

Simple Catechism for Believers

*A 3 month study for applying theology
in your devotional life*



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Published by Baptist Theological School,
Novi Sad, Serbia

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Dedicated to the students who hunger and thirst after
the things of God.
2017

Adapted from:

The Westminster Larger Catechism, General
Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1648.
Catechism for Young Children, An Introduction to
the Shorter Catechism, Joseph Engels, 1840.
London Baptist Confession of Faith, London 1689

All Scripture cited from The Holy Bible: English
Standard Version

Preface

This project began with a desire to see young people firmly grounded in the basic truths of the Bible. When I was younger, I attended a church where the whole congregation memorized the questions and answers together. It was a challenge as a child to learn the adult catechism, but I grew more excited with the prospect of knowing such “grown up” theology and answering along with the adults. Those biblical answers I learned back then have helped in so many ways over the years. It has allowed me to grow in my personal faith and articulate truths to others.

This catechism introduces some of the most important, fundamental doctrines of the Scriptures. The format of the catechism is twelve topics consisting of seven questions, one for each day of the week. It can be used by churches or small group Bible studies to have a three month study on basic doctrines (a week of personal study at home with a concluding sermon/discussion on the topic). While I am hopeful that this booklet will encourage churches or small group Bible studies, my desire is that this will deepen personal devotions. The format is purposefully written to allow a thoughtful self examination. The questions are directed to you and the answers are personalized, so that it becomes true to your heart.

Special thanks to:

Dwayne Baldwin, Academic Dean at the Baptist Theological School, Novi Sad, Serbia and more importantly, a loving and supportive husband, who encouraged me to begin and finish this project, as well as offering suggestions and edits.

Judy Withrow, my mother, who put in many hours, days and years teaching me and helping me memorize Scripture. I am thankful for her testimony and desire to “hide God’s Word in our hearts.”

Jon Hueni, my pastor (Grace Fellowship Church, Bremen, IN) while growing up, whose sermons and definitions on heaven and hell are still firmly implanted in my mind and heart.

Mark Redfern, pastor (Heritage Baptist Church) and professor (Baptist Theological School, Serbia) for proof reading.

Wayne Grudem, author of *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrines*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994).

And Matt Slick, whose website, Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry (carm.org) is a fantastic resource.

For Christ and His kingdom,
Kimberly Baldwin

The Purpose of Creation:

Q1. Who made you and all things?

God made me and created all things,
and all His creation was very good.

Psalm 100:3; Genesis 1:27;

Hebrews 11:3.

Q2. How did God create all things?

God created all things by the word of
His mouth, in six days, and He rested
on the seventh day.

Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16; John 1:3;

Genesis 2:1-2; Exodus 20:11.

Q3. How did God create people?

God created Adam from the dust of the
ground and He formed Eve from the
side of Adam. God created both male
and female in his own image to rule
the earth together.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, 21-23;

Psalm 103:14; 1 Corinthians 15:47;

Matthew 19:4.

Q4. Why did God create everything including you?

God's purpose for me and all things is to know and glorify Him forever.

Acts 17:26-27; Revelation 4:11;

Psalm 19:1; Isaiah 43:7.

Q5. How can you glorify God?

I can glorify God by seeking Him, loving Him and obeying His commands.

John 6:29; Psalm 63:1-4; 1 John 5:2;

Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12.

Q6. Why must you to glorify God?

I must glorify God because He made me and takes care of me.

Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 12:7;

Psalm 23; 103:13.

Q7. How can you know that God created all things?

I know that God created all things through the testimony of nature and the Word of God.

Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20;

Psalm 33:4; Proverbs 30:5.

About God:

Q1. What is God?

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. He is all wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

John 4:24; Psalm 139:7-10;

Deuteronomy 33:27; Malachi 3:6;

Exodus 3:14; Romans 11:33-34;

Isaiah 6:3; Genesis 18:25;

Psalm 107:8; Deuteronomy 32:4.

Q2. Are there more gods than one?

There is only one true and living God who exists in a Trinity.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Ephesians 4:5-6

Q3. What is the Trinity?

The Trinity means one God existing in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, which are the same in substance and equal in power and glory.

Matthew 28:19; I Corinthian 12:4-6; 2
Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1-2;
Romans 14:17-18; Isaiah 44:6.

Q4. Can you see God?

I cannot see God, but He always sees
me.

Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 15:3.

Q5. Where is God?

God is omnipresent, meaning that He
is everywhere.

Psalms 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:24;
Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 18:20.

Q6. Does God know all things?

God is omniscient, meaning that He
knows all things. Nothing can be hid
from God.

