2 Tim. 4:8

Modern supermarkets bring many different products or services together in one place. Jesus brings the roles of prophet, priest and king together in one person.

Which role does Jesus perform when he...

- a) hears our prayers and makes sure they are answered in the best way.
- b) helps us resist temptations that seem to be too strong for us.
- c) assures us in Holy Communion that all our sins are forgiven.
- d) helps us learn from the Bible what is right or wrong in difficult situations.
- e) promises to watch over us and care for us always.
- f) assures us that when we die we will go home to heaven.

Jesus is our prophet who during his humiliation taught with authority and revealed the future and in his exaltation send us his word in the Bible and through pastors, teachers, etc.

Jesus is our priest, who in humiliation sacrificed himself for us once for all and in his exaltation constantly intercedes for us in prayer.

Jesus is our king, who by his humiliation has won the fight to rescue us from evil and in his exaltation rules the whole world with his power, rules all believers with grace and will rule in heaven with glory.

3. What is the result of Jesus work as the Christ?

We are Jesus' kingdom.

- a. Rom. 14:7-9 and Titus 2:14 [537] also Rom. 6:22,
To whom do we now belong? Col. 1:10, 13,
1 Cor. 6:19-20, Rev. 5:9
- b. 1 Pet 2:9 [540]
What are we now part of?
- c. How do we now live?
1 Pet 2:24 also Luke 1:74-75, Eph. 2:10

2 Cor. 5:15 [535] also Gal. 2:20, Col. 2:6,
Col. 3:1-3, Heb. 9:14

Think about reasons you would have to do what your parents ask you to do... what a good friend asks you do to... what government laws tell you to do.

What reasons do you have to do what Jesus wants you to do?

If we belong to Jesus, we should rely on him completely as our prophet, priest and king, and not place others above him. In the following examples, which role of Jesus is being replaced by another?

- a) Communist leaders teach that loyalty and obedience to the government is more important than loyalty to any religion.
- b) The Roman Catholic Church teaches that penance, purgatory and the sacrifice of the mass helps to pay for our sins.
- c) Liberal churches teach that not everything in the Bible is completely true so we must figure out which parts we should believe today.

Because Jesus is my Lord, I belong to him and serve him with my life forever.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

Second Article meaning, part c
that I may be His own
and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness,
innocence, and blessedness,
just as He is risen from the dead,
lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

2 Cor. 5:15

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

John 4:25

The woman said,
"I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

HOLY SPIRIT, HOLY PEOPLE

The nature and work of the Holy Spirit

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- A. The Holy Spirit is an invisible person.
 a. John 14:16 also Matt 28:19, 1 Cor. 2:10
 Where does the Spirit come from?

What word shows the Spirit is distinct from the Father and the Son?

- b. John 14:16-17 also John 3:8, 16:13-14
 What pronouns is the Spirit called?

What other names is the Spirit called?

Why does the world not know the Spirit?

- B. The Holy Spirit is God.
 a. Acts 5:3-4 [543] also 1 Cor. 3:16
 What is the Holy Spirit also called? (v. 4)
 b. Heb. 9:14 [547] also Ps. 139:7-10; 1 Cor. 2:10,
 What word describes the Spirit? 1 Pet. 4:14
 c. Job 33:4 also Gen. 1:2, 1 Cor 6:11, Titus 3:5
 What does the Spirit do?
 d. Mark 3:29 also 1 Thess. 5:19
 How is the Spirit not to be treated?

In the languages in which the Bible was first written, the word for "spirit" is the same as the word for "wind" and "breath". Consider these questions about both wind and the Holy Spirit. Can you see it? Can you see what it does? Can you sometimes hear it and feel it? Is it powerful?

The third person of the trinity is called the Holy Spirit because he is an individual living person with no physical body who is God, coming from and distinct from but equal to the Father and the Son.

We can be sure the Holy Spirit is God because the Bible calls him names God is called, describes him as God is described, says he does what God does and says he is to be honored as God.

