

Bible Basics Study: God's Way of Life



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I. GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE IN HIS WORD

Law & Gospel: God's Way of Working

1. Where do we find life?

- A. The Father's gives love and justice.
- John 3:16-17 or Rom. 1:7
What does God want us to have?
 - John 3:18 or Rom. 1:18-19
What do we deserve from God instead?
- B. Jesus is our savior from sin.
- John 3:19; 8:34 or Rom. 1:32; 3:20
Why do we deserve punishment?
 - John 8:36 or Rom. 3:21-25
How can we have God's blessings anyway?

John 10:7-11 or Rom. 5:8-9
What has Jesus done for us that does this?
- C. The Spirit gives forgiveness and faith.
- John 11:25-26 or Rom. 4:22-5:2
How do we receive God's blessings?
 - John 16:13-15 or Rom. 10:17; 15:13
How does God give us this faith?

We can have life from God.
 – The Father acts with love for us
 and with justice against evil
 - Sin separates us from God
 but Jesus saves us.
 - God's free forgiveness and grace
 come through faith given by the Holy Spirit.

2. What does God say about our life?

- A. God's word has two messages.
- John 1:17 also Deut 4:1-2, Matt 5:17-19
What message from God do we learn especially from the books of Moses in the Old Testament?
also Isa. 61:1, Mark 1:1
 - What message from God do we learn especially from the books about Jesus in the New Testament?
- B. The Law is God's message for us.
- Leviticus 19:2 also: Ex. 34:11
What must we be?
 - Mark 12:30-31 also Matt. 22:37
What must we do?

- Romans 3:23 also: Is. 64:6, Rom. 3:9-12, James 2:10
What have we done?
 - Romans 6:23 also: Ezek. 18:20, Gal. 3:20
What do we deserve?
- B. The Gospel is God's message for us.
- Romans 5:8 also Rom. 5:6, 6:23, 8:1; Eph. 1:3-8, 1 Jn. 4:9
What has God done?
 - Romans 3:20-21 also Rom. 1:16, 6:23; Phil. 2:13
What does God want us to have?
 - Romans 3:22-24
What will God do for us?

The Bible contains two true messages.
 God's law tells what we must do,
 what we have done wrong,
 and what we deserve.
 God's Gospel tells us
 what good things God has done,
 what God will do for us,
 and what God wants us to have.

3. What are the Law and Gospel good for?

- A. God's Law is good for us.
- Romans 2:14-15 also: 1 Tim. 1:8-10, Ps. 119:120
What is one way we know God's law? (v. 15)

What does this do for people? (v. 14)
 - Romans 3:20 (and 7:7)
also: John 5:45
What does the law show us? Rom. 7:13, Gal. 3:24
 - James 2:10
How must God's law be kept?

So what can the law not do for us?
- B. God's Gospel is good for us.
- 1 Cor. 15:2 also Rom. 1:16, Gal. 3:13, Eph. 2:8-9
What can the Gospel do for us?
 - Titus 2:11-12 also Deut. 24:18, 1 Cor. 15:56-58,
What enables us to reject sin Eph. 4:1, 1 Jn. 4:19
and live godly lives

God's law acts as a curb or fence to keep us from doing wrong, a mirror to show our sin and our need to be saved, a guide to show us how to show love for God, but it cannot make us good or save us. God's gospel shows us how to be saved by what God has done for us through Jesus and gives us a reason to love God and a desire to serve him.

4. How can we know about God?

- A. All people have a limited natural knowledge of God and what he expects.
- a. Rom. 1:18-20 also: Psal. 19:1, Heb. 3:4
What can we see that shows us there is a powerful, eternal, God? (v. 20)
 - b. Rom. 2:14-15
What tells us that some things must be right and and we do some things wrong? (v. 15)
- B. We need God to give us a clear and complete knowledge of him and his truth.
- a. Rom. 1:21-23 also: Eph. 4:17-18; 1 Co. 8:7
What do those who have only nature imagine God to be like? (v. 23)
 - b. Heb. 1:1-2 How has God clearly spoken to us?
(v. 1)
(v. 2)

We have some natural knowledge of God and his will from his creation and our conscience, but we have clear, complete and enduring knowledge of God and his law only from his direct revelation. We know the gospel of God's grace only through his direct revelation.

5. How Was the Bible Written?

- A. The writers of the Bible were inspired (breathed into) by God.
- a. 2 Pet. 1:21 also: 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 3:15-16
Where do the ideas in the Bible come from?
 - b. 1 Cor. 2:13 also: Ex. 34:27, Jer. 30:1-2
Where do all the words of the Bible come from?
- B. God had the Bible writers use their own languages (Hebrew and Greek) with their own vocabulary and styles.

God caused certain men to write the words which they wrote (verbal inspiration) in their own native languages.

Since the source of the Bible is God, who inspired the words, each one is true and important.

The nature of the Bible is spiritual. It will not always make sense to human reason but the Holy Spirit makes us able to understand it through faith.

6. How can we understand the Bible?

- A. The main **purpose** of the Bible is to point to Christ.
- a. John 5:39 & 20:31 also: Rom. 15:4, 1 Jn. 4:13
Whom is the Old and New Testament about?
 - c. 2 Timothy 3:15-17
What is the first thing the Bible teaches? (v. 15)

What does the Bible also teach us? (v. 17)
- B. The Bible explains itself by a **connection** between the different parts that helps each Christian to see clearly what it says and means.
- a. Matt 22:29
What will keep us from making mistakes about the Bible?
 - b. Mark 4:2-3, 13-14, 34 also John 16:25
How do we know what the picture language of the Bible means? (v. 34)
 - c. 2 Cor. 1:13-14 also 2 Pet. 3:16
Can we understand the Bible?
Where do we start? (v. 14)
 - d. 2 Cor. 3:14-16 also: John 5:39
What do we need to know to understand the whole Bible clearly?

The purpose of the whole Bible is first to be a textbook of salvation, pointing us to Christ and what he did. Secondly, it is a textbook of sanctification, showing us how to live as Christians.

The Bible explains itself by a connection between the parts so that every Christian can...

- understand the parts in the light of the whole Bible.
- understand "figurative" parts in light of the "literal".
- understand difficult parts in the light of parts that are easier to understand.
- understand everything in the light of Christ.

II. GOD'S WILL FOR LIFE WITH HIM

10 Commandments: Protecting God's Gifts

1. What does God expect of us?

A. God has a right to love and obedience.

a. Matt. 22:37-39 also Deut 6:6, 10:12

What does God expect of us?

b. Deut. 5:33 also Deut. 6:18

Why does God want us to keep his commands?

c. Deut. 5:9-10 also Exod. 20:5-6

What does God threaten because he wants to keep our obedience? (v. 9)

What does God promise because he wants to keep our love? (v. 10)

B. Keep not just the letter but the spirit of the law.

a. Matt. 5:21-22, 28 also Rom. 7:6

What is included in keeping the law.

b. Col. 2:16-17 also Matt. 5:48, Rom. 13:1-2

What is no longer necessary in keeping the law?

c. 1 John 1:8-9 also Philip. 3:12

Will we ever keep God's law perfectly? (v.8)

What will still be true? (v. 9)

God, who wants what is good for us, rightly expects that we obey and love him and love others. We must keep God's commands with our thoughts, words and deeds, which no one but our Savior can do perfectly.

We are not obligated to keep the Old Testament laws about ceremonial or political regulations, but the moral laws about personal relationships still apply.

2. What preserves our relationship with God?

A. We have a relationship with the real God.

a. Exod. 20:2-4 also Deut 5:6-9, 14:1-2

What has God done for his people? (v. 2)

What does God now allow? also Hosea 13:4

b. 1 John 2:15, 23

What is included in having "another God"?

(v. 15)

(v. 23)

B. Our relationship with God is exclusive.

c. Matt. 6: 24 also Matt 22:27

What does God deserve most of all?

b. Matt. 10:28 also Ps. 34:7, 67:7

What does God deserve most of all?

c. Prov. 3:5 also Jer. 17:5

What does God deserve most of all?

God's gift of a personal relationship with him is protected when we fear (respect) love and trust only the true "triune" God, who has made us his own, and not in any other being, thing or idea to provide for, protect or guide us.

3. How do we use God's name?

A. God gives us his powerful name to use.

a. Exod. 20:7 also Lev. 19:12, Matt 28:19

What are we to use but not misuse?

b. 1 Chron. 16:8 also Luke 10:17, Acts 3:16

What are should use God's name for?

B. God's name is to be used only for what he wants.

a. Deut 18:10-11, 20

What should we not use God's name for?

(v. 11)

(v. 20)

b. Matt. 5:33-35 also James 3:9-10

What should we avoid?

God has given us his powerful name to use to respectfully speak to him, truthfully speak about him, and identify ourselves as his people. We have no right to misrepresent him by saying what is not true or do what he would not want done.

4. How do we use our time with God?

A. God has given us all we need for life.

a. Exod. 20:8-11 also Exod. 16:4-5

What day is the Sabbath? (v. 10)

How is this day used? (v. 10)

Why can we do this? (v11)

b. Matt. 4:4 also Matt. 10:39-42

What do we need most for life?

Matt 11:28

Where do we find our rest?

c. Matt. 12:6-13 also Luke 4:16

What did Jesus do on the Sabbath?

Luke 24:1, 6 also Matt. 28:1,5-6
 What did Jesus do on the next day?

B. Christians spend time with God in worship.

a. Acts 2:42 also Col. 3:16
 What is included in Christian worship?

b. Acts 20:7 also Col. 2:16-17
 When do Christians usually worship?

A Sabbath “rest” day honors God as the one who has provided all we need for life. All our needs for spiritual life come from Jesus through his word. We find our rest in God’s word and sacraments when we spend time in worship. We ordinarily worship on Sunday, the day Jesus completed the work of our new creation by his resurrection.

5. How do we treat authorities representing God?

A. God gives parents for good.

a. Eph. 6:1-4 also Col. 3:20-21
 What are parents to do? (v. 4)

What are children to do?