Psalms 139; Acts 15:18; Hebrews 4:13;
Isaiah 42:9; Jeremiah 1:5; Romans
11:33-36.

Q7. Can God do all things?

God is omnipotent, meaning He can do all things which are according to His holy will.

Psalm 147:5; Job 42:2; Matthew 19:26; Ephesians 1:11; Philippians 2:13.

The Bible:

Q1. What is the Word of God?

The Bible is the Word of God, consisting of the Old and New Testaments. It is inerrant, authoritative, sufficient, and complete. Galatians 1:8-9; II Timothy 3:16; John 17:17

Q2. Why is the Bible inerrant?

The Bible contains only truth because God cannot lie. 2 Peter 1:21; John 14:24-26; Psalm 18:30; 33:4; Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Numbers 23:19; Hebrews 6:18.

Q3. Why is the Bible authoritative?

God is my Creator and rightful ruler. The Bible is His standard for my earthly and eternal life. Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 45:9; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 4:4; 5:17-19; Deuteronomy 11:1; Isaiah 46:10; Psalm 146:10; 1 Timothy 6:12-16; Revelation 11:15.

Q4. Why is the Bible sufficient?

The Bible contains all the information I need for my knowledge of God and my obedience to Him.

2 Timothy 3:17; Joshua 1:7-8;

Psalm 19:7; 119:9; Hebrews 4:12.

Q5. How is the Bible complete?

The Bible contains God's final revelation, and His Word will last forever.

Deuteronomy 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6;

Revelation 22:18-19; Galatians 1:6-9;

Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8;

Matthew 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25.

Q6. Who wrote the Bible?

The Bible was written by men, whom God had chosen, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16;

Jeremiah 1:9; John 16:13; Acts 1:16.

Q7. How does the Bible basically apply to you?

The Bible basically teaches me what to believe about God and what God requires of me.

Hebrews 11:1; 1 Peter 1:25-2:3;

Proverbs 2:6; John 8:31-32; 14:23;

Deuteronomy 5:33; James 1:22.

About sin and death:

Q1. What is sin?

Sin is any thought, word or deed that breaks God's law by omission or commission.

James 4:17; 1 John 3:4

Q2. What is a sin of omission?

The sin of omission is not being or doing what God requires.

James 4:17; Matthew 25:45; Luke 12:47; Matthew 5:21-24.

Q3. What is a sin of commission?

The sin of commission is doing what God forbids.

1 John 3:4; James 1:14-15;
Romans 3:10-18.

Q4. What does every sin deserve?

The penalty for sin is death, the wrath, and curse of God.

John 3:36; Romans 6:23;
Galatians 3:10; Isaiah 59:2.

Q5. What happens to you when you die?

When I die, I will live eternally in either heaven or hell.

Matthew 25:46; Hebrew 9:27;

John 3:16-19; Matthew 10:28.

Q6. What is heaven?

Heaven is a definite place and a conscious state where the bodies and souls of forgiven sinners will be forever with God in complete joy.

John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17;

Philippians 3:19-20; Psalm 16:11;

Revelation 21:1-4; 18-25; Isaiah 51:11.

Q7. What is hell?

Hell is a definite place and a conscious state where the bodies and souls of unrepentant sinners will be forever apart from God in dreadful and endless torment.

Matthew 3:12; 10:28; 13:49-50; Mark

9:47-48; Luke 16:23; 2 Peter 2:4;

2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 21:8.

About the law:

Q1. What does God require of me?

I must love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength and love my neighbor as myself.

Matthew 22:36-40; John 13:34;
Deuteronomy 6:5; Galatians 5:14.

Q2. What is the law of God?

The law of God is His revelation requiring my righteous thoughts and behaviors.

Romans 7:12; Micah 6:8; Proverbs 3:6;
Romans 12:1; Deuteronomy 11:26-28;
James 1:22-25.

Q3. What is the purpose of the law?

The purpose of the law is to make clear God's holy nature, my sinful nature, and my need of a Savior.

Romans 3:19-20; 7:12-13; Psalm 90:8;
69:5; John 3:20; James 2:10.

Q4. Who is the law for?

The law is for everyone, whether they are a Christian or not.

Romans 3:19-20; Deuteronomy 6:6-7;
Ephesians 6:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Q5. Can you obey the law?

No. The law demands perfect and complete obedience in thought, word, and deed.

1 Peter 1:15-16; Psalm 15;
Matthew 5:48; Deuteronomy 11:1;
Romans 3:23.

Q6. Why can you not obey perfectly and completely?

