

# WALKING WITH HIM

A CATECHISM FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS  
AND SERIOUS SEEKERS



Aweis A. Ali

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**A CATECHISM FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS**

**AND SERIOUS SEEKERS**

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Aweis A. Ali



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## **DEDICATION**

This catechism is dedicated to Kyla Ransom in recognition of her service to the Somali people.

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## THE GUIDING CATECHISM QUESTIONS

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# 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. An Overview



Jules-Alexis Meunier's *The Catechism Lesson*  
Public Domain

Catechism is the preeminent form used to learn or teach the essentials of the Christian faith in a condensed manner. While catechism is the content of the book, the person being taught is known as the catechumen, and catechist is the person doing the teaching. The instruction itself is called catechesis and the process of imparting the teaching is known as catechizing. Every catechumen is a potential catechist. Apostle Paul declares in Galatians 6:6, “Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction

[*katecheo*] in the word should share all good things with their instructor.”

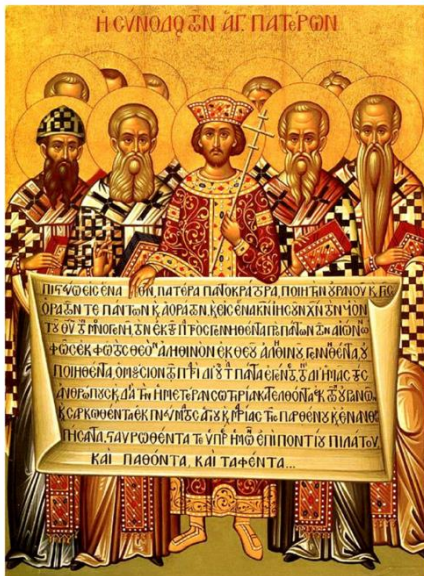
Every denomination or tradition (including independent churches) has its own form of catechism. Catechisms even go back to the early church. While doctrinal contents of the catechisms varied over the years, basic teachings have not changed – a summary of the key doctrines of the Christian faith as taught in the Holy Bible. Reformers have never discarded the catechism but reclaimed it using the Bible as a filter.

Martin Luther opined, “By the grace of God I have brought about such a change that nowadays a girl or boy of fifteen knows more about the Christian doctrine than all the theologians of the great universities used to know in the old days. For among us the catechism has come back into use: I mean the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostle’s Creed, the Ten Commandments...” John Calvin wrote in the introduction to his own catechism that the devil had toppled the true catechism and “left nothing but certain trifles, which only beget superstition without any fruit of edification.” The Laurence Vaux’s Catechism was the first Reformation-era Catholic Catechism in English according to the 1913 Catholic Encyclopedia. The catechism was published in 1567 and subsequent reprints were released in 1574, 1583, 1599 and 1605.

While catechisms were common in the Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant church popularized it as a means to teach believers more about their faith. Catechisms were so popular in the Protestant church that John Tillotson, England's Archbishop of Canterbury (1691-1694), declared that "catechizing and the history of the martyrs have been the two great pillars of the Protestant religion." Preaching coupled with catechism gives Christians an opportunity to learn and teach their Christian faith. In fact, catechized Christians have a doctrinal framework that is more receptive to the Gospel and thus is beneficial for the life-long growth of the believer.

Like any other catechism, this catechism presupposes the importance of memorization. When deemed necessary, the catechist should therefore ask the catechumen, "What does this mean?" to make sure the catechumen understands what they are reciting by heart. This is a method that Martin Luther popularized in the early years of the Reformation. Catechized Christians are also very unlikely to be deceived by false teachers because the catechism in a sense inoculates them against heresies. Catechisms also facilitate the understanding of complex doctrines and catechists give instruction in sound doctrine and rebuke those who peddle heretical teachings.

## 1.2. The Nicene Creed



The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed:  
An icon depicting Constantine I flanked by  
Bishops of the First Council of Nicaea (325)  
Public Domain

The original Nicene Creed (Latin: *Symbolum Nicaenum*) was first adopted in AD 325 at the First Council of Nicaea. The Creed was amended in 381 at the First Council of Constantinople. This amended version is referred to as the Niceno-Constantinople Creed or simply as the Nicene Creed.