(v. 1)

(v. 2)

B. God also gives other authorities.

a. Rom. 13:1,4 also 1 Pet. 2:13-14
 What authority has God given to protect us?
 (v. 1)

What does this authority have the right to do?

(v. 4)

b. Heb. 13:7, 17 also 1 Thess. 5:12-13
 What should authorities in the church do?

How should we treat them?

c. Acts 5:29 also Matt. 10:37
 What must we do if authorities contradict God?

God gives authorities representing him in the home, society, work, and church. They are God’s way of providing for, protecting and guiding us. We should honor them, learn from them, lovingly help them, and willingly obey them when they act within their authority.

III. GOD'S WILL FOR LIFE WITH OTHERS

10 Commandments: Protecting Gifts II

1. How do we protect the gift of life?

A. Life belongs to God who gives it.

- a. Exod. 20:13 also Exod. 21:12-13
What do individuals not have the right to do?

- b. Deut 32:39 also 1 Cor. 6:19
Who has this right?

- c. 1 John 3:16-17 also Matt. 24:34-36
How should we help others have life?

B. We have no individual right to end or ruin life.

- a. What kind of killing is wrong?
Exod. 21:12-14 also Rom. 13:1-4

Exod. 21:22-23 also Jer. 1:5

2 Sam. 1:9-10, 16

Acts 16:27-28 also 1 Cor. 6:19

- b. Lev. 19:15-18
What would ruin the lives of others?

All life belongs to God who gives it and no person has the right to decide to end human life, including the lives of the unborn, the suffering and oneself. (God does give government the right to execute criminals and wage just war.) We should help others with physical needs and not carelessly or intentionally make life miserable by any words or actions.

2. How do we use human sexuality?

A. God made people for sexual intimacy.

- a. Matt. 19:4-6 also Gen. 1:27-28, 31
How did God make people? (v. 4)

What was his intention? (v5) also 1 Tim. 4:3-5

What does God not want? (v. 6) also Mal. 2:15-16

- b. Eph. 5:33 also Eph. 5:21-32
How should spouses treat each other?

B. What ruins God's plan for marriage?

- a. Eph. 4:29

- b. 1 Cor. 6:15 1 Cor. 5:1

- c. Matt 5:32 also Mal. 2:14-15

d. Matt. 5:28 also Eph. 5:12

e. Heb. 13:4 also 1 Thess. 4:3-5

f. Exod. 20:14

g. Lev. 18:6

h. Lev. 18:22f also Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9

God created marriage to be a lifelong union of one man and one woman in exclusively faithful intimacy so that they can share love and support and raise faithful children. Marriage is ruined by divorce and by using sexuality outside of marriage in fornication, prostitution, homosexuality and every form of perversion, and by lust, pornography and obscene language.

3. How do we handle personal property?

A. We respect ownership of personal possessions.

- a. James 1:17 also Deut. 8:17-18, Psal. 24:1
Where does everything we have come from?

- b. Eph. 4:28 also 2 Th. 3:10-12, 1 Jn. 3:17
How should we get what we need?

What should we also do with what we have so others have what they need?

B. We do not try to take what is not ours.

- a. Exodus 20:15 also Deut. 5:19
What should we not do for possessions?

- b. What is included in mistreating possessions?
Lev. 19:35 also Col. 3:22-23

Psal. 37:21

Luke 3:14

John 6:12

Personal possessions are gifts from God which we are to get by honest work or gifts and use to help others and serve God.

We are not to steal, cheat, defraud, extort, be wasteful, destructive, etc.

4. How do we deal with truth and justice?

- A. We are responsible for guarding truth.
- Prov. 22:1
What is a most precious possession?
 - Prov. 31:8-9 also Prov. 24:24-25
How should we protect truth and justice?
 - Prov. 17:9 also Prov. 25:9, Eph. 4:29, 1 Tim. 5:13
How can we protect others' reputations?
- B. We should not ruin others with our words.
- Prov. 6:16-19 also Ex. 20:16, Deut. 5:20, Prov. 11:9
What thoughts and words are wrong?
 - Lev. 19:16-17 also Zech. 7:10, 8:16-17
What should we not do against others?
(v. 16)
(v. 17)
- Lev. 19:17 also Matt. 18:15-17, Jas 5:20
What should we do instead?

God wants us to have truth and justice, including a good reputation. We are to think and speak the truth about others, and speak about them in the most kind and helpful way.

We are not to lie or abuse justice by perjury, slander or libel; hurt others by deception, half truths, exaggeration, gossip or betrayal; or think evil of them with prejudice, hatred, grudges or sinful judging.

5. What are right desires and ambitions?

- A. God gives us a desire to love him and others.
- Exod. 20:17 also Deut. 5:21
What should we not have wrong desires for?
 - Philip. 2:4
What are we to be interested in?
 - 1 Pet. 4:2 also Matt 6:33, Luke 12:29-31, 1 Pet. 2:2
What is to be our main desire?
 - also Heb. 13:5 also Luke 12:15, Phil. 4:11-12,
What are we to be free from? 1 Tim 6:6-10
- What should we do instead?
- What makes us able to do this?

- B. Wrong desires lead to wrong actions.
- James 4:1-3 also James 1:14
What do evil desires lead to?
 - 2 Tim. 3:2-6
How does one act on coveting people? (v. 6)
 - Micah 2:1-2
How does one act on coveting property?

God gives us the desire to love him and others and contentment with what he gives us.

It is wrong to covet, that is to desire what is wrong for us or can only be had at another's loss and to greedily want more than will benefit us. Coveting thoughts are as wrong as getting things by wrong actions or by enticement.

IV. GOD'S GIFT OF LIFE IN THIS WORLD

Creed: Faith in the Creator

1. What is a Christian believer?

- A. Christians believe in the true God.
- John 17:3 also Deut 6:4. 1 Cor. 8:4
How many true God's are there?
 - Gen. 1:26
What pronouns does God use to refer to himself?
 - Matt. 28:19 also Matt. 3:16-17, John 14:16-17
Who are the three persons of God?
- B. Christians have saving faith.
- John 3:16 also 2 Thess. 2:13
How are we saved?
 - 2 Tim. 1:12
What three things are included in believing?
also John 8:32, 17:3
also Rom. 4:20-21, Heb. 11:1
also Psal. 78:22
- C. Christians state the true faith in creeds.
- Matt. 16:15-16 also 2 Cor. 4:13-14
Who's faith is stated here?
 - 1 Cor. 15:3-4 also 1 Pet. 3:15
What does Paul do with this statement of faith?
 - Titus 1:9 also 1 Cor. 1:10
What should we do with what we believe?

Christians are those who are saved by believing in the one true "triune" (one in three) God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Genuine saving faith includes knowing the truth, being convinced it is true and trusting it confidently. Christians use creeds to state what they believe, teach and confess (agree on).

The three creeds Christians have in common are the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian.

2. How is God described?

- A. God is perfect and unlimited.
- John 4:24 also John 1:18
What kind of a being is God?
 - Note, in the following verses, the ways God is unlimited
Psal. 90:2 also Gen. 1:1, John 1:1

- Psal. 102:27 also Mal. 3:6
- Psal. 103:8 also 1 John 4:8-10
- Psal. 115:3 also Matt 19:26
- Psal. 139:7 also Job 11:7-9, Jer. 23:24
- Psal. 139:3, 17 also Rom. 11:33, 1 John 3:20
- Psal. 145:17 also Deut. 32:4

B. God is our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

- Isa. 64:8 also John 5:19-23, 1 Cor. 8:6, Heb 1:2
What does the Father do for us?
 - Gal. 3:13 also Matt. 1:21, Psal. 89:26
What does Jesus, the Son, do for us?
 - 2 Thess. 2:13 also 1 Cor. 6:11
What does the Holy Spirit do for us?
- C. The persons of the trinity are equal but different.
- John 1:1, 14 also John 3:16, 5:17, 1 John 1:1-2
Where did the Son come from?
 - John 14:26 also John 14:16, 15:26
Where does the Holy Spirit come from?

God is a spiritual being, not limited by a body, and also perfectly complete, right, loving and unlimited in power, space, knowledge, time, etc. The three persons of the trinity always work together, but the Father is especially connected with creation. The Son is especially connected with redemption and the Holy Spirit with sanctification.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all equal and eternal, but the Son is begotten from the Father and the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

4. How is God the Creator?

- A. God made everything.
- Gen. 1:1-2 also Psal. 90:2, John 1:1, Col. 1:16-17
What existed from the very beginning?

What did God make?
 - Gen. 1:3 also Ps. 33:6, John 1:1-3, Heb. 11:3
How (by what) did God make everything?
- A. God made everything complete.
- Gen. 1:11, 21, 25
How did God make every living thing?
 - Gen. 1:31 also Gen. 2:2, Exod. 20:11

How long did God's creation take?

What was it like when it was done?

When nothing existed except God himself, God made everything in six consecutive days by speaking his word (except humans). Everything was originally complete and good.

4. What are God's greatest creations?

A. God created living human beings.

- a. Gen. 2:7, 2:22 also Psal. 119:73, 139:13; Jer 1:5

What did God make in an individual
"hand made" way?

- b. Gen. 2:7 also Eccl. 12:7, Rom. 8:10

What did God put into them?

- c. Gen. 1:26 also Gen. 1:28, 9:1-3; Psal 8:4-8

What role did God give them?

- d. Gen. 1:27 also Col. 3:10, Eph. 4:23-24

What did God make people to be like?

B. God created invisible living beings.

- a. Heb. 1:14 also Acts 12:7-10

What kind of beings are angels?

- b. Heb. 12:22 also Dan. 7:10, Luke 2:13, Rev. 5:11

How many of them are there?

- c. What is their purpose?

Heb. 1:14 also Gen. 24:7, Psal. 91:1-12, Dan. 6:22

Heb. 1:6 also Isa. 6:3, Luke 2:13, Rev. 5:11-12

Luke 1:26-28 also Matt. 28:5-7, Luke 2:9-11

- d. Luke 24:4 also Gen. 19:15-16, Luke 1:11, 2:9-13

In what forms might they appear?

