



TCC

CATECHISM

Doctrinal Discipleship

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

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FIRST THINGS

1. Who is God?

God is spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. He is holy, wise, powerful, just, and good.

(Exodus 3:14; Exodus 34:7; Psalm 90:2; Psalm 107:8; Job 11:7-9; Malachi 3:6; John 4:24; Romans 11:33; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:17; Revelation 4:8; Revelation 15:4)

Reflection: In what ways is God's character essential to our trust in Him?

2. How does God reveal Himself to humanity?

God reveals Himself sufficiently to all humanity through His creation and His implanting of a conscience. This general revelation is sufficient to make no man ignorant of Him and for all to be equally guilty of their rebellion against Him.

(Romans 1:18-20; Romans 2:14-15;)

Reflection: How does our conscience reveal to us what we 'ought' to do and 'ought not' to do? What happens when we ignore our conscience?

3. Does God reveal Himself more specifically?

Yes, God revealed himself specifically to Israel by means of the ten commandments, the Levitical laws and sacrifices, and through the prophets; He reveals Himself to all humanity finally through His Son Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures.

(Deuteronomy 10:4; Matthew 19:17-19; Galatians 3:23-27; Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 1:1-2)

Reflection: How does God's decision to reveal Himself to humanity provide us with an opportunity for a personal relationship with Him?

4. Is there more than one God?

There is only one God, the only creator who is the living and true God.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

Reflection: If there were other gods or other ways to reach God, what would this say of God's revelation to humanity?

5. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, of the same substance, equal in power and glory.

(Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Reflection: What does it mean that God exists in three persons and why is this significant to His character?

6. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ describes our trust in His work alone for our salvation and His return for our rescue.

(John 1:12; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9; Revelation 22:20)

Reflection: Why is trust a better word to use than faith? How do we apply this idea of trust in our daily actions and attitudes?

7. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity that is sent to those who have faith in Jesus Christ to change their affections in agreement with His and to remind them of their adoption to God.

(Ezekiel 36:22-27; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; John 16:7-14)

Reflection: What does God's decision to send the Holy Spirit to indwell the believer tell us about His concern for us and our powerlessness without Him?

REVELATION TO HUMANITY

8. What is the purpose of humanity?

Our purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

(1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; Psalm 86:9; Romans 11:36; Psalm 16:5-11; Psalm 144:15; Isaiah 12:2)

Reflection: What does it look like to enjoy God?

9. How does humanity bring glory to God?

We glorify God by reminding ourselves and revealing to others how worthy God is of our adoration. We do this through our trust and enjoyment of Him; the glad sacrifice of our time, resources, and talents to the benefit of His Kingdom.

(Matthew 5:16, John 15:8, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 1:9-11; Romans 12:1)

Reflection: Is it possible to glorify God in everything we do? In what ways might we be able to place our entire lives in service to this aim?

10. In what ways does God tell us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?

God reveals this to us through His Word contained in the Scriptures of the 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.

(Ephesians 2:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 1:3-4; Galatians 1:8-9)

Reflection: Is our motivation in reading God's word that we would know Him better and enjoy Him more thoroughly? If not, what can we do to facilitate this?

11. What else do the Scriptures reveal?

The Scriptures reveal the character of God, His promises, how He has worked in the past, and what duty He requires of us.

(John 20:31; 2 Timothy 1:13; Micah 6:8; 1 Samuel 15:22)

Reflection: Why is it important for us to know how God has worked in the past?

12. What is the duty which God requires of humanity?

The duty which God requires of humanity is obedience to His revealed will and to act as ambassadors, representing God to the world, and proclaiming His message of reconciliation.
(Micah 6:8; Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

Reflection: Do we think of our lives as duty-bound in this way? What keeps us from accomplishing our duty?

13. Are the Scriptures wholly sufficient to reveal God?

Yes, the Scriptures are inspired and preserved by God such that they are wholly sufficient for a life of faith.
(2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 1:1-2; Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:23-25; Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:24-25)

Reflection: If the scriptures were not wholly sufficient, what would that say about God? Is God able to preserve His revelation?

14. Does God reveal Himself in other ways to humanity?

God reveals Himself through the work of the Holy Spirit in our conscience and through His church to remind one another of His words.
(2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 4:15; Hebrews 3:13)

Reflection: Can God reveal new truths? What is the basis for all revelation?