I cannot perfectly obey because I am a sinner and a descendant of Adam, meaning I was born with a corrupt nature and unable to keep God's law.

Romans 3:23; Psalm 14:3; Isaiah 64:6;
Romans 3:10-11; 5:12-20; 7:14.

Q7. How does the law give us hope?

The law points me to Christ by demonstrating my need for a perfect Redeemer.

Romans 5:8; Isaiah 1:18;

Romans 4:6-8; Hebrews 7:19;

Galatians 3:24; Psalm 119:97.

About Redemption:

Q1. Will God allow our sin and idolatry to go unpunished?

No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God and will be punished in this life, and in the life to come.

Proverbs 11:21; Romans 1:18; 6:23;
Isaiah 13:11; Ephesians 5:6;
Revelation 21:8.

Q2. Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

God, out of his love and mercy, from all eternity, provided a way of salvation through a Redeemer.

Ephesians 1:4; 2:8-9; Romans 3:20-25;
2 Corinthians 5:21; Psalm 111:9.

Q3. Who is the Redeemer?

The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and paid the penalty of our sin.

I Timothy 2:5-6; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4-5; Luke 1:35; John 3:16-18; 14:6.

Q4. What sort of Redeemer is required?

A Redeemer needs to be one who is truly human and also truly God.

Hebrews 1:3; 2:14-17; John 1:14; Philippians 2:8.

Q5. Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

The Redeemer must be human to perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.

Galatians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 8:3-4.

Q6. Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

The Redeemer must be divine for his obedience and suffering to be effective and eternal; and also that he would be able to bear the righteous anger of God against sin.

Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 7:23-25;
9:12; Isaiah 47:4.

Q7. How could Jesus be the Redeemer?

Jesus, as a human, lived a sinless life and fulfilled the requirements of the law. Jesus, as God, bore the punishment for the sins of his people.

Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:19;
II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15;
I Peter 2:22; John 3:5;
Hebrews 10:12-14.

The Life of Christ:

Q1. How do we know that Jesus truly came to earth?

We know that Jesus truly lived based on God's fulfilled prophecies and recorded testimonies in the Bible.
Romans 1:2-4; Genesis 3:15 (Galatians 4:4); Isaiah 53:12 (Matthew 27:35-38); Psalm 16:10 (Matthew 28:2-7); Acts 2:36; Matthew 14:33; 27:54; John 20:28-29.

Q2. How did Jesus come to earth?

Jesus was born of a young Hebrew virgin named Mary, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-35.

Q3. What kind of life did Jesus live on earth?

Jesus lived a life of perfect submission to God and love for His people, yet filled with poverty and suffering.

Matthew 5:17; Luke 2:51-52; John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-22; Luke 2:24 (Leviticus 5:7); Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 8:20; 16:21; John 15:18-20.

Q4. What kind of death did Jesus die?

The painful and shameful death of the cross.

Matthew 27:24-56; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19; Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 12:2.

Q5. What was the purpose of Jesus' life and death?

Jesus lived and died to save those the Father had given to Him.

John 6:37; 10:26-29; 17:9-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

Q6. Did Jesus remain in the tomb after His crucifixion?

No; Jesus rose from the tomb on the third day after His death, proving that the curse has been conquered.

Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 28:1-10;

Mark 8:31; 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 55-57.

Q7. Where is Jesus now?

Jesus is sitting at the Father's right hand in heaven, interceding for sinners, and waiting for the final day when He will return in glory.

Acts 2:33-35; Matthew 26:64;

Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-16;

Luke 21:25-28; Revelation 1:7;

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Offices of Jesus:

Q1. What roles does Jesus perform for you?

Jesus has three offices - prophet, priest, and king.

Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:15;

John 18:37; Revelation 19:16.

Q2. How is Jesus a prophet?

Jesus is a prophet because He teaches me the will of God and reveals how we have failed to keep God's will.

Deuteronomy 18:15; Matthew 13:57;

Luke 13:33; Matthew 11:27;

John 8:28; 12:49.

Q3. How is Jesus a priest?

Jesus is a priest because He gave His own life as a sacrifice for my sins and intercedes with God for me.

Hebrews 9:11-28; 10:1-12;

Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 4:14-16;

1 Timothy 2:5; John 17:20-23;

Romans 8:34.

Q4. How is Jesus a king?

Jesus is a king because He benevolently rules over me and sovereignly defends me.

Isaiah 33:22; I Corinthians 15:25;
Psalm 18:2; Matthew 27:11;
Revelation 19:11-14.

Q5. Why do you need Jesus as a prophet?

