

**NON-SUBSCRIBING  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF IRELAND**



**THE  
CATECHISM**



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# THE CATECHISM

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## INTRODUCTION

THIS Catechism is the work of a Committee of Synod and is designed for use in Sunday Schools. It is divided into five sections. (I) God, His Nature and Attributes; (II) Jesus Christ, His Life and Teaching; (III) The Bible, its Form and Contents; (IV) The Church, its History and Purpose; (V) The Christian Life, its Claims and Responsibilities.

Each Section is carefully graded; the earlier questions being designed for Junior Classes; the later for Senior Classes. The appropriate sections for each grade are intended to cover one year's study. One Sunday in each month should be devoted to revision. This is most important in teaching children and should not be neglected.

The compilers have followed the usual practice of citing proof texts, but recommend that answers without these citations should be accepted in the first instance. When these have been mastered, and then only, should the proof texts be required, and in every case it is imperative that the child should be encouraged to find the text in the Bible. The Catechism is not an alternative to Bible reading, but an aid to it.

The final responsibility for teaching the children rests upon parents, without their help the teacher cannot succeed. In placing this Catechism in the hands of the children and teachers, it is also placed in the hands of parents. The future of our Church depends on how far parents discharge their responsibilities. Proof texts in each case are from the A.V., except where otherwise stated.



## JUNIOR SECTION

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### 1.—GOD.

#### 1. Who are you ?

I am a child of God, as all human beings are.

Gen. 1, 27: God created man in his own image.

Matt. 5, 16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1 Cor. 11, 7: A man . . . is the image and glory of God.

Jas. 3, 9: . . . men, which are made after the likeness of God.

#### 2. Who is God ?

God is the Father of all men, and the Maker of all things.

Gen. 1, 1: In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Neh. 9, 6: Thou, even thou, art God alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all things that are therein, and thou preservest them all; -and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Acts 14, 15: . . . the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that in them is.

Acts 17, 28: . . . in him we live and move and have our being.

#### 3. How do we learn about God ?

We learn about God from the world around us, from the voice of conscience within us, and from the Bible.

Ps. 19, 1: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.

I Tim. 1, 5: But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned.

Rom. 1, 20: The invisible things of him . . . are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made.—R.V.

Ps. 119, 105: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path.

#### 4. Why is God called our Father?

God is called our Father, because he has made us, and loves us, and day by day cares for us.

Ps. 23, 1: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Ps. 113, 5-6: Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven and in the earth!

Matt. 6, 9: After this manner therefore pray ye: our Father which art in heaven,

Eph. 4, 6: One God and Father of all.

I John 4, 8: God is love

#### 5. Why do we say that God is a Spirit?

We say that God is a Spirit because he lives, and knows all things, and works everywhere, although we cannot see him.

John 1, 18: No man hath seen God at any time.

John 4, 24: God is a Spirit.

I Cor. 6, 19: Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.—R.V.

Rom. 8, 16: The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God.—R.V.

#### 6. Why do we say that God is Holy?

We say that God is holy because he himself is perfect in goodness, and loves everything that is right and good.

Lev. 19, 2: Ye shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

Ps. 145, 9: The Lord is good to all.

Is. 57, 15: The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy.

Mic. 6, 8: He hath showed thee, O man, what is good.

Matt. 19, 17: One there is who is good.—R.V.

#### 7. Why are we called children of God?

We are called children of God because we were made by him and are members of his world-wide family.

Ps. 103, 13: Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

Rom. 8, 16: We are the children of God.

Gal. 3, 26: For ye are all the children of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus.

Matt. 5, 45: That ye may be the children of your Father, which is in heaven.

Acts 17, 28: For we are also his offspring.

#### 8. What is our duty towards God?

Our duty towards God is to love him, and do his will, and live as his grateful children.

Lev. 22, 31: Therefore shall ye keep my commandments and do them.

Deut. 6, 5: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Eccl. 12, 13: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Amos 5, 14: Seek good and not evil that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you.

Eph. 6, 7: With good will doing service, as to the Lord and not to men.