- e. Luke 20:35-36

Why does the number of angels not change?

- f. Psal. 103:20

What do angels do?

also 2 Kg. 14:35, Dan. 6:22, 2 Thes. 1:7

How are they able? Heb. 1:3

in an eternal soul, put in charge of the rest of creation and made originally in God's image, that is, like God in perfectly knowing what is right, desiring what is right and doing what is right.

God's greatest invisible creatures are angels, which are powerful living beings without a body, although they can appear in various forms. God made a great number of them, which does not change, to serve believers, worship God, and bring his messages. They are each very powerful and the holy angels always do God's will.

God's greatest visible creatures are humans, which are individually formed, made to have spiritual life

V. THE FATHER PRESERVES OUR LIFE

Creed: Sin and Sustaining Grace

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

A. Angels turned against God.

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

- b. Rev. 12:8-9 also Matt 25:41; Heb. 2:14, 16;
What happened to them? 2 Pet. 2:4; Rev. 20:1-3

- c. Rev. 12:9, 12 also Gen. 3:4-5, John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:14,
What do they do now? Eph. 6:11-12, 1 Pet. 5:8-9

B. Humans sinned.

- a. Gen. 3:1-6, 16-19 also 2 Sam. 11
Identify the verses where these steps happen?

Doubt

Deception

Desire

Decision

Deed

Despair

Disaster

Death

Damnation

- b. Rom. 5:12 and Psal. 51:5 also John 3:6
How does what Adam did effect us today?

- c. What kind of death results from sin?
Gen. 5:5 also Gen. 2:17, Eccl. 12:7

Eph. 2:1 also Isa. 59:2

Matt 25:41 also Matt. 10:28, 2 Thes. 1:9

- d. 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

Rom. 8:7 also Gen. 3:10, 8:21, Eph. 2:3

God's perfect creation has been ruined by sin. Sin began when the Devil led angels (demons) in proud rebellion against God's authority. They were defeated and separated from God's presence in heaven but continue now oppose God by leading people also to sinful rebellion.

Adam and Eve gave into temptation to disobey, bringing physical, spiritual and eternal death to all their descendants. As a result we are all by nature blind, dead and enemies of God.

2. What does God continue to do for us?

A. God continues to care for us.

- a. Gen. 3:15 also Gen. 8:21, 12:2-3; 2 Sam. 7:12-13
What will separate humans from Satan's work?

- b. How does God continue to take care of his creation?

Psal 32:8 also 1 Kings 4:29, Job 39:27-30, Dan. 1:17

Psal. 36:6 also Gen. 8:22, Psal 104:14, Heb. 1:3

Psal. 121:5-8 also Psal 34:19-20, Matt. 10:29-30

Psal. 145:15-16 also Matt 5:45, Acts 14:17, Jas. 1:17

Deut 8:15-18 also Gen. 3:19, Matt 14:15-21

Rom. 8:28 also Gen. 50:20, Jer. 29:11

- c. Psal. 103:13 also Gen. 32:10
Why does God do these things?

B. We respond to God's care.

- a. Psal. 105:1-2 also Rom. 11:35-36, 1 Thes. 5:18
How do we respond to what God does?

- b. Deut 13:4 also Gen. 2:15, Deut 10:12-13, 1 Pet. 4:10
How do we respond to what God does?

- c. 1 Tim. 6:17-18 also 1 Chr. 29:14, Phil. 4:6, 1 Pet. 5:7
How do we respond to what God does?

In spite of sin, God has promised a savior and he continues to sustain the world by providing, protecting, controlling and instructing in both natural and miraculous ways as he sees best. We are to respond with thanks and praise, serving and obeying him, trusting him and sharing with others.

3. How is God a Father?

A. God is the Father of Jesus.

- a. Col 1:3 also Luke 1:31, John 5:17-18
Who is God the father of?

b. God is the Father of believers.

John 8:44 also Psal. 103:13, Mal. 2:10
Who is the spiritual father of sinners?

Gal. 3:26-27 also Gal. 4:4-5, John 3:3-7
How does God become our father?

God, the first person of the trinity is the Father of Jesus Christ. 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.

VI. THE SON SAVES OUR LIFE

Creed: Jesus' Nature and Work

1. Who is Jesus?

A. Jesus, the Son of God, is God.

a. 1 John 5:20 also John 1:14, 10:30, 20:28,
What different titles are used Acts 20:28,
for this one person? Rom. 9:5, Titus 2:13

b. John 5:17-22 also John 1:3, Matt. 9:16, Heb. 1:3
What does Jesus do that only God can do?
(v. 21)
(v. 22)

c. John 5:23 also John 17:5, Heb. 1:6
How are we to treat Jesus as God is treated?

d. John 5:25-27 also John 1:1-2; Matt 28:18, 20;
What is Jesus described as having, Heb. 13:8
as only God is described?

B. Jesus has become a real human.

a. 1 Tim. 2:5 also John 1:14, Col. 2:9, 1 Tim. 3:16
What is Jesus at the same time he is God?

b. Heb. 2:14-17 also Isa. 9:6, Matt. 1:1, 1Tim. 2:5
What is Jesus described also Matt 4:2, Luke 24:39,
as having? (v. 14) John 1:14, John 19:28,
Gal. 4:4, 1 Tim. 3:16

What did Jesus do? also Mark 4:38, 11:12, 15:37;
(v. 14) Luke 2:11, 52;
John 11:35; 19:33-35

c. Heb. 4:15 also John 8:46; 1 Pet. 1:18-19, 2:23
What is the one difference between Jesus
and other humans?

C. Jesus is our substitute.

a. Rom. 5:19 also Matt. 5:17, 48; Gal. 4:4-5
What was Jesus able to do for everyone?

b. 1 John 2:2 also Gal. 3:13, Heb. 2:17, 1 Pet. 1:18-19
What was Jesus death able to do?

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

At the same time, Jesus has become a genuine human (incarnation), who lived and died as a human, and continues to be both man and God (personal union).

He had to be both at once so he could take the place of the whole world in perfectly obeying God and suffering the punishment to pay for all our sins (vicarious atonement).

2. What has Jesus done for us?

A. Jesus humbled himself to save us.

a. Phil. 2:5-8 also Luke 2:51-52, John 14:31
What did Jesus do instead of holding on his
power and glory as God?

b. Matt. 1:18 also Isa. 7:14, Luke 1:35, Gal. 4:4
How did Jesus' mother become pregnant?

c. Isa. 53:3 also Matt 8:20, John 8:40; 11:35; Heb 2:18
What did Jesus experience during his life?

d. Mark 15:15 also John 19:1, 16-18
What happened at the end of Jesus' ministry?

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

f. John 19:30, 33-34 also Matt 27:50, Mark 15:37
What did Jesus do when he was finished?

g. Mark 15:44-46 also Matt 27:59-60
What happened to Jesus body?

B. Jesus' death sets us free.

a. 1 Pet. 1:18-19 also Luke 23:41, Eph. 1:7, 1 Jn. 1:7
How has Jesus redeemed us?

b. 2 Cor. 5:14, 19, 21 also Isa. 53:4-6; Rom. 4:5-8, 5:19
What happens for us as a result of what Jesus
did? (v. 19)

c. Heb. 2:14-17
What are we now also set free from?
(v. 14) also Eph. 2:2, John 12:31, 1 Jn. 3:8, Rev. 12:10

(v. 15) also Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:4-5, 1 Cor. 15:54-57

Jesus humbled himself, not always fully using his power as God, to save us by his birth, suffering, death and burial.

Because he suffered innocently, in our place, our sins are counted against him instead of us (objective justification). We are now set free from... sin's guilt, punishment and power; from spiritual, physical and eternal death, and from the power of the devil's temptations and accusations.

3. What did Jesus do after he finished suffering?

A. Jesus showed his victory

- a. 1 Pet. 3:18-19 also Col. 2:15

What did Jesus do when he was made alive?

- b. 1 Cor. 15:4 also Matt 16:21, John 2:19,
What did Jesus do, as promised? Acts 1:3, 10:40-41

c. What does this show for us?

1 Cor. 15:17 also Rom 4:25

1 Cor. 15:20-22 also John 11:25-26, 14:19

Rom. 1:4 also Matt 26:63-64

B. Jesus returned to glory.

- a. Acts 1:3, 9-10
What did Jesus do after 40 days?

- b. What does this mean for us?
John 14:2-3 also John 17:24

Matt 28:20 also Matt 18:20, Eph. 4:10

- c. Rom. 8:34 also Matt. 28:18, Eph. 1:19-22, Phil. 2:9-10
What does Jesus do now?

C. Jesus will come again.

- a. Mark 13:26 also Luke 21:26-28, Acts 1:11, Rev. 1:7
What will Jesus do?

Mark 13:31-32 Matt 24:35-36, 44; 25:13, 31
When will this be?

- b. Acts 17:31 also Acts 10:42, 2 Cor. 5:10, 2 Tim. 4:1
What will Jesus do when he comes?

- a. 2 Tim. 4:8 also Matt 25:34-40, 46; Rom. 8:34-39
What does this mean for us?

When our salvation was complete, Jesus descended to hell to announce his victory. He rose to life again, with his same body glorified. This shows that what he says is true, he is God's son, all our sins are taken away, and we too will be raised.

After being seen for 40 days, he ascended into heaven and sits at God's right hand. This means that he now is everywhere and controls everything. He will come again, at an unknown day, to judge all people and bring to glory those who trust in him.

4. What does Jesus continue to do?

A. Jesus is the anointed one.

- a. John 4:25-26 also Isa 61:1-2, John 20:31,
What position does Jesus have? Acts 4:27, 10:38

- a. Deut 18:18, 22 also Mark 1:21-22, John 1:17-18,
What does a Jesus, our prophet do? 1 Thess. 2:13

- b. Heb. 5:1 also Eph. 5:2, Heb. 7:25-27
What does Jesus, our a priest do?