Because I am spiritually blind, I need Jesus as a prophet to reveal God and guide me the truth.

Luke 24:27; John 1:14, 17-18;
Matthew 9:36; Psalm 23.

Q6. Why do you need Jesus as a priest?

Because I am guilty, I need Jesus as a priest to intercede between God and me.

Romans 3:23; James 2:10;
1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 8:34.

Q7. Why do you need Jesus as a king?

Because I am weak and helpless, I need Jesus as a king so I can submit to and serve a good master.

Exodus 14:14; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10,

1 John 5:18; John 8:34;

Romans 6:17-19; Matthew 6:22-24;

Luke 16:13; 1 John 2:15-16;

Galatians 5:1.

Means of Salvation:

Q1. Can you go to heaven with your sinful nature?

No; my sinful nature must be changed before I can enter Heaven.

1 Corinthians 6:9; Revelation 21:27;
John 3:3.

Q2. Can you be saved through good works?

No one can be saved through good works. If I rely on my goodness to save me, then I ignore the seriousness of my sin, exaggerate my goodness, or deny the importance of Jesus' sacrifice.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:6-8;
Titus 3:5; Isaiah 64:6;
Romans 3:10-12, 23; Psalm 14:1-3;
2 Timothy 1:8-10; Titus 1:16.

Q3. What is meant by the atonement?

God is perfectly holy and just and cannot let sin go unpunished. The atonement means that Jesus satisfied divine justice, by His sufferings and death, in the place of sinners like me. Isaiah 6:3; Deuteronomy 32:4; Romans 5:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 3:18; Revelation 5:9.

Q4. How can you be saved?

The Bible says that I can only be saved through the repentance and forgiveness of sin and by complete trust and belief in Jesus' atonement. Psalm 51:4; Luke 5:32; 13:3; Mark 1:15; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 16:31; 20:21; Romans 10:10; 1 Peter 1:8-9.

Q5. What does it mean to repent and be forgiven?

To repent, I must be sorry for my sin, hate it and renounce it, because it is offensive to God. To be forgiven, God accepts our repentance and remembers our sins no more.

Acts 3:19; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 31:19;
Isaiah 55:6-7; Matthew 3:8;
Revelation 2:15-16; Proverbs 6:16-19;
Psalm 11:5; Colossians 2:14;
1 John 1:9; Hebrews 8:12.

Q6. What is it mean to believe or have saving faith in Jesus?

To believe, I must know the powerful work of Christ, assent that it is true, and trust in this atonement as my only hope for salvation.

John 3:16; 10:9; 1 Peter 2:24-25;
Romans 10:14; 16:25-27;
1 Corinthians 1:18; Hebrews 12:2;
John 4:42; 14:6.

Q7. Can you repent and believe in Jesus by yourself?

No; I can do nothing good without the help of God's grace, through the regeneration of the Holy Spirit.

John 3:27; 15:5; Acts 11:18;

2 Timothy 2:25; Acts 5:31;

Romans 2:4; Acts 16:14;

1 Corinthians 12:3; John 6:44, 65.

Effects of Salvation:

Q1. What is regeneration?

Regeneration is an act of God where my heart is spiritually changed and I am given a new life.

Ezekiel 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; John 3:3-8; 1 John 3:24; 4:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Q2. What must you do to be regenerated?

I cannot spiritually change on my own, so I must pray for the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in my life.

Matthew 19:25-26; Ephesians 2:8; Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 11:13.

Q3. What happens when you are regenerated?

Through regeneration, my eyes and heart are opened to trust in the gospel. I then can repent and be saved which leads to my justification.

John 3:3; 9:39; Jeremiah 32:40; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:18.

Q4. What is justification?

Justification is where God forgives a sinner like me, treating me as if I had never sinned, and declares me righteousness through the blood Jesus shed.

Romans 3:24-26; 4:25; 5:1, 9;
2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24;
Colossians 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-7.

Q5. Are you made sinless after salvation?

No; though my sins are not counted against me, I still continue to sin. However, I am saved from the penalty and power of sin and am sanctified.
1 John 1:8-10; Romans 3:10; 7:14-25;
Hebrews 12:6; Romans 5:8-9; 6:6;
8:37-39.

Q6. What is sanctification?

Sanctification is an on-going process where the Holy Spirit makes a sinner like me more holy in my heart and actions.

2 Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 1:3-4;
2:10; 1 Corinthians 6:11;
1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 5:23;
2 Corinthians 5:17.

Q7. How will your salvation be evident in your life?