## 2.— JESUS CHRIST.

### 9. Who is Jesus Christ ?

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Saviour of mankind.

Matt. 3, 17: This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

Matt. 16, 16: Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

I John 4, 14: And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

### 10. What does the name Jesus Christ mean ?

Jesus is a personal name meaning Saviour: Christ is a title meaning Anointed.

Matt. 1, 21: Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

John 4, 42: And know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

### 11. Where was Jesus born ?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the land of Judea.

Matt. 2, 1: Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea.

### 12. Who was the father of Jesus ?

The father of Jesus was called Joseph.

Luke 2, 48: Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

Luke 2, 33: And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

Luke 2, 16: They found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe.

Matt. 13, 55: Is not this the carpenter's son ?

### 13. Where was Jesus brought up ?

Jesus was brought up in Nazareth of Galilee, and afterwards at Capernaum.

Luke 2, 39: They returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

Luke 4, 16: He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up.

Matt. 4, 13: And leaving Nazareth he came and dwelt at Capernaum.

### 14. What do we know of the Childhood of Jesus ?

As Jesus grew in stature he increased in wisdom and in favour with God and man.

Luke 1, 80: And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit.

Luke 2, 46: They found him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Luke 2, 52: Jesus increased in wisdom and stature.

**15. When did Jesus begin to teach ?**

Jesus began to teach when he was about thirty years of age.

Luke 3, 23: And Jesus himself, when he began to teach, was about thirty years of age.— R.V.

**16. What did Jesus teach ?**

Jesus taught us to love God and our neighbour.

Luke 10, 27: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God . . . and thy neighbour as thyself.

Mark 12, 29-31: And Jesus answered him, The first of all the Commandments is . . . etc.

Matt. 6, 9-13: The Lord's Prayer.

**17. How long did Jesus teach ?**

Jesus taught about two years.

**18. Why is Jesus called the Son of God ?**

Jesus is called the Son of God because he obeyed him in all things and showed the wisdom and love of God.

Mark 1, 11: Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John 1, 34: And I (John) have seen, and have borne witness that this is the son of God.

John 11, 27: Thou art the Christ the son of God.

**19. Why is Jesus called the Son of man ?**

Jesus is the Son of man as shown by his birth, temptations, sorrows, sufferings and death.

Luke 9,58: Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Luke 9, 22: The Son of man must suffer many things.

Heb. 4, 15: . . . but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

**20. How did Jesus reveal God ?**

Jesus Christ reveals God by teaching us the mind of God and showing in his life God's loving kindness towards all men.

John 1, 18: The only begotten Son . . . he hath declared Him.

John 14, 9: He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.

Matt. 18, 14: Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Matt. 7, 11: also see Matt. 6, 30.

**21. What did Jesus teach about man ?**

Jesus taught that man is a child of God.

Luke 1, 1-2: Our Father.

Matt. 23, 9: One is your Father which is in heaven.

John 4, 4: Ye are of God my little children.



#### 22. Why do we need Jesus Christ ?

We need Jesus Christ because through him we learn of God.

John 4, 24: God is a spirit.

John 14, 6: I am the way, the truth and the life.

Mark 12, 27: He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

#### 23. How do we show our faith in Jesus Christ ?

We show our faith in Jesus Christ by living as his disciples.

John 13, 35: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another.

John 13, 15: For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

John 15, 14: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

#### 24. Why did Jesus die on the cross ?

Jesus died on the cross because he so loved God and man that he willingly faced death that through his sacrifice men might learn God's love for his children.

Matt. 20, 28: The son of man came . . . to minister and to give his life a ransom for many.

I Thess. 5, 9: Our Lord Jesus who died for us.

I John 3, 16: Hereby perceive we the love of God because he laid down his life for us.

Mark 14, 36: Nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

#### 25. How does Jesus live in His followers ?

Jesus lives in his followers as an ever-present friend and helper, who inspires them to live as the children of their Heavenly Father.

Matt 28, 20: Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Col. 1, 27: Christ in you, the hope of glory.

John 15, 12: This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 14, 18: I will not leave you comfortless: I will come unto you.