- c. 1 Sam. 8:20 also 1 Cor. 15:56-57, Eph. 1:22,
What does Jesus, our king do? Col. 1:13, Matt 25:31

B. We are Jesus' kingdom.

- a. 1 Cor. 6:19-20
To whom do we now belong?

- b. 1 Pet 2:9
What are we now part of?

- c. 1 Pet 2:24 also 2 Cor. 5:15
How do we now live?

Jesus is our Messiah/Christ who is anointed as
- Prophet to reveal the truth through his words in the Bible and through his representatives today.
- Priest to save us by his sacrifice of himself and to pray for us as our intermediary with the Father.
- King to defeat the powers of evil, rule the world with his power, rule believers with his grace, and rule forever in glory.
This is why we now belong to him and live to honor him.

VII. THE SPIRIT GIVES US NEW LIFE

Creed: The Holy Spirit's Nature and Work

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit is an invisible person.

- a. John 14:16-17 also Matt 28:19, John 3:8; 16:13-14
Where does the Spirit come from?

Whom is the Spirit distinct from?

- b. What is the Spirit called?

How is the Spirit known?

B. The Holy Spirit is God.

- a. Acts 5:3-4 also 1 Cor. 3:16
What is the Holy Spirit also called?

- b. Heb. 9:14 also Ps. 139:7-8; 1 Cor. 2:10, 1 Pet. 4:14
How is the Spirit described?

- 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?

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

What is the result?

- b. 2 Thess. 2:14 also John 17:17, 20; Rom. 10:17,
What does the Spirit use 1 Pet. 1:23
to do this work?

B. The Spirit works to keep us from sin.

- a. Eph. 1:17-18 also John 16:13
What does the Spirit help us to do?

- b. Gal 5:22-23 also John 15:4-5, 8, James 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)

- d. Philip. 3:12 also 1 John 1:8
What is not yet complete in any of us?

Philip. 1:6 also 1 Pet. 1:5
When will it be complete?

- 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)

The Holy Spirit works especially to cause our sanctification, that is making us holy by separation from sin. This includes complete holiness by forgiveness as soon as one is brought to faith by a change of heart (conversion / justification), and also gradually growing in holiness through a change of life which always results from faith.

The Holy Spirit works through the word and sacraments to call us to faith, to enlighten us with understanding of the truth, to give 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 not yet complete, the Spirit preserves our faith so we come to eternal life.

3. What is the Christian Church?

A. The church is the community of God's saints.

- a. Eph. 2:19-22 also 2 Cor. 6:16, 1 Tim. 3:15, 1 Pet. 2:5
In what terms is the church pictured?

- b. Eph. 1:1 also Rom. 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:2, Phlp 1:1, Col 1:2
What two terms does Paul call this church?

- c. Eph. 2:20 also Matt 16:16-18, Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 3:11,
What is the church based on Col. 1:17-18
that holds it together?

- d. 1 Pet. 2:9-12 also 1 Cor. 3:16-17, Eph. 5:25-27,
What makes these people holy? (v. 10) Titus 2:14,
Col. 1:19-22
From what are they separated? (v. 11)

For what purposes are they set apart?
(v. 9)
(v. 12)

B. The church includes all believers.

- a. Matt 28:18-20 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. Acts 2:41-42 also 1 Cor. 12:12-18, Eph. 1:19-22
What happens to those who believe
and are baptized?

C. 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 in this group
that shows it 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 were these two churches doing together?

D. We want to be part of the true church

- a. 1 John 2:23-24 also John 10:16, 1 John 4:2-3, 15,
Who is truly part of God's church? Rev. 3:1, 4
- b. 2 Tim. 2:19 also Matt. 16:18, Luke 17:21,
Who knows who is truly John 21:17, 1 Cor. 8:3,
part of God's church? Heb. 12:22-23
- c. Rom. 16:17 also 1 Cor. 11:19, 1 Tim. 6:3-5
What causes divisions in the church?
- d. John 8:31 also Jer. 23:28; Matt 10:32-33; 15:9; 28:20
What do we want to be sure to do?

The Holy Christian Church is all people who are made holy by true faith in Jesus, who are set apart by and for God to honor him with truthful words and good deeds.

The Holy Spirit gathers people into the church by causing faith with God's word and sacraments, which the church uses together in common (ecumenical) witness, worship, congregations and denominations.

Although we cannot see who has true faith and who is a hypocrite, God knows and preserves his church of true believers. We are to hold to the true faith ourselves and join with a church that uses God's word and sacraments rightly.

4. How are we forgiven?

A. God declares us innocent.

- a. Rom. 4:5-8 also Gen. 15:6, Psal. 32:1; 103:12; 130:3-4,
What words mean the same Mic. 7:18, 2 Cor. 5:19
as forgiveness?

- b. Rom. 3:22-25 also Eph. 1:7, 2 Cor. 5:21, Titus 3:4-7
What is the reason we are forgiven? (v. 24)

How do we receive this forgiveness (v. 22)

- c. 1 John 2:2 also Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:5,18,
What is forgiveness for? 2 Cor. 5:19, Heb. 10:10

B. We receive God's forgiveness.

- a. Acts 3:19
What is necessary to receive forgiveness?
- b. Acts 5:31
Where does this come from? also 2 Cor. 5:19
- c. Acts 26:18 also Ezek. 18:30, 2 Cor. 7:9-10,
What must we turn away from? Heb. 6:1
- d. Acts 20:21 also Acts 10:43, Rom. 1:17; 3:22; 4:5
What must we turn to?

Forgiveness is God's declaration that we are good and righteous which removes our sinful past (called "objective justification"). We are given forgiveness because of God's free and undeserved grace for Jesus sake, because he has made up for our sins as our substitute ("vicarious atonement") by his death on the cross for the whole world.

Forgiveness is given to us through the gospel and received through faith in repentance (turning around, a change of heart). Repentance includes contrition, turning from sin with sorrow and a desire to do right, and faith, turning to God with trust in Jesus.

VIII. THE SPIRIT RENEWS OUR LIFE

Creed: Everlasting Life and the Means of Grace

1. How will God finish his work with us?

A. God will bring an end to this life.

- a. Eccl. 12:7 also Gen. 3:19, Job 19:26, Heb. 9:27
What happens when people die?

Luke 23:43 also Matt 22:31-32, 2 Cor. 5:1-8,
What happens when believers die? Philp 1:23-24

- b. 2 Pet. 3:10-13 also Matt. 24:35-41, Luke 21:33,
What will happen to this creation? 1 Pet. 4:7
(v. 10)

What will happen then? (v. 13)

What is a Christian's attitude about this? (v. 12)

- c. Matt. 24:9-14
What will happen as the end nears? (v. 10)

What should we do? also Rev.
2:10
(v. 13)
(v. 14)

B. Jesus will return to judge.

- a. Rev. 20:12-13 also Matt 13:40-43; 25:31-34,
What happens to all people John 5:28-29,
when Jesus returns? Acts 24:15, Rom. 14:10,
2 Cor. 5:10

- b. John 3:36 also John 3:16-18; 5:24-29; 6:40; 11:25-26
What determines the judgment verdict?

When a person dies, the body returns to dust but the soul goes immediately to its eternal place. Soon, at a time known only to God, he will instantly bring an end to all creation and begin a new creation. At the last day, the bodies of all who have died will be raised up and they, along with all still living will be judged by Jesus.

All who believe in Jesus are judged as holy by grace. All who do not believe are justly condemned.

2. What is our hope for eternity?

A. All People go to heaven or hell.

- a. 1 Cor. 15:51-53 and Philip. 3:21 also Job 19:26-27,
What happens to believers John 11:25, Matt. 25:34,
when Jesus comes? 1 Cor. 15:42-49, Col. 3:4,
1 Thess. 4:14-17,

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

- c. Matt 25:41, 46 also Isa. 66:24, Dan. 12:2,
What happens to unbelievers? Matt. 22:13,
Luke 16:23-26,
Rev. 21:8

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)

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 forever. Unbelievers experience eternal death forever in hell. Hell is total separation from God where there is suffering forever.
Believers can be confident God has chosen beforehand to save them by the gospel and will protect their faith to the end.

3. What causes us to be saved?

A. Salvation is a gift from God.

- a. Eph. 2:3-9
How are we saved? (v. 5, 8) also Eph. 1:7,
Isa. 43:25,
What is the cause of our salvation? Rom. 3:21-24,
(v. 4, 7) 5:1-2

b. How do we receive this salvation?

- also Rom. 1:17;
(v. 8) 3:22, 28; 4:21-24;
5:1-2

B. Saving faith does is not from with in us.

- a. Eph. 2:5-9 also Gen. 5:5, 8:21, Psalm 51:5,
What were we like before John 3:6, Rom. 7:18,
being saved? Eph. 2:1, 3, 1 Cor. 2:14,
(v. 5) 2 Cor. 4:4, Rom. 8:7,
Gen. 8:21; Gal. 5:17

b. Where is salvation and faith NOT from?

- (v. 8-9) also

Rom. 3:20-21,

and John 1:12-13

2 Tim. 1:9

We are saved only by grace, which is an undeserved gift from God. (Grace is always an attitude of God toward us, not a quality or ability in people.)

The single reason for God's attitude of grace is Jesus, who lived, died and rose in our place. (There is nothing in mankind or any individual that is a cause or condition.)

We receive the gifts of God's grace only through faith, that is, believing his promises. (When we do not believe, his words are still true, but we do not receive the benefit.) Faith itself is completely a gift of God, not a result of any human understanding or effort.

This is because all humans are naturally born spiritually blind – unable to know what is right. spiritually dead – unable to do what is right. enemies of God – not desiring to do what is right.

4. How does God cause us to have faith?

A. God causes faith.

- a. 1 Cor. 2:14 also 1 Cor. 12:3
What makes us able to accept what is from God?

- b. Rom. 1:16 also Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Thes. 2:13-14
What does God use to cause faith?

- c. Acts 7:51 also Hosea 13:9; Matt 23:37

If some do not have faith, what is the reason?