15. What is the conviction of the Holy Spirit?

Conviction is a work of the Holy Spirit where He reveals that our thoughts, actions, or feelings are not in alignment with God's and needing of repentance and correction.

(John 16:8; 2 Corinthians 7:10)

Reflection: What are two ways we can respond to conviction?
How do we ensure we respond faithfully?

THE WORK OF GOD

16. In what way is God sovereign?

God is sovereign over His eternal purpose such that He has foreordained all that comes to pass.

(Ephesians 1:4-11; Romans 9:22-23; Isaiah 46:10)

Reflection: If nothing is outside of God's sovereignty, how do we understand the existence of evil?

17. How does God execute His sovereign will?

God executes His will through His works of creation and providence.

(Revelation 4:11; Daniel 4:35)

Reflection: In what ways does humanity attempt to pretend like it possesses the qualities of creation and providence?
How are these forms of rebellion?

18. What is the work of creation?

All things that exist were created by God, out of nothing, by His word, and are all very good.

(Genesis 1:1, 31; Hebrews 11:3)

Reflection: How is God's creative power distinctly different from our own? How does this cause us to worship Him as Holy?

19. How did God create humans?

God personally created all humanity, male and female, by breathing life into them; creating them after His own image.

(Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 139:13-16)

Reflection: Why does God's creation of humanity stand in stark contrast to that of the rest of creation? In what way does this inform our understanding of a human's personhood?

20. What is the work of providence?

Providence is God's governing and preserving all of His creation and all their actions by His wisdom and power and conforming all effects to His sovereign will.

(Psalm 139:1-6; Psalm 145:17; Psalm 104:24; Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 10:29-31; Romans 8:28)

Reflection: How does providence remove the ideas of luck and chance and why does God's character necessitate this distinction?

HUMANITY

21. How did Adam and Eve dwell before they sinned?

Adam and Eve were provided a one-flesh partnership and were given the work of populating the earth, subduing it through their dominion, and to work and keep it.

(Genesis 1:28; Genesis 2:15; Genesis 2:24)

Reflection: What does Adam and Eve's responsibilities before the introduction of sin tell us about the potential for work to be good?

22. Did Adam and Eve continue in the state of their creation?

Adam and Eve, being left to the freedom of their own will, did not trust God, rebelled against Him and fell from the state in which they were created.

(Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:6-8)

Reflection: What motivated Adam and Eve to not trust in their creator God who they knew intimately?

23. What is sin?

Sin is rebellious distrust of God. It includes both intentional rebellion and unintentional transgression of God's law or will.

(1 John 3:4; James 4:17; Romans 3:23)

Reflection: Why is unintentional transgression considered sin? What does this say about our sinful nature and God's justice?

24. What is idolatry?

Idolatry is the placing of trust on created things rather than the Creator for our peace, joy, and contentment.

(Romans 1:21-25)

Reflection: Why do we place our trust in the temporal things of this world?

25. Did all humanity fall in Adam's first act of rebellion?

God made a covenant with Adam and his descendants such that his fall propagated to all humanity that descended from him by ordinary generation.

(Romans 5:12, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

Reflection: Do we see the sinful nature being passed from one generation to the next? Is it possible to stop this?

26. What was the state of man resulting from the fall?

All mankind, by their rebellion, broke their relationship with God, are under His wrath, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, death, and eternal separation from Him in hell.

(Genesis 3:8, 24; Ephesians 2:3; Galatians 3:10; Romans 6:23; Matthew 25:41, 46)

Reflection: Why does it feel as though our sin is not that bad? In what ways do we minimize the weight of our sin?

27. What were other results of the fall?

All creation was impacted by the transgression of Adam resulting in the decay of the human body and the world, disease, violence, difficulty, and death of all things.

(Romans 8:19-22)

Reflection: Since all creation exists in a fallen state, how does this help us understand the brokenness and suffering in the world?

28. Did God abandon all mankind in this fallen state?

God, out of His good pleasure, from before the foundations of the world, determined that some would be rescued from this state of rebellion, sin, and misery and bring them into a state of salvation by sending a Redeemer.

(Ephesians 1:4; Romans 3:20-22; Galatians 3:21-22)

Reflection: How does God having accomplished this before the foundation of the world reveal His character to us?

29. What did God first reveal to man for his obedience?

The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law as revealed in the Ten Commandments.