### 3.— THE BIBLE

#### 26. What is the Bible ?

The Bible is the name given to the writings of the Old and New Testaments.

II Cor. 3, 14: In the reading of the old testament.

II Cor. 3, 6: Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament.

II Tim. 3, 15: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures.

#### 27. How many Books are there in the Old Testament ?

There are thirty-nine Books in the Old Testament.

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

**28. How are the Books of the Old Testament divided ?**

They are divided into the Books of the Law, the Prophets, and Other Writings.

Neh. 8, 2: Ezra, the priest, brought the law before the congregation.

Luke 10, 26: What is written in the law ? How readest thou ?

**29. What is meant by the Book of the Law ?**

The Book of the Law consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

II Kings 14, 6: According unto that which is written in the book of the law of Moses.

II Chron. 17, 9: And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with them.

**30. What is meant by the Prophets ?**

The Books in the Old Testament which record the words and works of the prophets. There are sixteen such Books, four called major prophets, and twelve called minor prophets.

The major prophets are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel.

The minor prophets are: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

**31. What are the other writings ?**

All the other Old Testament Books not included in the Law and the Prophets.

II Tim. 3, 16: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

**32. What kind of books are contained in the other writings ?**

They include books of Poetry, Histories and books of Wisdom.

Examples of Books of Poetry are the Psalms, Song of Solomon, and part of the Book of Job. Examples of the Books of History are Kings, Chronicles, and Judges. Examples of Practical Wisdom are Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

**33. How many Books are there in the New Testament ?**

There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament. They are :—

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts, Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude, Revelation.

**34. What kind of Books are there in the New Testament ?**

There are Gospels, History, Letters and The Book of Revelation.

Mark 1, 1: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

II Peter 3, 1: This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you.



Rev. 1, 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him.

**35. What are the Gospels?**

The first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, tell the story of the life, work, teaching and death of Jesus Christ.

**36. Which is the history book in the New Testament?**

The book of the Acts of the Apostles tells of the beginning of the Christian Church after the resurrection of Jesus.

**37. What are the Epistles?**

They are the twenty-one letters written by the Christian leaders to Churches and to persons. They are:—

Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I Peter, II Peter, I John, II John, III John, Jude.

**38. What is the Book of Revelation?**

The Book of Revelation tells of the dreams and visions seen by John, the writer.

**39. Why do we read the Bible?**

We read the Bible because the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain the rule of faith and duty under the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1, 25: The word of the Lord abideth for ever. And this is the word of good tidings, which was preached unto you.—R.V.

Heb. 1, 1: God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets, . . . hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in his Son.—R.V.

## 4.— THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

**40. What is the Christian Religion?**

The Christian Religion is the practice of the faith and worship of the one God, our Father, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 4, 24: God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Hosea 12, 6: Turn thou to thy God; keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

Ps. 130, 5: I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

**41. What is a Christian?**

A Christian is a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Acts 11, 26: And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

John 13, 35: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Luke 14, 27: And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

**42. What is the Christian Life?**

The Christian life is one lived after the example of Jesus Christ.

John 13, 15: I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you.

Gal. 6, 2: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Philippians 2, 5: Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.—R.V.

II Peter 3, 18: Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—R.V.

#### 43. What is worship ?

Worship is reverence, and Christian worship is an act of reverence of God by prayer and praise in public or private.

Ps. 107, 8: Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Ps. 143, 8: Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk, for I lift up my soul unto thee.

John 4, 23: The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers.—R.V.

I John 1, 9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—R.V.

#### 44. What is Prayer ?

Prayer is speaking to God, and listening for his voice in our hearts.

Ps. 5, 3: In the morning will I order my prayer unto thee, and will keep watch.—R.V.

Ps. 46, 10: Be still, and know that I am God.

Habakkuk 2, 20: The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Philippians 4, 6: In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

#### 45. What is our duty to man ?

Our duty to man is to treat him in all our relationships as a child of God.

Matt. 7, 12: Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them.

I Cor. 13, 4-7: Love suffereth long and is kind . . . is not provoked, taketh not account of evil . . . hopeth all things.—R.V.