B. God works with tools.

- a. 2 Thess. 2:13-14
God saves us through...
(v. 13)
(v. 14)

- b. Rom. 10:17 also John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:15;
How does this Gospel, come to us? 1 Pet. 1:23

- c. What does God also use together with his word to work on us?

Eph. 5:26 also Acts 2:38

1 Cor. 11:23-25 also 1 Cor. 10:16

The Holy Spirit brings us to faith, not by God's direct irresistible power, but through the Gospel as a "Means of Grace", which effectively causes faith but can be resisted by a person's choice. (When we have faith it is entirely to God's credit and by his action. When we do not have faith it is entirely our own fault and by our action.)

The two tools which God uses to work faith in our hearts so that we receive the gifts of grace are: the Gospel found in God's written and spoken word (the primary means), and the word of God used together with visible elements in the sacraments, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

5. What are sacraments?

A. Sacraments include God's word of command and promise.

- a. What does God's word say for all to do?

Matt. 26:27

Matt. 28:19

- b. What does God's word say will happen?

Matt 26:28

Acts 2:38

B. An element is used according to God's word.

- a. What must be used in these sacraments?

Acts. 8:36

1 Cor. 10:16

The sacraments include...
Words of God himself which are spoken.
A command in God's word that all Christians participate in them.
A promise in God's word that they bring the gifts of grace.
A material element which is used as God's word instructs.

IX THE WASHING OF REBIRTH

Holy Baptism

1. What is Holy Baptism?

- A. The Greek word “baptize” means “wash”
 a. Mark 1:8 also Mark 7:4, Acts 8:36
 What is used for ceremonial washing?
- What else is poured out also Matt
 3:11,
 on us in Holy Baptism? Acts
 1:5, 2:16-18
- b. Eph. 5:26 and 1 Cor. 6:11 also Heb. 10:22
 What is used with the water in Holy Baptism?
- B. God’s word does the work.
 a. Matt. 28:19 also 1 Cor. 6:11, Acts 2:38
 What word of God is used in Holy Baptism?
- c. Acts 2:38 also Ps. 51:2, John 3:5-6, Acts 22:16
 What does Christian Baptism do?

“Baptism” means washing with water (dipping, pouring, sprinkling, etc.). Holy Baptism is washing that removes sin and makes one holy.
 When Christians wash with water, using the words of God’s name, Father Son and Holy Spirit, God himself is working to wash away sins.

2. Who should be baptized?

- A. God’s command includes everybody.
 a. Matt. 28:19 also Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33
 Whom does Jesus say should be baptized?
- b. John 3:5-6 also Psal. 51:5, Gal. 3:26
 Why is this necessary?
- B. God’s promise includes all, especially children.
 a. Acts 2:39
 Who is included in this command and promise?
- e. Matt 18:6 and Luke 18:15-16 also Mark 10:13-15
 Who can believe in God and be in his kingdom?
- C. Baptism is combined with teaching.
 b. Matt. 28:20 also Eph. 6:4
 What did Jesus say to do along with Baptism?
- a. Acts 16:30-33 also Acts 2:41, 8:35-38, 16:14-15
 What did Paul do before baptizing? (v. 32)
- When was the family baptized? also Acts 22:16
 (v33)

God commands that all people who intend to be Christians should be baptized, including children. God promises that Holy Baptism gives forgiveness and new life to all, including children, because...
 - they are included in his commands and promises.
 - they need to have faith to be saved.
 - they can believe in God.
 - this is the one way God has given us for his word to bring them to faith.

Adults are baptized when they have been taught the meaning of faith. Children are baptized as soon as possible and then are taught the faith.
 Sponsors customarily witness the baptism to speak for the child and remind the child of it, pray for the child, and help in Christian training, especially if parents are absent. So sponsors need to know and believe the same faith.

3. What are the benefits of Baptism?

- A. Through Baptism we receive God’s gifts.
 a. Acts 2:38 also John 3:5, 1 Cor. 6:11, Titus 3:5
 What do we receive in Baptism?
- b. Titus 3:5-7 also Mk. 16:16, Rom. 6:23, 1 Pt. 3:21
 What is the end result of Baptism?
- C. Rom. 6:3, 5 also John 3:5, Col. 2:12-13, Titus 3:5
 What does Baptism take care of for us?
- d. Gal.3:26-27 also Acts 2:41, Rom. 8:15-17,
 What does Baptism make us part of? 1 Cor. 12:13
- B. The benefits are given by God.
 a. 1 Pet. 3:21 also Gal. 3:26-27, Titus 3:4-6
 Where does Baptism’s power come from?
- b. 1 Pet. 1:23 also Eph. 5:25-27
 Through what does God cause new birth?
- C. God’s gift in baptism is complete and enduring.
 a. Eph. 4:5
 How many baptisms does a Christian need?
- b. John 8:31 also John 15:5-8, 1 Cor. 15:58,
 What should one who has God’s Rev. 2:10, 3:11
 gifts from baptism continue to do?

Through Holy Baptism, we get the Holy Spirit, who works to cause faith, through which we receive forgiveness of sins, so that we have eternal salvation because we have been rescued from death and the devil and given

membership in God's family, the church.

The benefits of Holy baptism are made available by God's grace for Christ's sake, are offered to us in Baptism by God's word and are received entirely through faith.

We hold on to the benefits of baptism only as long as we have the faith given in Baptism.

Holy Baptism should only be done for a person once, and not treated as if it can be ineffective.

Baptism in the Spirit is part of Christian Baptism with water and the word and not something separate from or in addition to it.

Those who are baptized need to be taught the meaning of the faith they have received and affirm that they still hold this faith. This is the meaning of the Christian custom of confirmation. Those who publicly confirm their faith express their intention to continue holding to that faith, growing in faith and Christian living and participating fully in the life of the church.

4. How does Baptism change daily life?

A. Baptism gives us different lives.

Rom. 6:1-7 also Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 2:11-12

a. What does baptism connect us to? (v. 3)

b. What does this do to our old self? (v. 6)

c. What does baptism also connect us to? (v. 5)

d. What does this give us? (v. 4)

e. What do we stop doing as a result? (v. 1-2)

B. Our old self needs to be drowned.

a. Rom. 8:7-8 also Gal.

5:17-20

What can our sinful self not do?

b. Rom. 8:12-13 also Gal. 5:16-18

What must keep happening to the old self?

C. Our New self comes to life.

a. Eph. 4:22-24 also Rom 7:18-20, 2 Cor. 5:17

What is our old self like? (v. 22)

What is our new self to be like?
(v. 24)

b. Rom. 8:9-11 also Gal. 5:25

Where does our new life come from?

c. Rom. 7:22 also Gal. 5:22-23

What does the new self want to do?

d. 2 Cor. 5:14-15

What makes us want this?

We continue to live in Baptism and have its benefits as our old sinful nature (flesh, old Adam, old man, sinful self) is continually put to death and a new holy self (new man, spiritual man) continues to come alive.

Our old sinful nature, which is inherited from Adam by our birth, always has evil desires and leads us to do wrong.

Our new holy self, given by the Holy Spirit, always has holy desires and can decide to do right and follow these desires.

5. When does this change happen?

A. The struggle in our lives continues.

a. Gal. 5:16-17 also Rom. 7:12-22

What two kinds of desires struggle in us?

b. Philip. 3:12 also 1 John 1:8

What has not yet happened in us?

B. God's promises continue.

a. Luke 8:13 also Luke 15:11-24

What can happen to some who believe?

b. John 6:37 also 2 Tim. 2:13

What will God never do?

C. We practice daily contrition and repentance.

a. 2 Cor. 7:10 also Psal. 51:4, 17

How should we feel about our sinfulness?

b. Rom. 6:12 also 1
Cor. 9:26-27
What should we do about our sinful desires?

D. Our new self is constantly renewed.
a. Acts 20:21
How do we turn to God when we repent?

b. Col. 1:10 also Matt. 3:8,
Gal. 5:22, Col 2:6-7
What do we continue to do?

The struggle between our old and new self continues daily because as long as we live in this body, we will always have an old self but as long as we have faith we will always have a new self. Some may lose baptism's benefits by rejecting faith to follow sin, but any who return to faith are not rejected by God and regain the benefits of baptism. The sinful nature must repeatedly be drowned by turning away from sin, which includes contrition (being sorry for wrongs) confessing sinfulness to God, and deciding not to do wrong. The new self is continually made alive when one trusts God in faith.

X FOOD TO NOURISH LIFE

Holy Communion

1. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper replaces the Passover.
a. Exod. 12:3, 6-8, 12-14
What saved Israel from slavery and death?
(v. 13)

b. Mark 14:12 also Matt. 26:17, Luke 22:7-16,
What did Jesus observe with his disciples?

B. Jesus gives us this meal.

a. Mark 14:22-25 also Matt. 26:26-29,
What did Jesus give Luke 22:19-20, John 1:29,
his disciples in this meal? 1 Cor. 5:7; 11:21, 23-25
(v. 22)
(v. 24-25)
What does Jesus say this bread is?

What does Jesus say is in the cup?

b. 1 Cor. 11:23-26 also Eph. 4:10
What are we to continue doing?

The Lord's Supper is a special meal established by Jesus on the night he was betrayed, taking the place of the Old Testament Passover meal, with Jesus himself as the sacrificed lamb.

In the Lord's Supper Jesus himself gives us today his body and blood by means of his own words which are spoken (not by a pastor's power). He intends us to do just what he did in his meal with his disciples.

2. What happens in Holy Communion?

A. Bread and wine unite with body and blood.

a. Matt 26:26 also Mk. 14:22-23, Acts 2:42, 1 Co. 10:16
What did Jesus do first when he took the bread?

b. Matt. 26:26-28 also Luke 22:19, Mark 14:22,
What does Jesus say to do with 1 Cor. 11:24-25
his body and blood?
(v. 26)
(v. 27)
What Does Jesus promise with this? (v. 28)

Who is given this sacrament? (v. 26)

b. 1 Cor. 11:27, 29
Who receives the body and blood of Jesus?