(Deuteronomy 10:4; Matthew 19:17; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 2:14-15)

Reflection: Why is God concerned with the morality of His creation?

30. Is any man able to perfectly keep the moral law of God?

No mere human, since the fall, is able to perfectly keep the moral law of God, but routinely breaks them in thought, word, and deed.

(Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; James 3:2)

Reflection: Why is it difficult, in each occurrence, to keep the moral law?

31. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

All sins constitute equal rebellion against the authority of God. Sins committed intentionally are more heinous than unintentional sins as they demonstrate conscientious and continued rebellion against God. *(Hebrews 10:26, 1 John 3:6)*

Reflection: Why do we tend to think some types of sin are more heinous than others?

32. What does every sin deserve?

Every sin is a usurpation of our infinite God's authority and undermines His Lordship in our lives and thus deserves infinite wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.

(Ephesians 5:6; Galatians 3:10; Matthew 25:41)

Reflection: In what way is all sin an affront to God?

33. What does God require, that we may escape His wrath and curse due to sin?

God requires of us confession and repentance of known sins and a trust in His plan to redeem us through the work of His Son Jesus Christ. This is authenticated by an outwardly changed life that produces fruit in service to God as ambassadors of Christ.

(James 5:16; Acts 2:38; John 3:16; Galatians 5:17; James 5:22-25; Galatians 5:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

Reflection: Why is some level of obedience not a requirement to escape God's wrath?

CHRISTOLOGY

34. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was and continues to be both God and man, in two distinct natures and one person, forever.

(1 Timothy 2:5-6; Acts 4:12; John 1:1, 14; Galatians 4:4-5; Colossians 2:9)

Reflection: Given the incarnation, how could there possibly be an alternate means to be reconciled to God?

35. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to Himself a true body and a reasoning soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary such that He was born of her and yet without sin.

(Hebrews 2:14; Matthew 26:38; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; Luke 2:7; Hebrews 4:15)

Reflection: What does it say about God that He would reveal Himself to us as a man?

36. Why was it necessary that the Redeemer be fully man?

That in human nature He might, on our behalf, perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and that He might sympathize with our weaknesses.

(Hebrews 2:17)

Reflection: Jesus possesses a human nature but not a sinful nature. What aspects of our lives are a result of our human nature and what are from our sinful nature?

37. Why was it necessary that the Redeemer be fully God?

No other besides God with His divine nature could endure the infinite penalty due to the sin of humanity, live a life of perfect obedience, and raise Himself from the grave, then willingly apply the results to both Himself and the redeemed *(Acts 2:24; Romans 5:19; Hebrews 5:8-9)*

Reflection: Jesus' life was a model for our behavior, but not just a model of behavior. This is the distinguishing difference between Jesus and other religious figures.

38. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Christ executes the offices of prophet, priest, and king, both in His state of humiliation and exaltation.

(Deuteronomy 18:18; Acts 3:22; Hebrews 5:5-6; Psalm 2:6)

Reflection: How does Jesus fulfilling these roles toward us help us see His love for us?

39. How does Christ execute the office of prophet?

Christ executes the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by His Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

(John 1:18; John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 2:13–14)

Reflection: Since Jesus speaks the words of God; how then does that affect the way I understand and respond to them?

40. How does Christ execute the office of priest?

Christ executes the office of a priest, in His once offering up of Himself as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, to reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

(Hebrews 9:28; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Hebrews 7:25)

Reflection: What does it look like for us to go to Jesus to intercede for us?

41. How does Christ execute the office of king?

Christ executes the office of king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His, and our, enemies.

(Acts 15:14–16; Isaiah 33:22; 1 Corinthians 15:25, 1 Peter 1:17–21)

Reflection: How does it provide you comfort that Jesus is able to fight on your behalf? Do we trust Him to do this?

42. What was the manner of Christ's humiliation?

It consisted in His departure from heaven and emptying of himself, being born in a low condition, under the law, enduring the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, death on a cross; buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

(Philippians 2:7; Luke 2:7; Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:46; Philippians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Acts 2:24–27)

Reflection: What aspect of Christ's humiliation seems to be the most profound to you and why?

43. What is the manner of Christ's exaltation?

Christ's exaltation consists in His rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day and reigning forever and ever.

(1 Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:19; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:31)

Reflection: Is there any way in which Christ could be more highly exalted? Do we exalt Him in equal manner in our lives? Could we?