Eph. 4, 32: Be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.—R.V.

James 2, 8-9: If ye fulfil the royal law . . . Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well; but if ye have respect of persons ye commit sin.—R.V.

#### 46. What is forgiveness ?

Forgiveness is pardon, and Jesus taught us to ask forgiveness of God for our sins and to be ready to forgive those who ask forgiveness of us.

Matt. 6, 14: If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Luke 17, 3: If thy brother sin, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.—R.V.

II Cor. 2, 5-7: If any hath caused sorrow . . . ye should rather forgive him and comfort him.—R.V.

#### 47. What is Salvation ?

Salvation is that healthy condition of the soul when it is in harmony with the will of God.

Psa. 23, 3: He restoreth my soul.

Proverbs 3, 7-8: Fear the Lord and depart from evil; it shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Jer. 30, 17: I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord.

Rom. 1, 16: I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation.

III John 2: I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

#### 48. What is the reward of the good life in this world?

The reward of the good life in this world is peace of mind and happy fellowship with God.

Deut. 30, 15: I have set before thee this day life and good . . . in that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments.

Isaiah 3, 10: Say ye of the righteous, that it shall be well with him.

John 13, 17: If ye know these things, blessed are ye if ye do them.

I Tim. 4, 8: Godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come.

#### 49. What is the reward of the good life hereafter?

The reward of the good life hereafter is continuing fellowship with God, and a deepening understanding of his purpose.

Psa. 73, 24: Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterwards receive me to glory.

Wisdom of Solomon 1, 15: Righteousness is immortal.

II Tim. 4, 8: There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me that day; and not only to me, but also to all them that have loved his appearing.—R.V.

Rev. 22, 3-4: There shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall do him service.—R.V.

#### 50. What is the result of sin?

The result of sin is that we become less able to do our duty to God.

Deut. 30, 17: If thine heart turn away, and thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them, I denounce unto you this day that ye shall surely perish.—R.V.

Eccles. 8, 12-13: It shall be well with them that fear God . . . ; but it shall not be well with the wicked.—R.V.

Isaiah 3, 11: Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Rom. 2, 8-9: Unto them that are factious, and obey not the truth, but obey unrighteousness, shall be wrath and indignation, tribulation and anguish.—R.V.

#### 51. How ought we to do our daily work?

We ought to do our daily work diligently, faithfully and cheerfully, as under the eye of our Heavenly Father.

Exodus 20, 9: Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work.

Eccles. 9, 10: Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.

Haggai 2, 4: Be strong, all ye people of the land saith the Lord, and work.

John 5, 17: Jesus answered them, My Father worketh even until now, and I work.—R.V.



I Thess. 4, 11: Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your hands.—R.V.

### 52. What is the soul?

The soul is the real self, by which we are linked to God and for which we hope for the prize of eternal life.

Gen. 2, 7: The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Job. 33, 4: The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty giveth me life.—R.V.

Rom. 7, 22: I delight in the law of God after the inward man.

II Cor. 4, 16: Though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day.—R.V.

### 53. What did Jesus teach about Immortality?

Jesus taught that man may hope for eternal life and should strive to be worthy of it.

Luke 23, 43: And he said unto him, verily I say unto thee, to-day thou shalt be with me in Paradise.

John 14, 2: In my Father's house are many mansions.

### 54. What is the chief end of man?

The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever.

Ps. 73, 25: Whom have I in heaven but thee; and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Rom. 12, 2: Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.—R.V.

I Cor. 10, 31: Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

## SENIOR SECTION

### 1.— GOD.

#### 1. Why do you believe there is but one God?

Holy Scripture and reason teach us to believe that there is but one God, and none other but he.

Deut. 6, 4: Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.

Isaiah 45, 5: I am the Lord, and there is none else beside me there is no God.

#### 2. How does God reveal himself to us as Father?

God reveals himself to us as Father in the life and death of Jesus Christ, who taught us how to find God in the world around us, to recognise the spirit of God within us, as well as above and beyond us, and who, himself a true son of God, died on the Cross to testify that as a man cannot shew greater love than when he lays down his life for his friends, so God's love is even more wonderful in that he cares for us so much that he offers us life eternal.