What if one doesn't believe this?

B. We are united with God and with each other.

a. Eph. 2:12-13 also Jer. 31:31-34,
What were we separated from Heb. 10:19-23
that Christ's blood unites us with?

b. 1 Cor. 10:17 also Eph. 2:12-18
With whom are we united when we share Holy Communion together?

The Lord's Supper, also called "Eucharist", "The Breaking of Bread", "Holy Communion" and "Sacrament of the Altar" uses the elements of bread and wine according to God's word of command and with his promise of forgiveness. This sacrament is for those who already believe.

In Holy Communion the bread and wine are joined together with Jesus' body and blood. The bread and wine remain what they are but at the same time they are also his body and blood in with and under the bread and wine. This means that everyone who eats and drinks the bread and wine also at the same time

eats and drinks Jesus' body and blood by mouth in a supernatural way.

In Holy Communion, forgiven sinners are rejoined with the Holy God and those who eat and drink together are joined together with fellow believers.

3. What does receiving this sacrament do for us?

A. We receive God's blessings through faith.

a. John 19:33-35

What truth do we need to know and believe?
(v. 33)

b. Heb. 4:2 also Luke 1:45; 11:27-28, Rom. 1:17,
What happens if those who hear the 1 Cor. 11:29,
gospel message do not have faith? 1 Thess. 2:13

B. Forgiveness saves life.

a. Heb. 10:14, 18

also John 19:30;

What never has to Heb. 9:25-
28, 10:10, 12
happen again now?

b. Rom. 6:22-23 also John 3:16; 4:9; 5:24;
What is the result Rom. 6:8-9; 8:10;
of being free from sin? 1 Pet. 2:24

C. God's love changes our lives.

a. 2 Cor. 5:15 also 1 John 4:7-11, 19
What does Jesus death make us want to do?

b. Gal. 2:20 also 2 Cor. 5:15, 1 John 3:5-6, 9
What does faith in Jesus make us able to do?

The actual body and blood of Jesus received in this sacrament are evidence to assure and remind us that Jesus has truly died.

The spiritual benefits are received only through faith in the real presence of Jesus' body and blood and in the promise of God that we are forgiven. Through faith in God's word we receive the forgiveness His word promises and which comes from Jesus death once for all. These words are the main thing in the sacrament.

Through forgiveness we receive spiritual life and everlasting salvation and increased love for God and desire to live for him.

When we believe what God is doing for us, faith itself is strengthened and strengthened faith makes us able to serve and obey God better.

4. What is necessary for rightly receiving Holy Communion?

A. This sacrament must be received the right way.

a. Look up 1 Cor. 11:27-28

What should we do before taking Communion?
(v. 28)

b. See 1 Cor. 13:5

also Heb. 4:2

What are we looking to see in this examination?

B. Right reception requires faith.

a. Look up 1 John 1:8-10

also Ps. 38:18,

What must we believe 1 Cor. 7:10-11
about ourselves in order to be forgiven?

b. Look up Heb. 10:26-27 also Prov. 28:13, Heb. 10:29,

What must we sincerely want 1 John 3:6, 9
in order to be forgiven?

c. Look up 1 John 5:10-11

also Matt. 26:28,

What must we believe John 3:16-18, Rom 14:23,
about God in order to be forgiven? James 1:6-7

d. Look up 1 Cor. 11:24 & 29

also Luke 22:19-20,

What must we believe Heb. 10:29
about this sacrament in order to be forgiven?

C. Deserving God's blessings is unnecessary.

a. See Mark 9:24

also Is. 42:3, John 6:27,

What should we do if Rom. 4:20, Heb. 4:16
our faith is weak?

a. Look up Philip. 3:12

also Gal. 2:16, Rom. 3:22-24

What can we not expect to do already?

b. See 1 Tim. 4:8

also Joel 2:12, Jonah 3:5, Matt. 9:14

What may be helpful but not required?

Before receiving Holy Communion, we should first examine ourselves to see that we will receive it in a way that will benefit instead of harm us.

Receiving Holy Communion in a beneficial way requires faith that...

- we are indeed sinners – along with the sincere desire to be forgiven and stop sinning.

- God will forgive all our sins because of Jesus death for us.

- Jesus' real body and blood are present in the sacrament.

Those with weak faith should not avoid the sacrament but receive it to strengthen faith.

Because there is nothing we can do to deserve God's blessings, we are not required, before receiving

Communion, to be perfectly without fault or make physical preparations such as fasting.

5. With whom can we not share Communion?

- A. Communion is not for those who do not benefit.
- See 1 Cor. 5:11, 13 also Matt 18:15-17,
What must we not do Acts 3:19, 1 John 3:6, 9
with those who refuse to give up sinning?
 - See Matt. 6:15 also Matt 5:23-24,
Who will not receive forgiveness? Mark 11:25
- B. Do not commune with those of different faiths.
- See 1 Cor. 10:17 also 2 Cor. 6:14
What does it mean when we share
Holy Communion together with others?
 - Look up 1 Cor. 1:10 also Acts 2:42, 1 John 4:1
What is important for real unity in the church?
 - Look up 1 Cor. 11:17-19
What happens when we join with others
in the church in spite of divisions? (v. 17)
 - See Rom. 16:17
What must we do when others have false beliefs
and teachings?

We must not give Holy Communion to:
- those who cannot examine themselves for
repentance and faith or do not believe in the real
presence of Jesus' body and blood in this sacrament.
- those who do not repent, as shown by stubbornly
continuing in sin, refusing to forgive or refusing to
be reconciled with others.

We should not share Holy Communion together
with those who are not honestly united in faith with
us. (This Lutheran practice is called "close" or
"closed" communion.)

XI SHARING THE GIFT OF LIFE

Office of the Keys and Confession

1. What power does God give the church?

- A. Jesus gives the church the "Office of the Keys".
- Matt 16:19 and John 20:22-23 also Luke
24:47
How are sins' chains unlocked and heaven
opened?
 - Matt 18:17-20 also 2 Cor. 5:18-20, 1 Pet 2:9
Who can open or close heaven? (v. 17, 20)

c. Luke 17:3 also Matt
9:2

What should we do for others who sin?

B. Forgiveness is for those who are penitent.

- Acts 3:19 also Luke 17:3
What is needed so sins can be forgiven?
- Acts 26:18 also Ezek. 18:30, Heb. 6:1, 2 Cor. 7:9-
11,
What must we turn from? Ps. 32:5, 1:17, Luke 18:13
What must we turn to ? also Acts 10:43, 20:21

God has given the church the "Office of the Keys", which is the special power to open or close heaven by giving or withholding forgiveness of sins. God gives this power to the whole church congregation and individual believers.

The church forgives sins by the Means of Grace, including public absolution and individual forgiveness.

Sins can be forgiven only for a person who repents, which is turning around and having a change of heart including contrition - being sorry for sin and turning from it.
faith - turning to Jesus with trust for forgiveness.

True repentance always results in a change of life including love and good deeds.

2. What must be done if sinners do not repent?

- A. The church patiently works for repentance.
- Matt 18:15 also Luke 17:3-4, Jas. 5:19-20
What must we do if one does not repent?
 - Matt 18:16-17 also Deut 19:15, Matt.
18:21-22, What must we do if they still
Thess. 5:14
do not repent?
 - 1 Cor. 5:2, 11, 13 also Matt 7:6, 10:14, 18:17,
What must we do if one John 20:23, 1
Jn. 1:10, 2:4
still refuses to repent? 1 Cor. 5:11, 2 Thes.
3:14-15
- C. The goal is always forgiveness and renewal.

a. James 5:19-20 also 1 Cor.
5:5, 2 Cor. 7:9-10, What is our
goal Heb. 12:5-11, Jude 2-3
when we warn sinners?

b. 2 Cor. 2:6-8 also 2 Sam.
12:13,
What do we do if a stubborn
sinner finally repents?
Luke 15:11-32
Luke 17:3-4

When sinners do not repent,
Christians must:
- First, personally, privately and
repeatedly show them their sin and
encourage repentance.
- Second, if necessary, go with one or
two others to point out the sin and
urge repentance.
- Third, if this is useless after repeated
effort, take the matter to the church,
which will together point out the sin
and demand repentance.
- Fourth, if this fails, inform the person
that the stubborn sin and
unrepentance has separated them from
God and his church.

This is called excommunication. This
is necessary to show the seriousness of
sin and to keep others from being led
into sin. The goal is always that the
person repent and be saved.

Those who have been
excommunicated are not promised
forgiveness or included in the
sacraments or personal absolution but
are to be loved and encouraged to
return and hear the Gospel.
Whenever sinners do repent they are to
be immediately forgiven and included
in the life of the church.

3. How does the church use the means of grace?

A. Christians use the means of grace as a group.

a. Look up 1 Cor. 14:26, 29-33
How is the speaking done when the
church is
together as a group? (v. 31, 33)

c. Whom do church leaders represent
and speak for?

1 Cor. 4:1 also Luke
10:16
2 Cor. 2: 10

B. The Church speaks through pastors.

a. What are church leaders called and do?

1 Tim. 4:6 also Acts 16:4, 1 Cor. 4:1,
1 Tim. 5:17, Titus 1:5

1 Pet. 5:2-3 also Eph. 4:10-11, 1 Tim. 3:2, 5,
Titus 1:7, Heb. 13:17

b. 1 Tim. 4:13-14 also 2 Tim.

2:4-5

What three things are the duty of
ordained

church leaders in public (group)
settings?

Each Christian is a priest of God who
speaks to him and for him and uses
the means of grace as an individual.
When Christians gather as a group,
publicly, special representatives in each
congregation speak and act for God
and for the church in using the means
of grace.

The Bible calls congregation leaders
ministers (servants) who distribute the means of
grace, God's word and sacraments and
pastors (shepherds) who lead and guide by words
and example.