44. What else did Jesus Christ redeem?

Jesus began the work of redemption and renewal that will ultimately and finally redeem all of creation in a new heaven and a new earth.

(Isaiah 11:6-9; Colossians 1:19-20; Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:3-5)

Reflection: The rest of creation seems to be innocent bystanders in the fall of humanity, why does God show concern even for the heavens and the earth?

SALVATION

45. How are we redeemed by Christ?

We were purchased by the blood of Christ which has been effectively applied to us by His Holy Spirit.

(Titus 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:11)

Reflection: What is the significance of blood being spilled in order to redeem us?

46. How does the Spirit apply this redemption to us?

The Holy Spirit works faith in us, which unites us to Christ through an effectual calling.

(Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:9)

Reflection: Why is it important that our faith does not rest upon our own effort or work?

47. What is effectual calling?

Effectual calling is the work of the Holy Spirit where He convinces us of our sin, enlightens our minds to the knowledge of Christ, renews our wills, and persuades and enables us to receive the free gift offered to us by Jesus Christ.

(2 Thessalonians 2:14; Acts 2:37; Acts 26:18; Ezekiel 36:26; John 6:44–45)

Reflection: When God calls us, He begins first by helping us see how lost we are. In what ways has God helped you become aware of your own depravity?

48. What benefits do those who are effectually called receive?

Those whom God has effectually called receive justification, adoption, sanctification, and the various benefits which accompany these in this life.

(Romans 5:1; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 1:3)

Reflection: What does it say concerning God that He not only saves us, but blesses us besides that?

49. What is justification?

Justification is an act of God's free grace, by which the just wrath of God toward us was laid on Christ cancelling our past and future record of debt. God simultaneously applied Christ's righteousness to us, thereby fully reconciling us to Himself.

(Romans 3:24; Romans 3:23-26; 1 John 4:10; Colossians 2:13-14; Philippians 3:9; Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:19)

Reflection: This is often referred to as the great exchange. Why does this make any other roads to salvation impossible?

50. What is adoption?

Adoption is an act of God's free grace after having been justified, we are received by God as His reconciled children.

(1 John 3:1; Luke 10:20; Romans 8:17)

Reflection: How does the imagery of adoption provide a better reflection of God's love than love toward natural children?

51. What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the ongoing work of God's free grace, whereby we are being made into the likeness of Christ through the continual conviction of sin and by the increased bearing of spiritual fruit. Enabling us to increasingly die to our sin and live to righteousness to bring glory to God. *(2 Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Galatians 5:22-24; Romans 6:4, 6, 14)*

Reflection: This is one of the most obvious ways in which we can discern our salvation. How have you seen God's work in your life through the Holy Spirit?

52. What are the benefits that accompany our justification, adoption, and sanctification?

The benefits which in this life accompany our justification, adoption, and sanctification are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, contentment in Christ, increase of grace, and perseverance to the end. *(Romans 5:5; Romans 5:1; Romans 14:17; Proverbs 4:18; 1 Peter 1:5; Philippians 4:12-13)*

Reflection: These benefits that flow from the previous three are what the world seeks after. Why can God alone provide peace, joy, and contentment?

53. What are *not* benefits of justification, adoption, and sanctification?

God does not promise avoidance of temptation, comfort, convenience, material blessing, health, or long life. *(Mark 10:21-22; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)*

Reflection: This is the prosperity gospel which is a fake gospel that often deceives the church. In what ways is the true Gospel better than the prosperity Gospel...even now?

54. Does God remove any of these benefits once applied to a believer?

God does not remove justification, adoption, sanctification, or the benefits thereof once applied lest He be given to error or changed His mind, neither of which are possible.

(Deuteronomy 32:4; Matthew 5:48; Malachi 3:6)

Reflection: God's omniscience gives Him the ability to know all things, to include the full measure of our lives. In what way does this provide us with immeasurable comfort?

55. What are the consequences for those who are not redeemed?

Those who have not received justification, adoption, and sanctification remain in their sin and deficiency of righteousness and will face the just judgment for their rebellion against an infinite God. They will be separated from God and suffer eternally in hell being continually destroyed.

(John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

Reflection: We often fall into the trap of thinking our efforts garner us favor from God. Why is it an essential truth of the Gospel that our defense is in Christ alone?

56. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and immediately pass into glory, the presence of Christ, while their bodies remain in their graves until they are resurrected.

(Hebrews 12:23; 2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:53)

Reflection: Are you torn between being with Christ eternally and remaining here?

57. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their resurrection?

At the resurrection, the bodies of believers will be glorified, they will be acquitted in the day of judgment and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God for all eternity. *(1 Corinthians 15:43; Matthew 25:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:17)*

Reflection: What does it mean that our bodies will be resurrected and glorified? In what ways do we often minimize the body and think more highly of the spiritual when God created and planned for us to be body and soul eternally?

58. What is the danger in relying on our own merit and works for salvation?

To rely upon our own merit or work is to deny the necessity of God's justification, adoption, and sanctification, thus showing contempt for the only means by which God has given man to be saved. *(John 14:6; Ephesians 2:4-9)*

Reflection: Salvation by works can subtly steal away our assurance of salvation and transfer our trust from Christ to ourselves. In what ways has this impacted your faith?

59. What is repentance unto life?

Repentance unto life is a gift of God, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of their sin and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, turns from their sin with grief and hatred toward it and turns toward God with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience. *(Acts 11:18; Luke 15:7; Joel 2:13)*

Reflection: Are you grieved over your sin? What prevents us from actually hating our own sin?

60. What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

The Gospel is the good news that God has redeemed us by His grace alone through faith and trust in the free gift of His Son Jesus Christ who conquered Satan, sin, and death on our behalf.

(Ephesians 2:8-9; Colossians 2:15; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

Reflection: When we proclaim the Gospel it should sound like good news; however, it begins with bad news. Why is the bad news of our rebellion an essential part of the Gospel?

CHRISTIAN LIFE

61. How does God remind us daily of the benefits of our redemption?

God reminds us of the benefits of our redemption through His indwelling Holy Spirit, His Word, the sacraments, and prayer.

(Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42, 46-47; Romans 8:16-17)

Reflection: Do we read God's Word, pray, and participate in the sacraments out of obligation or because they remind us of our redemption? In what ways can we ensure we are pursuing them for the right purpose?

62. How is the Word effective for salvation?

The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners.

(Nehemiah 8:8; Acts 26:18; Romans 10:17)

Reflection: God's Word does not simply consist of words; rather, it is powerful and effective. Do you treat God's word in this way?

63. How is the Word effective for sanctification?

We must attend to it with diligence, preparation, and prayer; receive it with faith and love; meditate on it in our hearts; and practice it in our lives.

(Psalm 119:11; 18; James 1:22; Hebrews 4:2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Reflection: Do you simply read God's Word or do you pursue the Word as described above? Why is it difficult at times? How have you done this effectively?

64. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, in which, by common acts, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.

(Romans 4:11; 1 Corinthians 11:26)

Reflection: Why is it a gracious thing that God has determined to provide sacraments to us?

65. What are the sacraments of the New Testament?

The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

(Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Reflection: These sacraments are the only ones mentioned in scripture; however, tradition has included other sacraments. What is the danger of including more sacraments that are prescribed in God's Word?

66. How are the sacraments effective for salvation?

The sacraments become effective for salvation not from any virtue in them or in the one who administers them, but only due to the blessing of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit in those who receive them in faith.

(1 Corinthians 3:6-7; 1 Peter 3:21)

Reflection: God gives us the sacraments as a means of grace to help us in our salvation. Why do we tend to think they are optional to our faith?

67. What is Baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament, in which the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, signifies our being united to Christ in His burial and His resurrection.

(Romans 6:4; Titus 3:5)

Reflection: Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change of disposition from an old life to a new life. In what ways have you seen this change in your own life? Have you been baptized?

68. Who is to be Baptized?

Baptism is to be administered to any that profess their faith in Christ and desire to obey Him.

(Acts 2:38-39)

Reflection: How have you seen your desire to obey Christ grow in your walk?

69. What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament that remembers the work of Jesus Christ and His death by partaking of His body and blood in a worthy manner thus receiving spiritual nourishment.

(1 Corinthians 10:16; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26)

Reflection: Why would Jesus institute this sacrament? What does this say about the centrality of His sacrifice?

70. What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

It is required of those who would worthily receive the Lord's Supper that they examine themselves and discern the body of the church; lest they come to partake without repentance or faith and eat and drink judgment on themselves.