John 15, 13: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Rom. 8, 11: If the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall quicken also your mortal bodies through his spirit that dwelleth in you.

Luke 8, 11: Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

#### 3. What do we know of the character of God?

God is holy, just and good, full of compassion and tenderness to all his creatures.

Exodus 34, 6: The Lord, the Lord, a God full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Isaiah 6, 3: And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

I John 4, 16: God is love.

#### 4. How has God shown love to his children?

God has shown his love to all men by a most merciful provision for their bodily and spiritual wants, and especially by the revelation of himself in Jesus Christ.

Ps. 145, 16: Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

John 3, 16: God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 14, 17: He left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave you from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness.

#### 5. What is goodness?

Goodness is the keeping of the laws of God with a willing heart.

Micah 6, 8: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Eph. 6, 6: Doing the will of God from the heart.

#### 6. What is sin?

Sin is the wilful breaking of any law of God.

James 4, 17: To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

I John 3, 4: Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness: and sin is lawlessness.

#### 7. Are we free to choose between sin and goodness?

Between sin and goodness God has given us a power of choice, which, however it may be abused, we still possess.

Deut. 30, 19-20: I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life that thou mayst live, thou and thy seed: to love the Lord thy God, to obey his voice, and to cleave unto him: for he is thy life.

Isaiah 7, 15: When he knoweth to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Luke 12, 57: And why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right!

#### 8. How do you distinguish between evil tendency and actual guilt?

We inherit tendencies, good and evil, but actual guilt is our personal choice of the evil.

II Saml. 12, 9: Wherefore hast thou despised the word of the Lord, to do evil in his sight.

Proverbs 20, 7: A just man that walketh in his integrity, blessed are his children after him.

Ezekiel 18, 4: Behold, all souls are mine: as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

#### 9. What is moral responsibility?

Moral responsibility is our accountability to God for every act and thought.

Matt. 12, 36: Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Rom. 14, 12: So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

#### 10. What are our duties to ourselves?

Our duties to ourselves are to regulate the health and appetites of the body, to govern our thoughts, to control our passions, to cultivate our minds and hearts, to elevate our enjoyments and honour our vocations.

Isaiah 1, 16-17: Wash you, make you clean: put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil: learn to do well.

Philippians 4, 8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

## 2.— JESUS CHRIST.

#### 11. What are our sources of knowledge about Jesus Christ?

The New Testament records tell us of Jesus Christ's life, character, work and death, and his influence upon the Church after the Resurrection, and we have references to him in Jewish writings and by Pagan authors.

John 20, 31: These are written that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name.

NOTE—Purely Jewish sources, e.g. the Talmud, which is a body of Jewish Civil and Canonical Law not comprised in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) tell us little, the most they do is not to deny that Jesus existed. There are some references by the Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus (Born Jerusalem, A.D. 37 or 38), which, if authentic would be our earliest testimony on the non-Christian side, but their value is considered doubtful. There are various references by Latin writers, including Pliny the Younger, Tacitus, and Suetonius.

#### 12. How did Jesus Christ employ His life?

Jesus Christ went about doing good, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and proving his divine mission by his remarkable influence on the minds, hearts, character and health of those who believed in him.

Matt. 4, 23: Jesus went about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing all manner of disease, and all manner of sickness among the people.

John 10, 37-38: If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do them, though ye believe not me, believe the works.

Acts 10, 38: Who went about doing good.

II Cor. 8, 9: Though he was rich, yet for your sakes, he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich.

#### 13. What light does Jesus Christ throw on human nature?

Jesus Christ shows the value of the human soul, and its infinite capacity for a higher and holier life.

Matt. 10, 31: Ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Matt. 12, 12: How much then is a man of more value than a sheep!—R.V.



John 10, 10: I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.—R.V.

II Peter 1, 4: Ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world.—R.V.

#### 14. How does Jesus Christ reconcile us to God ?

The life and work of Jesus Christ bring us back to God, by moving us to true repentance and to perfect trust in our Heavenly Father.