2. What does the Holy Spirit do?

- A. The Holy Spirit works to separate us from sin.
 a. 2 Thess. 2:13 also 1 Cor 6:11, 12:3; 1 Thes. 5:23;
 What work does the Spirit do? 1 Pet. 2:2

How (through what) does this happen?

What is the result?

- b. 1 Cor. 6:11 [551] also Gal. 3:26-27
 What word means the same as sanctified?

- c. John 3:5-7 also 1 Kg. 18:37, Acts 3:19, 15:8-9
 What words describe what the Spirit does to us?

- d. Heb. 10:14 also Heb. 10:10
 How completely does God make us holy?

- B. The Holy Spirit works to keep us from sinning.
 a. 1 Pet. 1:2 also 1 Thess. 4:1-7, Heb. 9:14
 For what purpose does the Spirit work on us?

- b. James 2:26 also 2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 3:14
 What always goes with true faith?

- c. Eph. 2:10 [577] also John 15:4-5, Rom, 8:9,
 What causes us to do good works? Phil. 2:13

When a baby bird hatches, it is already a bird. Birds fly, but it needs to develop so that it can act like what it already is.

When we are born again through faith, we are holy. Do we always act holy? Will acting holy make us Christians or is it the other way around? When are we done growing into people who live and act according to what we already are?

The Holy Spirit works especially to cause our sanctification, that is making us holy by separation from sin.

In general, sanctification includes being completely holy by forgiveness as soon as one is brought to faith by a change of heart (also called conversion, being born again or justification). Specifically, sanctification refers to gradually growing in holiness through a change of life by the work of God, which always results from faith and salvation.

3. How does the Holy Spirit do this Work?

- A. The Spirit works through the means of grace.
 a. 1 Cor. 12:3 [556] also 1 Cor. 2:14, 2 Tim. 1:9,
 What do we need to come to faith?
 Rev. 22:17

- b. Through what does the Spirit do his work?
 2 Thess. 2:13-14 also John 17:17, 20; Rom. 10:17,

1 Pet. 1:23 [569] also Rom. 10:17, John 17:17, 20

Titus 3:5 [570] also John 20:22-23, Matt. 26:27-28

- B. The Spirit works in believers in special ways.

- a. Rom. 8:9[574] also John 14:16-17, 1 Cor. 3:16
Where does the Holy Spirit work?
- b. Eph. 1:17-18 also John 16:13, 2 Cor. 4:6, 1 Pet. 2:9
What does the Spirit help us to do?
- b. Gal 5:22-23 [576] also Jn. 15:4-5, 8, Jas. 2:17-20, 26
What does the Spirit produce in us?
- c. Rom. 8:4, 9 also 1 Thes. 4:1-8, Phlp 2:13,
What does the control of the Spirit Heb. 13:20-21
lead us to do? (v. 4)
- e. 1 Cor. 12:4-11 also Rom. 12:6-8, Eph. 4:11, Heb. 2:4
What is the purpose of Spiritual gifts? (v. 7)

C. We need the Spirit's continued work.

- a. Philip. 3:12 also 1 John 1:8
What has not yet happened to any of us?
- b. Philip. 1:6 [587] also 1 Pet. 1:5
When will it be complete?

When did the Holy Spirit first begin working on you to make you a Christian?

What is one truth about God our life you understand now that you didn't understand last year?

What fruit of the Spirit would you particularly enjoy in your life right now?

What special ability do you think the Holy Spirit may be giving you to help others?

The Holy Spirit works in the means of grace (word & sacraments) to call us to faith through the gospel, and works in every believer to enlighten us with understanding of the truth, to produce in us the fruit of good attitudes, to lead us to good works in obedient actions, and to give us good gifts of abilities to serve others. Although our sanctification is never complete in this world, the Spirit preserves our faith and holy living so we come to perfection in eternal life in heaven.