Inwardly, I will love God and hate sin more as the Holy Spirit lives in me.
Outwardly, I will joyfully serve and obey God and fight my sinful desires.
John 16:7-14; Romans 5:5; 8:26;
1 Samuel 12:24; Colossians 3:23-24;
Psalm 100:2; Romans 7:22-25;
Galatians 5:16-17.

About Ordinances:

Q1. What is an ordinance?

An ordinance is a practice observed by believers in the church and designed to remember the Savior and salvation.

There are two ordinances that Jesus commanded - Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38;

Galatians 3:26-27; Mark 14:22-24;

1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

Q2. What is baptism and what does it symbolize?

Baptism is the outward testimony of the change in a believer's life. Baptism does not cleanse us from sin, rather it symbolizes the believer has died to sin and is granted a new life through Jesus.

Romans 6:3-7; John 1:29-31;

Ephesians 5:26; I Corinthians 6:11;

Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 2:24.

Q3. Who are to be baptized?

All believers are to be baptized to identify with Jesus and obey the Scriptures.

Acts 2:41; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:12, 36, 38; 18:8; Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 22:16.

Q4. How are believers to be baptized?

Baptism is by water immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:6,16; Mark 1:10; Colossians 2:12; Matthew 28:19-20.

Q5. What is the Lord's Supper?

Jesus ordained the gathering together of genuine believers to eat bread and drink wine in remembrance of His sufferings and death. The church is to continue to celebrate this memorial until Christ returns.

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:32-35; 50-58;

1 Corinthians 11:26.

Q6. What does the bread and wine represent?

The bread represents the body of Christ which was broken for my sins. The wine represents the blood of Christ which was shed for my salvation. They are only symbols, not the actual body and blood of Christ. Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; John 6:54-56; 1 Corinthians 11:24-26.

Q7. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a public act of worship in the church. However, only genuine believers should participate. As this ordinance signifies unity with Christ, unbelievers should not participate.

I Corinthians 11:26-34.

About the Church:

Q1. What is the Church?

The visible church (as humans see it) is the physical, local gathering of professing believers to worship God and celebrate the ordinances. The invisible church (as God sees it) consists of all true believers from every nation.

Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 27;
Ephesians 2:19-22; 2 Timothy 2:19;
Ephesians 5:25-27, 32;
Revelation 19:7-8.

Q2. What are your duties as a church member?

As a church member, my duties include attending all the services faithfully, participating in the ordinances, humbly serving the church body, living together in unity,

protecting the reputation of the church and its members, honoring the Elders while submitting to their authority, and praying for the church.

Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42;

1 Corinthians 11:17-26; Romans

12:4-8; Galatians 5:13; Titus 3:2;

Romans 16:17; 1 Peter 5:5, Hebrews

13:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13;

Ephesians 6:18.

Q3. What are your Christian duties to unbelievers?

Towards unbelievers, I must live as an example of God's grace, love my enemies, pray for them, and proclaim Jesus as the only hope of salvation.

Matthew 5:13-16; 43-48; 1 John 4:7;

1 Timothy 2:1-4; Matthew 28:19-20.

Q4. What are your Christian duties to fellow believers?

Towards believers, I must love them, pray for them, inspire them toward godliness, hold them accountable for sin, refrain from any slander, and consider them better than myself by putting their needs above my own.

2 Thessalonians 1:3; Ephesians 6:18;
Hebrews 10:24; Ephesians 4:12;
1 Timothy 5:20; James 4:11;
Philippians 2:3; Galatians 6:9-10.

Q5. What is accountability?

Accountability is a mutual relationship of willful submission which holds each other responsible to grow in grace, defeat sin, give encouragement, and walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. Accountability always speaks the truth in love.

Colossians 1:10-12; Galatians 6:1-5;
Luke 17:3; Matthew 18:15-17;
1 Corinthians 5:6-7; Proverbs 27:17;
1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4:15.

Q6. How do you grow in grace?

I can grow in grace by applying spiritual disciplines such as studying the Bible, praying, fasting, confessing and renouncing sin, practicing love and humility, attending church, and daily reflecting on my personal need of Christ.

2 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 2:2-3; Colossians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; Colossians 4:2; Matthew 6:16-18; Proverbs 28:13; Philippians 2:3; Hebrews 10:25; Philippians 4:8; Psalm 1:2.

Q7. Why do you pursue holiness in the Christian life?

I must pursue holiness because it is the proof of the reality of my salvation and my love for God.

1 Peter 1: 14-16; Hebrews 12:14; James 2:14-26; Ephesians 2:10; John 14:15, 23-24.