

# Questions and Answers on Christian Doctrine

Revised 18 September 2008

- NOTES:* 1. These questions are intended only as the basic framework for questioning. There will likely be other spontaneous exchanges that take place on questioning night.  
2. Answers marked with (\*) are to be said together by the class.

1. What is the central message of the Christian faith?  
**Forgiveness, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ**
2. Where do we find God's Word about the Savior Who was to come?  
**The Old Testament**
3. Where do we find God's Word about the Savior Who has come?  
**The New Testament**
4. Who caused the writers of the biblical books to write the ideas and words contained in the Bible?  
**God, the Holy Spirit**
5. Whose Word, then, is every word of the Bible? **God's Word**
6. How is the Bible different from other books?  
**It is completely true and without error**
7. How should we use God's Word?  
**We should gladly hear and learn it**
8. Who is at the heart and center of the Bible? **Jesus Christ**
9. Between what two things must we clearly distinguish to understand the Bible correctly?  
**The Law and the Gospel**
10. What is God's Law? **The 10 Commandments**
11. What does God's Law command us to do? **To love God and our neighbor**
12. How does Jesus summarize the 10 Commandments in Mark 12:30-31?  
**30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."**
13. What is the main purpose of God's Law?  
**It serves as a mirror to show us that we are Law breaking sinners. It shows us that we can't keep the Law, deserve God's temporal and eternal punishment, and need a Savior.**
14. \*Be ready to say the first three Commandments and their meanings.
15. Why should we honor our parents and other authorities?  
**Because they are God's representatives**

16. \*Say the Sixth Commandment.
17. How does God define marriage?  
**The lifelong union of one man and one woman**
18. With whom may a person have sexual relations without sinning?  
**Only with his or her own spouse**
19. What does God forbid in the Seventh Commandment? **Taking things dishonestly**
20. Name two ways of breaking the Eighth Commandment. **Gossip and slander**
21. How well does God expect and require us to keep His Law? **Perfectly**
22. What does God's Law finally show us?  
**That we sin and deserve God's condemnation**
23. What leads us into sin? **The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh**
24. What do we call the complete corruption of our human nature that we have inherited from Adam?  
**Original sin**
25. Original sin causes us to commit what? **Actual sins (in thought, word, and deed)**
26. \*What is the result of sin according to Romans 6:23?  
**"The wages of sin is death."**
27. How are we saved from sin, death, and hell?  
**Only by Christ, Who kept God's Law perfectly in our place, and paid the price for our failure to keep it**
28. \*How does John 3:16 state the Gospel?  
**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."**
29. Did Jesus die on the cross for the sins of all people?  
**Yes, He paid for the sin of the entire world**
30. Does anyone deserve the Gospel?  
**No, it is a gracious gift from God**
31. Does the Gospel require us to do anything?  
**No, Jesus has done it all for us**
32. What is a creed? **A statement of what we believe, teach, and confess**
33. What are three creeds of the Christian Church?  
**The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed**
34. How many gods are there? **One true God**

35. How is the one true God named? **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - the Holy Trinity**
36. What did God create? **Heaven and earth and all things**
37. What does God still do for you and all creatures?  
**He still preserves us - that is, He watches over and protects us**
38. How should we respond to God's goodness?  
**We should thank and praise, serve and obey Him**
39. \*Say the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed.
40. How was Jesus' birth different from any other birth? **He had no human father**
41. How did this happen? **Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**
42. Is Jesus a man or God? **He is fully God and fully man**
43. What does the name "Jesus" mean? **One who saves**
44. What do the titles "Messiah" and "Christ" mean? **The anointed One**
45. Why did our Savior have to be God?  
**So that all that He did might be a sufficient ransom for all people**
46. Why did God's Son become man?  
**To redeem us from our slavery to sin, death, and the devil**
47. What does the word "redeem" mean? **To buy back**
48. What price did Jesus pay to redeem you?  
**His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death**
49. How do we know that Jesus' death paid for our sins and broke the power of sin, death, and the devil?  
**Because Jesus was raised from the dead**
50. How is Jesus' resurrection a comfort for you?  
**Because what is true for Him is also true for me, since I am united to Him by baptism and faith**
51. How does a person receive the benefit of Christ's perfect life, death and resurrection?  
**Through faith in Jesus Christ**
52. Can we make a decision to believe (have faith) in Jesus?  
**No, this is impossible. Furthermore, if we could make a decision to believe, then we would be responsible for our salvation and not God**
53. Why don't we have the power or ability in ourselves to believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior?  
**Because of original sin we are born spiritually dead. Dead people don't make decisions to become alive.**