This creed is the

litmus test for mainstream Christianity as opposed to certain heresies like Arianism. The primary function of the creed is to give believers a correct belief system that is doctrinally sound. The Nicene Creed is therefore the most affirmed confession of faith in Christendom. There is a long church tradition that all Christian catechisms should include the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary, and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

### 1.3. The Lord's Prayer



James Tissot's The Lord's Prayer (Le Pater Noster)  
Brooklyn Museum. Public Domain

The Lord's Prayer, sometimes called Our Father (Latin: Pater Noster), is a cherished Christian prayer taught by the Lord Jesus Christ. This prayer unites all Christians around the world. The Lord's Prayer is a moral compass for believers seeking the Lord's guidance. It is noteworthy that Jesus' disciples requested from him to teach them how to pray. This is the prayer he gave

them which demonstrates how Christians should live their lives and what they should believe. The prayer contains seven petitions, a number that signifies perfection or completion. No Christian catechism is considered complete without including the Lord's Prayer.

Pray like this:

“Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

Let your Kingdom come.

Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

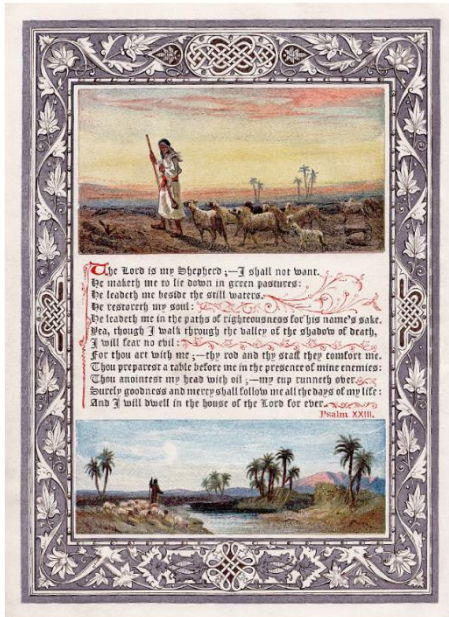
Forgive us our debts,  
as we also forgive our debtors.

Bring us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the Kingdom,  
the power, and the glory forever. Amen.”

Matthew 6: 9-13

## 1.4. A Psalm of David



The 1880 illustration of The Sunday at Home also known as *Dominus Reget Me*. Public Domain

Psalm 23 describes God's goodness using the metaphor of a good shepherd. As sheep trust their good shepherd, believers should likewise trust their God in times of plenty or want. As sheep covet proximity to the shepherd, believers must desire closeness to God, their provider and protector. No believer who puts their complete trust

in God would be disappointed. Jesus Christ, our caring provider, is the best Shepherd as he put down his own life for his sheep, the believers. This Psalm is often included in Christian catechisms because of its illustration of the relationship between the believer and God.

Yahweh is my shepherd:

I shall lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.  
He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his  
name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me.  
Your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me,  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil.  
My cup runs over.  
Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all  
the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in Yahweh's house forever.

Psalm 23: 1-6

## 1.5. The Ten Commandments



Jekuthiel Sofer's parchment (1675) of the Ten Commandments. The Amsterdam Esnoga Synagogue. Public Domain

The Ten Commandments (Hebrew: עֲשֶׂרֶת הַדִּבְרוֹת, *Aseret ha'Dibrot*), are religious precepts that address issues of worship, ethics and righteousness. These commandments are essential to the Judeo-Christian believers; in Judaism, they form the basis of Jewish law. However, in Christianity, the Ten Commandments are seen as key to Christian moral life. Christians, therefore, make distinctions between ceremonial and moral laws. The Ten Commandments have been an integral part of Christian

catechisms and ecclesiastical instruction manuals since the 13th century.

God spoke all these words, saying, “I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not misuse the name of Yahweh your God, for Yahweh will not hold him guiltless who misuses his name.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. You shall labor six days, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yahweh your God. You shall not do any work in it, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your livestock, nor

your stranger who is within your gates; for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day, and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which Yahweh your God gives you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s.”