4. How does one become a pastor?

A. Pastors are ordained through the church.

a. Acts 20:28 also Heb. 5:1, 4
Who makes people "overseers" of the church?

b. 1 Tim. 4:14 also Titus 1:5
How did Timothy become a pastor?

c. 1 Tim. 3:2 also 1 Tim. 3:3-13, Titus 1:6-9
What are important qualities of a pastor?

B. Pastors are men who speak for the church.

a. 1 Cor. 14:33-34 also 1 Cor. 14:35-36
Who is not to be the spokesman of the church?

b. 1 Tim. 2:11-13
What are women not to do?

XII Talking to God about Life Goals

The Lord's Prayer

1. What is Prayer?

A. Prayer is genuine communication.

- a. Matt 6:5-8 also: Psal. 145:18

What is prayer not for? (verse 5)

To whom is prayer to be directed? (verse 6)

What is not most important in prayer? (verse 7)

- b. Psalm 19:14 also: 1 Sam. 1:13, Ps. 10:17, Eph 5:19,
What are two ways we can pray? Rom 8:26

- c. 1 Thes. 5:17-18 also Psal. 50:15, 119:164, Dan. 6:10,
When should we pray? Luke 19:16, 18:1

B. We pray only to the true God.

- a. Isaiah 45:22 also Isa. 46:6-9, Matt. 4:10,
To whom should we pray? Acts 14:13-18,
Rev. 22:8-9

- b. Isa. 63:16 & 45:20 also Psal. 146:3-4, Isa. 46:6-7
Who cannot hear or answer prayer?

- c. John 14:13-14 also Psal. 91:14, Zech. 13:9, John 15:7
What prayers will God hear and answer?

Prayer is communicating with God through spoken words or silent thoughts. We can pray at any time and at special times, at any place and in special places, alone and with others.

We should pray only to the true triune God because..

- only God can hear prayers,
- only God can answer prayers, and
- God has only promised to answer prayers that are addressed to him.

2. Why do we pray to God?

A. What are some ways God may answer prayer?

- a. Matt 8:2-3

- b. John 2:4 also 2 Pet. 3:8-9

- c. 2 Cor. 12:8-9 also Isa. 54:7-8, Eph. 3:20

B. What should we talk to God about?

- a. Psalm 147:1 also Ps. 135:1-3, Rev. 4:11

- b. Psalm 32:5 also Psal 51:1-4; 73:23-28

- c. 1 Pet. 5:7 also Prov. 18:24; John 15:15
1 Cor. 1:9; Jas 2:23

- d. Phil. 4:6 also Psal. 105:1, 136:1, Luke 17:15-16

- e. 1 Tim 2:1 also 2 Sam. 12:25-23, Matt. 5:44,
Jas. 5:16, Acts 7:59-60

C. How should we pray?

- a. John 14:13 also John 16:23

- b. Luke 22:42 also Matt. 8:2, Jas. 4:3, 1 John 3:21-23

- c. Matt 21:22 also Matt 19:26, Luke 11:13, Heb. 11:6,
James 1:6-7, 1 John 5:14

- d. Matt 6:7 also , Psal. 17:1, Isa 21:5, Mark 10:38

God commands us to pray and promises to hear and answer in the best way at the best time (sometimes "yes", "wait", "no" or "this instead").

We pray to...

- give God the adoration he deserves.
- share our confession with one who cares.
- thank God for what he has done.
- ask for our selves (supplication) and others (intercession)

Genuine Christian prayer is prayed

- In Jesus name: for his sake and for what he wants.
- Confidently: with faith in God's wisdom & power.
- Obediently: for what God himself wants for us.
- Sincerely: understanding, meaning, and concentrating on what we say

3. Why do we call God our Father in Heaven?

A. God takes care of us as a loving father.

- a. Gal. 3:26 also John 1:12, 8:42-44, Rom. 8:15

How do we become God's children?

- b. 1 John 3:1 also Matt. 7:11, Heb. 4:16, 10:19-23

What do we receive from God the Father?

- c. James 5:16 also John 17:20-23; Gal. 3:26-27,

Whom do we pray for? Eph. 4:6, 1 Tim. 2:1

- d. Isa. 57:15 also Psal. 115:3, Matt 6:32-32, 28:20;

Where does God work? Acts 17:27, Eph. 1:20-22; 4:6

We can pray to "our Father in heaven" because

- we are his own children through faith in Jesus and can be confident he loves us.
- We pray along with all true believers in our God and for all people.
- He is not far off, unconcerned with earthly things, but is in a powerful position of complete control.

4. What is God's "holy name"?

A. God's name is holy, and it is holy to us.

a. 2 Sam. 7:26 also Psal. 96:8

What kind of reputation should God have?

b. Psal. 111:9 also Isa. 9:6, 57:15, Luke 1:49

What descriptions or activities of God are associated with his holy name?

c. Psal. 145:21

What do we, who belong to God, do?

B. What can we do to lead others to honor God?

a. Titus 2:1, 7-8, 10 also Jer. 23:28, Deut. 4:2, 2 Thes. 1:11-12;

1 Tim. 6:1, 2 Tim. 4:2

b. Matt. 5:16 also Rom. 2:23-24, 2 Cor. 3:3; Lev. 21:5-8

We want most to honor and glorify God. This can happen by what God does in and through us.

Holy means perfect and set apart as special. A name identifies or describes individuals or what belongs to them. It includes the reputation that comes to mind when the name is heard. God's names truly describe him as holy. He has a holy name when he is recognized as holy.

God is given a good reputation by right things he does and by right things taught and done by his children, Christians who belong to him. God is given a bad reputation when those who belong to him do not teach or do not do as his word says.

5. What is God's Kingdom?

A. God rules with power, grace and glory.

a. 1 Chron. 29:11-12 also Psal. 130:19, Eph. 1:18-23, What does God rule with power? Acts 17:24-26

b. Luke 17:20-21 also John 8:36
Where is God's other kingdom? (v. 21)

c. Col. 1:9-14 also Rom. 5:1-2, Eph. 2:12-13, How do we become part of this group? (v. 14)

How do those in this group want to live? (v. 10)

d. Titus 2:11-14 also 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 2 Cor. 5:14-15, What makes us do what we do? (v11) Titus 3:3-8

e. 2 Tim. 4:18 also Eph. 2:18-21; Ps. 24:9-10
What kingdom of God are we not yet in?

f. Matt. 25:31, 34 also Matt. 13:36-43, Mark 13:26-27
When does this kingdom come? Luke 23:32, 42-43

B. We want the kingdom of grace to grow.

a. Mark 1:15 also Rom. 10:17, 1 Cor. 12:3, Eph. 1:13
How do people become part of God's kingdom?

b. What do we want God to do for us?

Luke 17:5 also Mark 9:24

c. Acts 4:29 also 2 Thes. 3:1-2, 1 Pet 2:12; 3:15
How do we want others to come to faith?

C. We want the kingdom of glory to come soon.

a. Phil. 1:22-23 also 1 Cor. 15:50-56, Phil. 3:20-21
What can we look forward to? 2 Pet. 3:12-13

b. 1 Cor. 1:7-9 also 2 Tim. 1:12-14; Philip. 1:6
What do we need God to do for us now? (v. 8)

We want God's kingdom to come so that we have faith and live righteous lives forever.

God's kingdom is all in his power: the world. We all become part of it through birth.

This kingdom is everywhere without our prayer.

God's kingdom is everyone in his grace: the church. Christians become part of it through faith. This kingdom comes when God's word causes and increases faith in us and when God's word spreads through our witness, trained evangelists, and our support of missions. In the kingdom of grace we obey God because of his gracious love for us and our love for him.

God's kingdom is all in his glory: heaven. Christians enter it through death.

This kingdom comes when we keep the true faith until our life ends or Jesus returns at the end of time.

XIII. Talking about our Life Cycle The Lord's Prayer II

1. How is God's will done?

- A. God's gracious will is always good.
- 1 Tim. 2:4 also John 6:38-40; 2 Pet 3:9
What does God always want to do for everyone?
 - 1 Pet. 2:15 also 1 Thess. 4:3
What does God want us to do?
 - 1 Pet 4:19 also Acts 14:22; 1 Pet. 3:17
What is sometimes part of God's will for us?
 - Rom. 5:3-4 also Rom. 8:28; 13:4
Why would God want to allow this?
- B. We want God's will to be done.
- Rom. 8:28 also Psal. 103:20-21, 115:3; Eph. 1:11
Who always does God's gracious will?
 - Eph. 6:6 also Psal. 40:8, Matt. 12:50, Acts 13:22
How do we want to do God's will?
 - Prov. 16:4, 9 also Rom. 9:19; Rev. 17:17
Who also may do God's will unwillingly?
- C. God overcomes opposition to his will.
- Heb. 2:14-15 also Acts 10:38, Heb. 10:10, 1 Jn. 3:8
What opponent of God's is defeated? By whom?
 - John 16:33 also Eph. 1:11, 1 Jn. 2:15-17
What opponent of God's will is overcome?
 - Ezek. 36:27 also Rom. 8:9, Philp. 2:13, Heb. 13:20-21
What changes us so we do God's will?

God's good and gracious will, which he himself does for us, is always that all people have salvation through faith so that his kingdom comes.

God's will, which he causes us to do, is that we live sanctified lives so his name is kept holy.

God's consequent will, which he may allow, may be that we endure suffering so greater good results.

God's will is always done perfectly by God and his angels. It is done on earth by us through the willing obedience of believers and also the unknowing conformity of unbelievers.

God overcomes opposition to his will when the Father controls everything in the world, Jesus' death and resurrection defeats the devil, and the Spirit's work in us overcomes our sinful nature.