4. What is a Christian good work?

- A. Good works are doing God's will.
- a. John 14:15 [582] also Matt. 15:9, Luke 16:15
What is it we should do?
- b. Gal. 5:13 [584]
What does God tell us to do?
- c. 1 Cor 10:31[583] also Matt. 5:16, 6:1-3; Mark 14:3-,
What is to be the goal of all we do? 1 Pet. 2:12

- d. Heb. 11:6 [579] also John 15:5
What is necessary for us to please God?

B. God promises and undeserved reward.

- a. Matt 10:42 also Ps. 19:9-11, Mat 5:12, 5:2-4
What does God promise those who do good?
- b. Luke 17:10 also Rom. 4:2-5, 1 Cor. 9:16-17
Do we deserve God's rewards?
- c. Isa. 64:6 also Phil. 3:12, Rev. 3:2
What are our righteous acts like?
- d. Heb. 10:10, 14 also Col. 1:28, Heb. 12:23, 13:21;
How are we made perfect? 2 Cor. 12:9

What are zeros worth? If a zero comes after "\$1", what is it worth? What are five zeros after "\$1" worth?

Our good works are like zeros. Faith in Jesus is like the "\$1". What are our good works worth before we have faith in Jesus? What happens to our good works when they follow after faith in Jesus?

A good work is anything we do, think or say out of faith and love, according to God's will, done for the glory of God and the benefit of other people

Our works can never be perfectly good but what is lacking is completed by Christ himself. God promises rewards for those doing good works, but true good works are never done for the sake of reward.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

Third Article meaning, part a

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

Rom. 8:9

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

THE HOLY FAMILY

The Church

1. What is the Christian Church?

- A. The church is the community of God's saints.
- a. Eph. 2:19-22 [596] also 2 Cor. 6:16, 1 Tim. 3:15
In what terms is the church pictured?
(v. 19)
- (v. 21)
- What is this church built out of? also 1 Pet. 2:5
(v. 22)
- b. 1 Cor. 1:2 [613]
By what two terms does Paul call this church?

Who is also together with this church?
- c. Eph. 1:1 also Rom. 1:7, Phlp 1:1, Col 1:2
By what two terms does Paul call this church?
- d. Eph. 2:20 [609] also Matt 16:16-18, Acts 2:42,
What is the church based on 1 Cor. 3:11,
that holds it together? Col. 1:17-18
- d. 1 Pet. 2:9-12 also 1 Cor. 3:16-17, Eph. 5:25-27,
What makes these people holy? Col. 1:19-22
(v. 10)
- From what are they separated? (v. 11)
- For what purposes are they also Titus 2:14
set apart? (v. 9)
(v. 12)

*What are some groups to which you belong?
Who can be part of the group? How does one join?
What are the benefits? What is expected?
In what ways are these groups like the church?
If you were visiting a church in another town,
would you feel that you were part of that church?
Why or why not? What friend do you have in
common?*

*We say the church is "apostolic". Why is it
important that our church is the same as that of the
apostles?*

The Holy Christian Church is the communion of saints, that is all people in the world (one, catholic) who are made holy by true faith in Jesus Christ (Christian, apostolic) who are set apart by and for God (church = "ecclesia" = called out) to give all glory to him with truthful words and good deeds.

2. Why do we believe in the church?

- A. God creates the church.
- a. Matt 28:19-20 [612] also Mark 16:15, Col. 1:6
Whom does God want to be part of the church?

How does this happen?
(v. 19)
(v. 20)
- b. 2 Thess. 2:13-14 also Isa. 55:10-11, Mal. 3:16
Who causes people to be saved? (v. 13)

Through what does he do it?
(v. 13)
(v. 14)
- c. Rom. 12:4-5 [603] also Acts 2:41, 47,
What happens to all those 1 Cor. 12:12-13,:27,
who believe in Christ? Eph. 1:22-23, 4:3-6,
Col 1:18
- B. God preserves the church.
- a. Luke 17:20-21 [599] also 1 Cor. 2:11
Can we see who is in God's church? Why?
- b. 2 Tim. 2:19 [600] also John 21:17, 1 Cor. 8:3,
Who knows who is part of Heb. 12:22-23
God's church?
- c. Matt. 16:18 [601] also 1 Kg. 19:13-18,
How solid does God John 10:27-28, Rom. 11:2-5
make his church?