II Cor. 5, 19-20: God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were intreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God.—R.V.

### 3.— THE BIBLE

#### 15. Why do you accept the Bible as an authority in Religion ?

We accept the Bible as an authority in religion because it contains the fullest revelation we have of the relations between God and man.

Rom. 15, 4: Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the Scriptures we might have hope.—R.V.

II Peter 1, 21: No prophecy ever came by the will of man; but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.—R.V.

#### 16. What do we mean by the Ten Commandments ?

By the Ten Commandments we mean the law as given to Moses and recorded in Exodus 20, verses 1-17. Other statements of the law will be found in Exodus 34, verses 1-28, and Deuteronomy 5, verses 6-21.

#### 17. What are the Ten Commandments ?

(1) I am the Lord thy God . . . Thou shalt have none other Gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor the likeness of any form that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

(3) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold them guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

(4) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the Seventh day is a sabbath unto the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefor the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

(5) Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

(6) Thou shalt do no murder.

(7) Thou shalt not commit adultery.

(8) Thou shalt not steal.

(9) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

(10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 20, 1-17.—R.V.

#### 18. What do we mean by the Beatitudes ?

"Beatitude" means "blessedness," and is most commonly used of those general declarations of blessedness made by Christ in the discourses recorded by Matthew (5, 3-11) at the beginning of the "Sermon on the Mount" and Luke (6, 20-22) in the "Sermon on the Plain."

#### 19. What are the Beatitudes ?

The Beatitudes in Matthew are:—

(1) Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(2) Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

(3) Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

(4) Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

(5) Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

(6) Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

(7) Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God.

(8) Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness's sake: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Matthew 5, 3-11.—R.V.

The Beatitudes in Luke are:—

(1) Blessed are ye poor: for yours is the Kingdom of God.

(2) Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled.

(3) Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

(4) Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake.

Luke 6, 20-22.—R.V.

#### 20. What is the Lord's Prayer ?

Jesus taught his disciples to pray after this manner:—

Our Father which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

R.V. Mgn. Matthew 6, 9-13.

see Luke 11, 2-4.

#### 21. What is the great and first commandment ?

Jesus said the first commandment is:—The Lord our God, the Lord is one: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength (Mark 12, 29-30), compare Matthew 22, 37-38; Luke 10, 27; cited from Deuteronomy 6, 4-5.

22. What is the second commandment ?

The second commandment is:—Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself (Mark 12, 31; Matthew 22, 29; Luke 10, 27).

23. What are the main English versions of the Bible ?

The main English versions of the Bible are:—

- (1) The Geneva Version (1560).
- (2) The Authorised Version (1611).
- (3) The Revised Version (New Testament 1881, Revised Bible 1885).
- (4) Twentieth-century Translations.

NOTE—The first full translation of the Bible was due to John Wycliffe. Its influence was immense. Many read it in secret, though the possession of this Bible was forbidden to the laity by the Roman Church. It was published between 1380-84, and was based on the Latin Vulgate. The first English translation from the original Hebrew and Greek was made by William Tyndale (1525-36). Tyndale's work inspired Henry VIII's "Great Bible."

During the persecution of Mary's reign, the Geneva Bible was published by English exiles in 1560. It was mainly the work of William Whittingham, the friend of John Knox. It was a finer translation than the Great Bible. It was divided into chapters and verses. This Bible was beloved by the Scottish Presbyterians and the English Puritans. It was the Bible Shakespeare read.

The Authorised Version (1611), translated from the Hebrew and Greek (by order of James I) by forty-seven divines from Oxford, Cambridge and London. To London was allotted Genesis to I Chronicles and the Epistles; to Cambridge II Chronicles to Ecclesiastes and the Apocrypha; to Oxford the Prophets, Gospels, Acts and Revelation. This, from its great excellence, gradually superseded all preceding versions.

The Revised Version (1881-1885) originated in a resolution of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury in February, 1870. The work of revision was entrusted to two companies of tried Biblical scholarship, one for the Old, the other for the New Testament, in co-operation with two similar American companies. The Revised New Testament was issued in 1881, the Revised Bible in 1885.