54. \*How does Luther express this idea?  
**I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him.**
55. \*Using Luther's words, describe how a person comes to believe in Christ.  
**But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**
56. Is faith a gift from God or a decision we make?  
**It is a free gift from God. He does all of the saving by grace alone.**
57. What channels or means does the Holy Spirit use to bring Jesus Christ to us, and thus to create faith and keep this faith active and strong?  
**The Means of Grace, which are God's Word and Sacraments**
58. Where is this holy Christian Church to be found?  
**It is found wherever the Gospel is preached in its purity and the sacraments are administered according to Christ's command**
59. At the end of the world, who will return? **Jesus Christ**
60. What will He do? **He will raise the dead and He will judge all people, sending unbelievers to hell but welcoming all believers into heaven**
61. To whom should we pray? **Only to the one true God**
62. Does God always give us everything we ask for? **No, because God loves us and gives us only what is best for us**
63. How then should we pray? **With confidence and according to God's will**
64. What is a Sacrament? **It is the Word of God with a visible element. i.e. water in Holy Baptism and bread and wine in Holy Communion**
65. \*What is that Word of God connected with water in Holy Baptism?  
**It is Christ's Word from Matthew, Chapter 28: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**
66. \*What Bible verse clearly shows us that God gives forgiveness through Baptism?  
**Acts 2:38: Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.**
67. If Christ has already won forgiveness for us on the cross, why do we still need Baptism?  
**Because in Baptism, Christ distributes the gifts that He won for us on the cross**
68. Why has the Christian Church always baptized babies?  
A. **Because they are included in the words "all nations"**  
B. **Because Jesus especially invites little children to come to Him**  
C. **Because babies are sinners too and in need of what baptism offers**

69. What is the Old Adam, and how is it to be drowned in us each day?  
**It is the sinful nature that we inherit from the Fall into sin. It is drowned in us by daily contrition (sorrow for sins) and faith.**
70. With what words do we regularly remember our Baptism?  
**In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**
71. What visual sign also helps us to remember our baptism? **The sign of the cross**
72. What special authority has Christ given to His Church exercised by its pastors?  
**The Office of the Keys - the authority to forgive sins or to withhold forgiveness**
73. Why is this authority called the Office of the Keys?  
**A. Because Jesus said to Peter “I give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 16:19)  
 B. Because this authority works like a key to open or close heaven by forgiving or not forgiving sins**
74. Whose sins are to be forgiven (or absolved)? **Those who confess their sins and repent of them**
75. Who is not to be forgiven? **Unrepentant sinners ... as long as they do not repent**
76. Why does Jesus institute the pastoral office? **Jesus calls certain men to be pastors to distribute to His Church His gifts of Word and Sacraments by His command and in His place.**
77. What sins should we confess to God? **All our sins, those we know and those we don’t know**
78. What sins should we confess to our neighbor? **Those we have committed against him or her**
79. \*How often should we forgive our neighbors for sinning against us? (Matt. 18:21-22)  
**Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.”**
80. What sins are we encouraged to confess privately to the pastor?  
**Only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts, especially those that trouble us**
81. How should we regard the absolution that is spoken by the pastor?  
**We should regard it as coming from God Himself**
82. \*What is the Sacrament of the Altar?  
**It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and drink**
83. Is the bread merely a symbol of Christ’s body? **No**
84. Why not? **Because Christ says “This is my Body”**
85. How do we describe this “sacramental union” of Christ’s body and blood with the bread and wine of Holy Communion?  
**Christ gives His Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion**

86. What benefits does God give believers in Holy Communion?  
**Forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation**
87. God also warns us to be careful in receiving Communion in 1 Corinthians 11:29:  
**“For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”**
88. What is Closed Communion?  
**The teaching that Christians commune together only when they share a common confession of the Christian faith.**
89. Why has the Church historically practiced Closed Communion?  
**Because, in addition to giving the forgiveness of sins, the Lord’s Supper is also a *testimony* of the *unity* of faith among Christians. Closed communion is a loving Biblical practice that protects our friends from drinking judgment on themselves. It also lovingly speaks God’s Law to them so they will repent of the sin of false doctrine in the hope that they will believe the pure Gospel and receive the Sacrament rightly.**
90. Why should we receive the Lord’s Supper frequently?  
**Because we sin daily and need forgiveness**
91. How are we faithfully and regularly to use God’s Word and Sacrament?  
**By *attending* church and communing and by *studying* God’s Word throughout life**
92. What would you like your parents, pastors, elders, and all the people here with you tonight to do if you should forsake the gathering of the saints in years to come, or stop coming to church and receiving Holy Communion frequently?  
**I would like them to talk with me and remind me of the promises I will make at my confirmation; and urge me to partake of God’s Word and Sacraments every Sunday and every day, as I am able.**