*In a campfire, what happens to wood and coals
when they are scattered? What happens when they
are pushed together?*

*In the church, what would happen to the faith of
believers if they stayed separated? What can
happen when they gather together?*

Wherever God's word of gospel and the sacraments are used, people are brought to faith by the Holy Spirit who moves each one to gather with others in the church.

The true church is invisible because only God can see faith in the heart, but God promises that there will always be a Christian church.

3. How does the church become visible?

- A. The church is seen through its actions.
- a. Acts 8:3-4 also Acts 9:31
What did people do that showed
they were the church?
- b. Acts 11:25-26 also Matt 18:20
What happened that shows this is the church?
- c. Acts 14:23 also Rom. 16:3-5, Titus 1:5
What happened in each church congregation?

- d. Acts 15:2-4 also 2 Cor. 8:19
What did these churches think was important for them to do together? (v. 2)

- B. The visible church seems to include hypocrites.
a. Matt. 7:22-23 also Matt 13:17-18, 24-30, 36-43;
What makes these people appear 22:11-12;
to be Christians? Acts 5:1-11,
2 Pet. 2:13,
Rev. 2:12, 14-15; 3:1
b. What does God say about them?

In each of the following sentences, what is meant by the word "church"?

*The couple plans to have a church wedding.
We will have church in the park next Sunday.
We have church meetings once each month.
My friend and I go to the same church.
Our church is Missouri Synod Lutheran.*

The Christian church is visible
- when people use God's word as part of ecumenical Christianity throughout the world.
- when believers gather to worship God and study his word.
- when believers form and join a local congregation.
- when congregations work together in a denomination.
(Congregations and denominations share common beliefs and practices, with a common name)
Within the visible church there will always be hypocrites (those without true faith) in addition to true Christians, although they cannot always be recognized.

4. What should we do as part of the church?

- A. We want to be part of the true church
a. John 8:31[616] also Matt 10:32-33; 15:9,
What do we want to be sure 1 Jn. 2:23-24, 4:15
to do?
b. 1 Cor. 1:10 [618] also John 10:16,
What should Christians in the church do?
c. Rom. 16:17 [620] also 1 Cor. 11:19, 1 Tim. 6:3-5,
What causes divisions in the church? 1 John 4:1-3
What should we do about them? also Matt. 7:15,
2 Cor 6:14-15
B. We want to support the purpose of the church.
a. 1 Pet. 2:9 [628] also 1 Pet. 2:12
What is God's purpose for the church?
b. Matt. 28:19-20 [612] also Jer 23:28, 2 Tim. 1:13-14;
What is the mission of the church? 2:2; 4:2-3
(v. 19)

(v. 20)

- C. We want to be active in the body of Christ.
a. Acts 2:42 [617]
What were the believers devoted to? also:
Col. 3:16,
Rom. 12:18, Eph. 4:2-3,
1 Th. 5:14-15, Heb. 10:24-25,
1 Cor. 11:23-25,
1 Th. 5:16-18, 1 Tim. 2:1
b. Acts 1:8 [626] also Acts 8:4, 1 Pet. 3:15-16
What does God send believers to do?
c. 2 Cor. 9:7 also 1 Cor. 9:14; 16:1-2,
How else do we support 2 Cor. 8:7, 11-12; 9:11-12;
the work of the church? Gal. 6:6
d. Eph. 4:15-16 also 1 Pet. 2:2, 2 Pet. 3:18
What do we want to keep doing?

What do you think is the most important think to consider when joining a church?

How can you benefit from church membership?