(1 Corinthians 11:27–30)

Reflection: Do you celebrate the Lord's Supper in this manner? It is easy for this sacrament to become ritual, how do we keep it from becoming this?

71. What is prayer?

God gives us prayer to communicate directly with Him, through Christ, by the help of the Holy Spirit, with confession of our sins, thankful acknowledgement of His mercies, and to make requests we believe are agreeable to His will.

(Philippians 4:6; 1 John 5:14; John 16:23–24)

Reflection: It is important to include all of these aspects in prayer. Which aspects of prayer do we sometimes forget to include?

72. In what manner is prayer effective?

God answers all prayers offered up in agreement with His will. For those requests contrary to His will, He graciously reminds us that our desires are imperfect and effectively aligns our desires and will with His.

(1 John 5:14-15; James 5:16-17)

Reflection: We should not relegate our prayers to simply “God’s will for this or that” but that we seek to discern God’s will in our prayer time? How can we do this more consistently?

73. For what purpose is the gathering of the redeemed?

The gathering of the redeemed is a weekly occurrence by which believers gather to worship God together under Biblical leadership, in song, to proclaim the Gospel from God’s Word, remember Christ through the Lord’s Supper, and to fellowship with one another by the sharing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 2:42; Romans 12:4-8; Hebrews 3:12-14; Hebrews 10:25)

Reflection: Why is it important that God instituted Pastors to care for His church?

74. Why is the gathering of the redeemed essential for faith?

The frequent gathering of believers in corporate worship stirs up one another to love and good works and encourages us, in the midst of the tribulations of this life, by reminding us of the Gospel and equipping us to serve God in ministry.

(Hebrews 10:24-25; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

Reflection: Why do we sometimes think that the gathering of believers is not essential? What does this say of our understanding of God’s purpose with the church?

75. In what ways does humanity encounter temptation?

Humanity is tempted when lured and enticed to satisfy natural desires in ways contrary to that which God has intended and provided.

(Philippians 4:11-13; James 1:14)

Reflection: While temptation itself is not sin, how does Satan often use temptation to create guilt?

76. What power do the redeemed have over temptation?

God has given His redeemed the Holy Spirit who changes their desires to be increasingly in agreement with Him and by giving discernment to understand the inadequacy of the temptation.

(Galatians 5:16-17)

Reflection: How can we practice thinking about our desires differently such that they can only be fulfilled in Christ?

77. Who is Satan?

Satan is a created angel who first rebelled against God and who, since the fall of man, has been actively tempting and deceiving humanity while accusing them of their failures.

(Genesis 3:1-10; Revelation 12:10; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:3)

Reflection: In what ways have you experienced the accusations of Satan? How do you fight against him and his schemes?

78. In what ways may the redeemed discern the will of God for their lives?

The Holy Spirit changes the hearts of the redeemed thereby renewing their minds such that they might discern the will of God. Yet when in error, God conforms every decision made in faith for the good of those who love him.

(Romans 8:28; Romans 11:36; Romans 12:2; Romans 14:23)

Reflection: Why does this give us peace in the various decisions of our lives? How then can we make a 'wrong' decision?

79. How should the redeemed engage with authorities over them?

God has given all authority by His will and good pleasure and commands us to obey the authorities inasmuch as they do not cause us to sin.

(Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1; Acts 5:29)

Reflection: Why does God want our default relationship to authority to be obedience? How does this bring glory to God?

80. How should the redeemed engage with the world around them?

The redeemed must remain holy (separate) from the world yet remain in the world and amongst the lost as ambassadors of Christ entrusted with His message of reconciliation.

(John 17:14-18; 1 John 5:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Reflection: How have you found success in remaining above reproach and separate from the world while also witnessing to those who do not know Christ?

FINAL THINGS

81. What is our future hope in Christ?

Our future hope rests in the soon return of Christ when He will come in power and glory to gather all believers to Himself.

(2 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)

Reflection: Do you dwell on the return of Christ? Is this your highest hope and your greatest longing? What do you long for more than the return of Christ?

82. What is our final hope of eternity?

Our final hope is to dwell in the presence of God eternally in a new heaven and a new earth with perfected bodies without sin, sorrow, or death.

(Revelation 21:1-4; 2 Peter 3:13; 1 Corinthians 15:53)

Reflection: Reflect on the love God has for us that He would go to such lengths to allow us to dwell with Him for all eternity.