Dr. Moffatt's Translation of the Bible (1925), a version by a great scholar bringing modern critical scholarship to bear upon the problems of translation. Dr. Weymouth has also given us the New Testament in modern speech, 4th edition 1924.

24. Why are there two main and other English versions of the Scriptures in general use.

The Authorised Version of 1611 was the best translation of a number which had appeared since Wycliffe's in 1380, but by the 19th century more knowledge and learning were available, and from time to time new translations, like the Revised Version, are made the better to help us to understand the Bible.

#### 4.— THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

25. What are our special religious duties as Christians ?

As Christians, we ought to maintain the worship of God in private, and in the public congregation, to observe the Christian ordinances, and take our part in the work of our Church.

Ezra 7, 23: Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be done exactly for the house of the God of heaven.—R.V.

Luke 4, 16: He entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the sabbath day.



Acts 2, 42: They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Heb. 10, 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.

I Peter 4, 10: According as each hath received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.—R.V.

#### 26. Why are children baptised?

Children are baptised to show that they, with their elders, belong to the fold of Christ, and should be trained as children of God.

Mark 10, 14: Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not.

Acts 16, 15: She was baptised, and her household.

Acts 16, 33: And was baptised, he and all his.

#### 27. How should our belief in immortality influence our life here?

Our belief in immortality should fill us with a constant sense of the importance of time, the danger of sin, and the duty of living to God.

Matt. 24, 42: Watch therefore: for ye know not on what day your Lord cometh.—R.V.

Rom. 6, 23: The wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.—R.V.

I Cor. 15, 58: Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.—R.V.

Col. 3, 2: Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth.—R.V.

Rev. 2, 10: Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee the crown of life.—R.V.

## 5.— THE CHURCH.

#### 28. What is the Church of Jesus Christ?

The Church of Jesus Christ is the whole number of those who believe in him.

Matt. 18, 20: Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them.

I Cor. 12, 27: Now ye are the body of Christ and members each in his part.—R.V.Mgn.

#### 29. What are the standing Ordinances of the Church?

The standing Ordinances of the Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Eph. 4, 4-6: There is one body and one Spirit . . . one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Acts 2, 41-42: Then they that gladly received His word were baptised . . . And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

#### 30. What is Baptism?

Christian Baptism is the rite of immersing a person in, or sprinkling him with, water as a sign of purification and of admission to the Church, generally accompanied by name giving.

#### 31. What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper (the Communion Service) was established by Jesus Christ on his last night on earth at a supper with his disciples in order that they might remember him at every breaking of bread.

Luke 22, 19: This do in remembrance of me. ✕

### 32. What is the Communion Service ?

The Communion Service, or Lord' Supper, is held that we may commemorate the sacrifice that Jesus made to reconcile man to God.

I Cor. 10, 16-17: The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body; for we are partakers of that one bread.

I Cor. 11, 23-25: That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it and said, take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me.

### 33. What are the divisions of the Christian Church ?

The Church was first divided into East and West. By the Reformation the western church became divided into Roman Catholics and Protestants.

N.B.—The schism between east and west has been rendered permanent by changes of doctrine on the part of the Roman Catholics. The Reformation began with Luther's Theses, A.D. 1517; the Protest of Spire was A.D. 1529; the first Protestant Confession (Augsburg) was A.D. 1530.

### 34. What is Roman Catholicism ?

Roman Catholicism is the name given to the doctrine and practice of that church under the rule of the Pope or Bishop of Rome.

### 35. What is meant by Protestantism ?

Protestantism is the religion of those who, holding the headship of Jesus Christ, the sufficiency of Scripture, and the right of private judgment, reject the authority of the Papacy.

I Thess. 5, 21: Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

II Cor. 3, 17: Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

### 36. How do Protestants differ in Church government ?

There are three systems of Church government. They are: Episcopal (Government by Bishops); Presbyterian (Government by Presbyteries); Congregational (Government by congregations).

### 37. What is Non-Subscription ?

Non-Subscription is the principle that the Christian is not bound to subscribe to creeds or confessions of faith.