2. Why do pray "Give us..our daily bread"?

- A. God provides all we need for life.
- Matt. 6:31-34 also Psal. 145:15-16, Acts 14:17,
What does God intend to provide? 1 Tim. 2:1-2
 - Rom. 11:35-36 also Jas. 1:17; Zech. 10:1
Where does everything good come from?
 - How does God provide for us?
Ps. 104:14 also Matt 5:45

Deut 8:17-18 also 1 Chron. 29:14-16;
- B. We want what is ours.
- Deut. 5:21 also Matt. 9:13-15; Col 3:5
What should we not want?
 - 2 Thess. 3:10-12 also Deut. 5:19; Prov. 28:19
How does God want us to get what we need?
 - Eph. 4:28 also Matt 14:16; 1 Tim. 5:8;
What else do we want? Heb. 13:16; 1 Jn. 3:17-18
- C. How do we respond to God's gifts?
- Psal. 106:1 also Eph. 5:20; Philip. 4:6, 1 Tim. 4:4-5
 - 1 Tim. 6:6-8 also Prov. 30:8-9, Luke 12:15;
Philip 4:11-12; Heb. 13:5
 - 1 Tim. 6:17 also Exod. 16:12, Eph. 4:28, 1 Pet. 5:7

We pray for "bread", meaning all we need for bodily life, because God wants us to have it.

We pray "give" because God is the original source of all we have and because we do not deserve it. We pray "daily" because we trust God to give us just what we need when we need it.

We pray "us" and "our" because we want only what is right for us to have as it is earned or freely given. We also want others to have what they need, which they may get when we share with them.

When God provides for our needs, we should respond with thanks and praise, faith and trust; being content and being good stewards.

3. Why do we ask for forgiveness?

- A. What words identify what we have done wrong?
- Matt. 6:12 also Matt. 18:2-35
 - Luke 11:4 also Matt. 6:14, Ps. 32:1, 5
 - Psal. 32:5 also Eph. 2:1
 - Psal. 51:2 also Psal. 25:11; 32:5
 - 1 John 1:8-9

B. We need forgiveness for what we do wrong.

- a. Rom. 3:23 also Psal. 19:2; Rom. 3:10-12; 1 Jn. 1:8-9
What must we all admit is true?
- b. Rom. 6:23 also Luke 23:41, Rom. 1:18; 2:8; Eph. 2:3
What do we deserve because of our sins?
- c. Rom. 3:20 also Is. 64:6; Gal. 2:16, Col. 2:13
What cannot make up for our wrongs?
- d. Rom. 3:24 also Ps. 51:1; 86:5; 130:4, 7-8; Eph. 2:4-9
What can we be confident God will do?
- e. 1 John 1:9 also Ps. 32:3-6, Prov. 28:13
What is necessary to receive forgiveness?

C. Forgiveness changes us.

- a. Eph. 4:32 also John 14:15; Col. 3:13, 1 Jn. 4:7, 11
How do we treat others when we are forgiven?
- b. Matt. 6:14-15 also Matt 18:21-22, 28-35, Mark 11:25, Luke 6:37
What happens if we refuse to forgive others?

Trespases means that which makes us guilty or wrong, as similar to “debts”, “sins”, “transgressions”, “iniquity”, and “unrighteousness”. We say forgive because...

we admit we have done wrong, we deserve punishment instead of God’s love, we can do nothing to make up for our wrong, we are confident God will forgive us by free grace, and we must want forgiveness in order to receive it.

Forgiveness means, not that God ignores our sins, but that he completely removes them.

We forgive others because God’s forgiveness changes our lives so we become more loving. Refusing to forgive blocks God’s work in our lives and prevents us from receiving forgiveness.

4. How are we kept from temptation?

A. Our faith is tested.

- a. James 1:2, 12 also 1 Pet. 1:6-7
What does God want when our faith is tested?
- b. Where do temptations to do evil come from?
James 1:13-14 also Matt 26:41; Gal. 5:17

John 13:2 also Luke 4:2; 22:3; 1 Cor. 7:5; Rev. 12:9

Matt. 18:7 also Prov. 1:10, 1 Tim. 6:9-10

B. Note the steps down from temptation to death.

- a. Gen. 3:1-3 also Matt 14:31, Mark 11:23

- b. Gen. 3:4 also Luke 4:6, John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:13-15
- c. Gen. 3:6 also 2 Sam. 11:3, Matt 5:28, Mark 7:21-22, Luke 4:2-3, 1 Tim. 6:9-10, Jas. 4:1-3, 14
- d. Gen. 3:6 also 2 Sam. 11:4, 12:14-15; Prov. 1:10, Luke 22:6, 47-48; James 1:15
- e. Gen. 3:8-10 also Matt. 27:3-5, Luke 8:12-13, 1 Pet. 5:8-9
- f. Gen. 3:17-19 also Mark 16:16, Matt 12:31, John 3:18, Acts 1:24-25, James 1:15

C. God delivers from each step of temptation.

- a. 1 Cor. 10:13 also Job 1:9-12
How does God guard us from the devil’s temptations?
- b. John 17:16-17 also Matt 4:4
How does God keep us from the world’s deception?
- c. Ezek. 36:27 also Ps. 51:10-12; Rom. 8:5, 9, 13-14; Gal. 5:16-18
How does God keep us from wrong desires of our sinful nature?
- d. 2 Tim. 3:16 also Gal. 5:19-21, 6:7-8; 1 Cor. 6:9-10
How does God keep us from wrong decisions?
- e. 2 Thess. 3:3 also Eph. 6:10
How does God keep us from doing wrong?
- f. 1 Tim. 1:15 also Psal. 103:2-3; Rom. 5:8
How does God deliver us from despair and damnation even when we have fallen into sin?

Temptation is a type of test. God tests us, meaning for us to do right so our faith is strengthened. Temptations, not from God, mean for us to do wrong so our faith is weakened. This comes from the Devil, from the world and sinful people in it, and from the desires of our sinful self.

We are led into temptation when we are misled to doubt of God’s word, to deception by lies, to self centered desires, to wrong decisions, to disobedient deeds, and finally into unbelieving despair, damnation and eternal death.

We are kept from temptation when God keeps us from being tempted, gives us his truth so we know what is right gives us holy desires through the Spirit, instructs and warns us through his word, gives us his strength to resist doing wrong, and promises us free and complete forgiveness.

5. How does God deliver us from evil?

A. Evil comes from sin and Satan.

- a. Rom. 5:12 also Rom. 6:20-21; Jas. 1:15

What causes death?

b. Gen. 3:14-19

What other troubles came with it?

c. 1 John 3:8 also Rev. 12:9, 12; Acts 10:38; Heb. 2:14

Where did the trouble start?

B. The greatest evil is separation from God

a. Jas. 1:17

Where does everything good come from?

c. Matt. 25:41 also Matt. 25:46

Who is completely separated from God?

b. Luke 12:4-5

What is the worst that could happen to us?

C. Evil is kept within limits.

a. Lam. 3:37 also Isa. 45:7; Lam 3:33, 38

Who controls what is allowed to happen?

b. Rev. 20:2 also Job 2:7

Who is kept under limits?

D. God delivers us from evil even if it happens.

a. Matt 8:26 also Matt. 14:22-32; Rev. 7:13

How can God deliver us from evil?

b. Ps. 91:7-8 also Ps. 23:4k, 27:2-3; 91:9-12;
How can God deliver us Prov. 19:23, Ex. 8:20-22;
when evil happens? 2 Kg. 6:8-23; Matt. 2:13-18,
Rev. 9:3-4

c. Ps. 121:7-8 also Job 5:19-21; Ps. 27:5;
How can God deliver us Dan. 3:21-27, 6:16-23;
when evil happens to us? John 17:15;
Acts 27:22-24, 28:3-4

d. 1 Pet 5:10 also Gen. 7:17, 23; Job 5:18, 42:10-16;
How can God deliver us Matt. 8:2-3, 14-15;
if we are hurt by evil? John 11:4

e. 2 Cor. 12:9 also Rom. 8:35-37; Phlp. 4:11-13
How can God deliver us if we do not recover?

f. 2 Tim. 4:18 also Acts 7:59-60; Phil. 1:21-24; Rev. 21:4
How can God deliver us if we cannot endure?

g. Rom. 8:28 also Acts 14:22; Gen. 50:20
How can God deliver us from all evil no matter
what happens?

Evil is the result of sin, which Satan introduced into the world. The greatest evil is separation from God, the source of all good, in hell. But evil only happens when God, who is in control, is willing to allow it.

God delivers us from evil by
- stopping it from happening,
- keeping evil that happens away from us,
- protecting us from being hurt by evil that happens to us,
- helping us recover from evil that hurts us,
- strengthening us to endure evil, when we do not recover,
- taking us from all evil to heaven,
- turning even evil to good results.

6. How do we close this prayer?

A. We pray to God with respect and confidence.

a. 1 Chron. 29:11 & Matt. 28:18 also 1 Pet. 3:22

Who is in charge of everything?

b. 1 Chron. 29:12 & Matt 19:26 also Eph. 3:20-21

Who is able to do anything?

c. We pray to God with thankfulness

1 Chron. 29:13 & 1 Tim. 1:17

Who deserves the credit also Ps. 113:4-5, 121:2
when good happens?

B. We are sure our prayers will come true.

a. Rev. 3:14

What words mean the same as “Amen”?

b. What can we be sure God will do when we pray?

1 John 5:14 also Prov. 15:29

Ps. 50:15 also Matt 6:33; Luke 11:9

c. Look up Matt 6:9 also Luke 11:2

What does God tell us about praying?

We pray to God with respect because only he has the kingdom, that is, authority over the whole earth. We pray to God with confidence because only he has the power, that is ability to do anything we ask. We pray to God with thankfulness because only he gets the glory, that is, credit when our prayers are answered.

“Amen” means true and trustworthy”.

We say this about our prayer because our faithful God tells us to pray for these things and promises to hear and answer us.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments." [Ex. 20:5-6]

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

THE APOSTLES' CREEDThe First Article

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.

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.

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.

The 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.

What does this mean? 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 me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, 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.

The Third Article

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? 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. 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. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Introduction

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread? Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean? This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

HOLY BAPTISMFirst

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” [Matt. 28:19]

Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” [Mark 16:16]

Third

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” [Titus 3:5–8]

Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” [Rom. 6:4]

OFFICE OF THE KEYS AND**CONFESSION**

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." [John 20:22–23]

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

HOLY COMMUNION

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke 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 the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.