We are to hold to the true faith ourselves and join as members of a church that believes, teaches and agrees on God's true word and sacraments, keeping separate from false teachers.
God unites Christians in the church so that together they can...
- worship with word and sacraments to God's glory.
- teach, study, preserve, and spread the true gospel.
- support this work with prayer, giving, and service to God and others.
- help each other through fellowship to grow in faith and holy living, with love, obedience & good deeds.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

Third Article meaning, part b

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people belonging to God,
that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the
apostles' teaching
and to the fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer

c. Matt. 24:9-14 also Matt. 24:6-7, 21-34, Luke 21:8-28
What will happen as the end nears? (v. 10)

What should we do?
(v. 13)
(v. 14)

Who is everywhere and can see everything? How many places can you be at once and what can you see? Will this ability change when you die? Do you think people in heaven can see and hear us?

When a person dies, the body returns to dust but the soul goes immediately to its eternal place at the end of time.

Soon, at a time known only to God, he will instantly bring an end to all time and creation and begin a new creation.

3. How will God finish his work?

A. Jesus will return to judge.

a. Acts 24:15 also Dan. 12:2, John 5:28-29, 6:40,
What will happen to all who have died? 1 Cor. 6:14, 15:12-23,
1 Thess. 4:13-16, Rev. 20:13

b. 1 Thess. 4:16-17 also Matt. 24:31
Who will join with them?

c. 2 Cor. 5:10 also Matt 13:40-43; 25:31-34,
What will happen then? Rom. 14:10, Rev. 20:12

d. John 3:17-18 also Matt 22:11-13, Luke 12:45-48,
What determines the judgment verdict? (v. 18) John 3:36; 5:24-29; 6:40; 11:25-26
Rev. 2:10, 20:12-15

B. Believers can have confidence.

a. 2 Thes. 2:13-14 also Rom. 8:28-30, 38-39, Eph. 1:3-6
What has God done for us? (v. 13)

b. 1 Pet. 1:3-5 also John 6:37-39; 10:27-28
What will God do for us? (v. 5) 2 Tim. 2:11-13, 4:8,
Heb. 10:23, 1 Jn. 2:25

Are you sure that when you die you will go to heaven? If you do not, what would be the reason? If you do, what would be the reason?

At the last day, the bodies of all who have died will be raised up and they, along with all still alive will be judged by Jesus.

All who believe in Jesus are judged as holy because of grace. All who do not believe are condemned because of justice.

Believers can be confident God chose beforehand to save them by the gospel, planned and worked out their salvation and will protect their faith to the end.

4. What is our hope for eternity?

A. All People go to heaven or hell.

a. Philip. 3:21[662] also Job 19:26-27,
What will happen to believers when Jesus comes? John 6:39-40, 11:25,
Matt. 25:34,
Cor. 15:42-49,
51-52,

Col. 3:4, 1
Thess. 4:14-17, 1 John 3:2, Rev. 2:10, 20:12-13

b. Rev. 21:3-4 also Psal 16:11,
What is heaven like? Luke 20:35-36; 23:42-43,
(v. 3) John 17:24, Phil. 1:23,
Rom. 8:18,
(v. 4) Rev. 7:9-17; 22:1-5

c. Matt 25:41, 46 also Exod. 3:2, Isa. 66:24,
What happens to unbelievers? Dan. 12:2, Matt. 22:13,
Luke 16:22-31,
Rev. 21:8

Who are they separated from?

Who are they with? (v. 41)

Do you know what you enjoyed most when you were age 3? Is that what you enjoy most now? Do you think what you enjoy most will be the same when you are old? What do you think you will enjoy most when you are with God in heaven?

Believers continue to live forever with God in heaven, with glorified bodies. Heaven is being in the presence of God where there is perfect good and joyful celebration forever.

Unbelievers experience eternal death with their bodies forever in hell. Hell is being totally separated from God where there nothing good and suffering forever.

REMEMBER FOR LIFE

Third Article meaning, part c

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Daniel 12:2

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

2 Peter 3:13

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness

Appendix: Creation and Evolution

A. Evolution

Scientific study produces four types of ideas:

- Facts are those things which can be directly observed (Ice is cold.)
- Hypotheses are suggested explanations about why things are observed to happen as they do. (The planet Jupiter may have a solid core.)
- Theories are hypotheses which have been tested and seem to fit with known facts. (Light is like waves and like particles.)
- Laws are theories which have been proven to be always true. (The "law of gravity")

The idea of evolution is a scientific "theory" (not a fact or a law) although many scientists "believe" it is true. This theory, first proposed in the mid 1800s, suggests that new species and higher forms of life naturally develop from other species and lower forms of life and, ultimately, from non-living things.

