A Brief Study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism

The plan is to take about five minutes each Sunday to encourage you with ideas about how to incorporate catechism into your life and the life of your family, remind you of the benefits of doing so, and point you to good resources to help. I'll then take the remaining 40 minutes to work through the Shorter Catechism itself. Since we're doing this in twelve weeks, we will necessarily be moving a little more quickly than we might all prefer, but I hope we will all find that it's sufficient to launch us on a lifelong study of God's Word – what He has revealed about Himself – growing as disciples in understanding and faithfulness and the fruit of the Spirit.

The Schedule (hold loosely!)

1. October 4 | Q1-8 (Introduction, What Man is to Believe Concerning God, Part 1)
2. October 11 | Q9-19 (What Man is to Believe Concerning God, Part 2)
3. October 18 | Q20-28 (What Man is to Believe Concerning God, Part 3)
4. October 25 | Q29-38 (What Man is to Believe Concerning God, Part 4)
5. November 1 | Q39-42 (What Duty God Requires of Man, Part 1)
6. November 8 | Q43-62 (What Duty God Requires of Man, Part 2)
7. November 15 | Q63-81 (What Duty God Requires of Man, Part 3)
8. November 22 | Q82-88 (The Means of Grace, Part 1)
9. November 29 | Q89-90 (The Means of Grace, Part 2)
10. December 6 | Q91-95 (The Means of Grace, Part 3)
11. December 13 | Q96-97 (The Means of Grace, Part 4)
12. December 20 | Q98-107 (The Means of Grace, Part 5)
13. December 27 | No Sunday School (Christmas Sunday)

Resources

Editions of the Westminster Standards

1. *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms* (OPC and PCA black hardbound)
2. *The Westminster Confession* (Banner of Truth)
3. You can find the Westminster Standards free online, but I recommend you go through our church website to make sure you have the correct edition.
4. *Harmony of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms* (arr. by Morton Smith, pub. by Log College Press)
5. Christian Creeds and Reformed Confessions (free phone app)

Memorization

1. *How to Memorize Scripture for Life: From One Verse to Entire Books* by Andrew Davis

Children's Catechism and Westminster Shorter Catechism

1. Westminster Shorter Catechism Flash Cards (Great Commission Publications)
2. Westminster Shorter Catechism Flash Cards (Grange Press)
3. *A Body of Divinity* by Thomas Watson (a commentary on the Shorter Catechism)
4. *Catechism for Young Children* (CE&P) – the little green book
5. *First Catechism: Teaching Children Bible Truths* (Great Commission Publications)
6. Ask Me Whooo Catechism on YouTube (Children's Catechism)
7. *The Illustrated Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English* by Paul Cox

Westminster Confession of Faith

1. *Confessing the Faith: A reader's guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith* (Chad Van Dixhoorn, Banner of Truth)
2. *The Westminster Confession: A Commentary* (AA Hodge, Banner of Truth)

General Systematic Theology (One Volume)

1. *Magnalia Dei* by Herman Bavinck, trans. by Greg Parker and Cam Clausing
2. *Systematic Theology* by Robert Letham (more recent and much needed addition to our single-volume systematics options)
3. *Systematic Theology* by Louis Berkhof (dry, but very reliable)
4. *Reformed Theology* (Second Edition) by Michael Allen (Doing Theology series)

Why are we here?

1. *To Gaze Upon God* by Samuel Parkison

Trinitarianism

1. *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves

Covenant Theology

1. *Covenants Made Simple* by Jonty Rhodes
2. *What are Election and Predestination?* by Richard Phillips (Basics of the Reformed Faith series)

The Person and Work of Christ (Redemption Accomplished and Applied)

1. *The Person of Christ* by Donald MacLeod (Contours of Christian Theology series)
2. *The Work of Christ* by Robert Letham (Contours of Christian Theology series)
3. The Definition of Chalcedon (internet link)
4. *Redemption: Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray

Assurance of Faith (Assurance of God's Love)

1. *Knowing and Growing in Assurance of Faith* by Joel Beeke

The Law ("What duty God requires of man…")

1. *Institutes of the Christian Religion* by John Calvin, Book 2, Chapters 7-8
   I highly recommend the Battles translation edited by John McNeill. It is two volumes and a bit pricey, but worth it. It is also the full 1559 Latin edition that has been translated. This edition was written by Calvin for other scholars. The other English translation, Beveridge, is quite old and harder to read.
2. *Institutes of the Christian Religion* by John Calvin, Chapter 3
   Calvin was an excellent scholar, but he also loved the Church. In order to make his *Institutes* more accessible, he translated them from Latin into French for the people. However, he also removed a great deal of the more academic arguments so that the work is slightly briefer. The 1541 French edition was newly translated in 2014 by Robert White. You can find this edition published by Banner of Truth (ISBN: 978-1-84871-463-2).
3. *The Whole Christ* by Sinclair Ferguson
   The only book you need on the relationship between the law and the gospel. Deserves to be read once a year.

Harmony of the Westminster Standards

WCF	WLC	WSC
Intro	1	1
1	2-5	2-3
2	6-11	4-6
3	12-14	7-8
4	15-17	9-10
5	18-19	11
6	21-29	13-19
7	20, 30-35	12, 20
8	36-57, 68	21-28
9	149	82
10	57-60, 66-69	29-32
11	70-71	33
12	74	34
13	75, 77-78	35-36
14	153, 72-73	85-86
15	76	87
16	78	NA
17	79	NA
18	80-81	NA
19	91-152	39-84
20	NA	NA
21	178-196	98-107
22	NA	NA
23	NA	NA
24	NA	NA
25	61-64	NA
26	65-66, 82-83, 86, 90	36-38
27	153-164	85, 88-93
28	165-167	94-95
29	168-177	96-97
30	NA	NA
31	NA	NA
32	84-87	37
33	88-90	38