Gal. 5, 1: With freedom did Christ set us free; stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.—R.V.

### 38. What is the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church ?

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland comprises those congregations founded in the 17th century in Ulster by Scottish Presbyterians. It accepts as its basis the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Rule of Christian Faith and Duty under the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, but rejects subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith.

**N.B.**—In 1726 the Antrim Presbytery was founded on the basis of Non-Subscription: In 1829 the Remonstrant Synod took its stand on the same principle; in 1835 the Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians unanimously agreed to reject human authority in matters of faith. In 1910, for purposes of church government, the Antrim Presbytery, the Remonstrant Synod, and the Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians united as the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

**39. How is the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church governed?**

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church is governed by Church Courts. These are called Kirk-Sessions, Presbyteries and Synods. A Session consists of the Minister, who is Moderator, and ruling elders, who have been installed by the Presbytery. It is usual to elect a committee to deal with the temporal welfare of the congregation, but the committee is not a Church Court.

**40. What is a Creed?**

A creed is a brief, formal summary of Christian doctrine or belief accepted by the adherents of a Church, and required by that Church to be binding on its members.

**41. Which are the historic Christian Creeds?**

- (1) The Apostles' Creed;
- (2) The Nicene Creed;
- (3) The Athanasian Creed.

**42. What is the Apostles' Creed?**

The so-called Apostles' Creed grew up in the early Church at Rome, out of a simpler baptismal confession, and reached its present form about 400 A.D.

Acts 2, 38: And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptised everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**43. What is the Nicene Creed?**

The Nicene Creed is a statement of doctrine adopted by the majority of the Council of Nicaea in Bithynia A.D. 325 summoned by the Emperor Constantine to settle a controversy about the nature of Christ.

**N.B.**—The Nicene Creed was added to by later Councils, the latest addition being an expression intended to exclude the Greek Church. The Nicene Creed is remarkable for still retaining the statement: "I believe in one God."

**44. What is the Athanasian Creed?**

The so-called Athanasian Creed does not contain the opinions of Athanasius, and is an anonymous production of the ninth century.

**N.B.**—This is the first Creed which uses the term Trinity. It is remarkable for its intolerant denunciations.

**45. What is Calvinism?**

Calvinism is a system of opinion, derived through John Calvin (1509-1564) from St. Augustine (354-430), and based on the doctrine of the arbitrary decree of God, which is alleged to have designed for salvation only a certain number, called the elect.

**N.B.**—The "five points" of Calvinism, as formulated at Dort (A.D. 1618), are predestination, original sin, particular redemption, irresistible grace, and the perseverance of the saints.



Acts 10, 34-35: Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him.

**46. What is Arminianism ?**

Arminianism is a reaction against Calvinism, not limiting the possible subjects of salvation.

**N.B.**—Arminianism takes its name from James Hamensson or Arminius (1560 - 1609), professor at Leyden.

1 Tim. 2, 3-4: This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who willeth that all men should be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.

**47. What are the Thirty-nine Articles ?**

The Thirty-nine Articles are a summary of doctrine prepared by English Bishops in 1562.

1 Cor. 2, 5: Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

**48. What is the Westminster Confession ?**

The Westminster Confession is a system of Calvinistic doctrine, adopted by an assembly of divines and laymen at Westminster, and approved by Parliament as a rule of faith for the three Kingdoms.

**N.B.**—The Westminster Assembly was convened by ordinance of the English Parliament in 1643; the Confession of Faith was first published in 1648.

Acts 15, 10-11: Now therefore why tempt ye God, that ye should put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that we shall be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in like manner as they.

**49. How should we act and feel towards those of other Churches and Faiths ?**

We should respect those whose faith differs from our own, and should try by all means in our power to promote Christian charity and show the spirit of mutual goodwill.

Titus 3, 2: To speak evil of no man, not to be contentious, to be gentle, shewing all meekness towards all men.

**50. Why should we be diligent in attendance at Church ?**

It is the duty of Christians to join regularly in worship, for unless we worship God we cannot know him nor our duty to him, and to our neighbour.

Heb. 10, 25: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is.