As with many theories once believed in the past, new facts that are constantly being discovered, do not always fit with the theory. For example, it is now known that acquired characteristics are not inherited and mutations seldom survive. This is why those who continue to hold to the theory of evolution must assume that it took a fantastically long time for the world to develop. Yet this idea of, an "old earth" is also not supported by all that is being discovered today.

The major problem with the theory of evolution is the belief that the world as it exists today is the result of a natural development of life from lower to higher forms. This is contrary to scientific laws and is also contrary to what is revealed by God in the Bible. The scientific laws of thermodynamics show that all energy is running down and wearing out. The Bible also reveals that everything was created complete and perfect, but, as a result of sin, all creation has been constantly decaying and degenerating. This is one reason why we need a savior - to reverse this process and restore perfection to God's creation.

B. Geology

One reason some people believe that the world could have been formed over a great length of time by evolution is the presence of geological formations, fossils, and substances like coal, oil and gas which ordinarily seem take thousands of years to form.

God created the world perfect and complete. On the day after creation, there were already

mountains with rivers, mineral deposits, etc., which may have appeared to be thousands of years old. Since God created a mature, complete world, it is not surprising that it could appear to be millions of years old when it fact is only several thousand years old. It was "old" already when it was made.

We must also remember is that God created and controls time, matter and energy. It is within his power to have caused natural processes to happen much faster at one time than they do now.

In outer space, distances are measured in "light years": the distance that could be traveled in one year at the speed of light. Light "years" are not really a measure of time but of distance. In geology, rock layers and fossils are described as being from various ages, periods, and epochs (like the "Jurassic Age). These can be useful terms as long as we remember that they are not actually measures of real time but of processes and positions.

One day after Adam was created, how old was he? How old do you suppose he would have looked if you had seen him?

If he was hungry and went to a fruit tree, how old would it have been? Could it have had fruit on it? Adam, with his perfect brain would have been the perfect scientist. If he cut down the tree to count its rings, would they show how old the tree really was? Can science show us how old the world really is?

C. Species

For scientific purposes, all living things have been divided into groups which are further subdivided into smaller groups. The most general groups are "Phyla", which are divided into "Classes", which are divided into "Orders", which are divided into "Families", which are divided into "Species, which are sometimes divided into "Sub-species". Species are groups which include all animals which are able to reproduce with another of the same kind. (such as: cattle, sheep, cats, dogs, etc.)

Variation among living things above the level of Species is apparently fixed. While there is "evolution", which means change, within species, there is no scientific evidence for the development of new species or for spontaneous generation of life from that which is non-living. That is, new kinds of cats or dogs may be developed, but dogs will never produce anything but dogs, and cats always produce cats.

The Bible is in harmony with scientific fact when it reports that God created every kind (species) of plant and animal (Gen. 1:11-12, 21, 24-25)

D. Life

We have the ability to end life, to pass on life, and - to a limited degree - to extend life; but it is impossible to start life from scratch. Only God can do that.

There are distinct levels of physical life forms:

- Plant life grows and produces offspring.
- Animal life grows, produces offspring, moves itself, and thinks.
- Human life grows, produces offspring, moves itself, thinks, and has the potential for eternal spiritual life.

Two kinds of life are physical life and spiritual life.

- Physical life requires a material body and has the ability of action.
- Spiritual life requires no body but also has the ability of action.

God created three kinds of living things:

- Plants and animals have physical life but no spiritual life.
- Humans have physical life and may have spiritual life.
- Angels have no physical life but do have spiritual life.

Through science we are discovering some of the truths of God's creation, but any study which relies only on nature and denies God's supernatural power will never be a reliable guide to this truth.
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