Exodus 20:1-17

# 2

## THE CATECHISM

### 1. QUESTION: Is there a God?

**ANSWER:** The nature of man and the works of God, testify that there is a God. His Word—the Bible—and His Spirit adequately and effectively reveal Himself to people for them to attain salvation.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 1:19-20 “...because that which is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity, that they may be without excuse.”

Psalms 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God. The expanse shows his handiwork. Day after day they pour out speech, and night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”

Acts 17:28 *“For in him we live, move, and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’”*

**2. QUESTION:** How many gods are there?

**ANSWER:** There is only one true God, the Creator of the world and everything in it.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 12:29b *“Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one:”*

**3. QUESTION:** Is there a need for us to believe in God?

**ANSWER:** Yes. We believe in God because we are members of a religious community that nurtures and generates faith through the preaching of Christ’s Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit. Because of revelation, we believe in God. God is revealed in Israel’s history and, most importantly, in Jesus Christ. God can only be known through Jesus. Because the cosmos asks, “Where did all of this originate from?” we believe in God. “It came from God,” we say. It was created by God. God is the one who creates. The world reflects God’s glory, and the universe points to its creator.” We believe in God because we were created in the image of God and we long for him.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 10:17 *“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

2 Corinthians 4:6 *“...seeing it is God who said, ‘Light will shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

Psalms 19:1 *“The heavens declare the glory of God. The expanse shows his handiwork.”*

John 6:44 *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day.”*

- 4. QUESTION:** Are there three gods? Christians speak about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

**ANSWER:** As Christians, we believe in one, true and eternal God, as evident in the Scriptures. This one God is revealed as eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creating, guiding and saving us. This triune God is eternal, one and He reveals Himself in three persons.

**SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 6:4 *“Hear, Israel: Yahweh is our God. Yahweh is one.”*

Matthew 28:19 *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

2 Corinthians 13:14 *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s love, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”*

**5. QUESTION:** What are some of the qualities of God?

**ANSWER:** God is Spirit. He is everlasting; not having a beginning and an end. He is perfect, all-sufficient and eternal. He is unchangeable. We cannot wholly comprehend Him. He is present everywhere, almighty, all-knowing, the most wise, holy, just, merciful and gracious, and full of goodness and truth.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 4:24 *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Job 11:7–9 *“Can you fathom the mystery of God? Or can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are high as heaven. What can you do? They are deeper than Sheol. What can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.”*

Matthew 5:48 *“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

Genesis 17:1 *“When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless.’”*

Revelation 15:4 *“Who wouldn’t fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you only are holy. For all the nations will come and worship before you. For your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

**6. QUESTION:** What can you tell me about God the Father?

**ANSWER:** God the Father cares about all the people He created to worship Him. Sin contaminated the relationship God the Father intended to have with the people He created for His glory. God sent His only begotten Son so that anyone who believes in Him would not perish but have an everlasting life. God the Father is a member of the Triune God.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

**7. QUESTION:** What are some of the characteristics of God the Father?

**ANSWER:** The characteristics of God include love, justice, holiness and generosity.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 4:7-8 *“Beloved, let’s love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves has been born of God, and knows God. He who doesn’t love doesn’t know God, for God is love.”*

Isaiah 61:8 *“For I, Yahweh, love justice. I hate robbery and iniquity I will give them their reward in truth and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.”*

**8. QUESTION:** Is it implied that God is male when He is referred to as “Father”?

**ANSWER:** Not at all. God is neither male nor female since he is Spirit. The Bible refers to God as Father, but it also depicts God as a nurturer in a way that only mothers could do.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 66:13 *“As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you. You will be comforted in Jerusalem.”*

John 4:24 *“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Ephesians 3:14-15 *“For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named...”*

Isaiah 49:15 *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, these may forget, yet I will not forget you!”*

9. **QUESTION:** What exactly does it mean to affirm that God is the Creator?

**ANSWER:** We believe that God created everything out of nothing initially. All things came into being after God spoke. Men and women were made in the image of God. Everything that God created was excellent.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Genesis 1:3-4 *“God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw the light, and saw that it was good. God divided the light from the darkness.”*

Genesis 1:27, 31 *“God created man in his own image. In God’s image he created him; male and female he created them... God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.”*

**10. QUESTION:** What does it imply that everyone was formed in God’s image?

**ANSWER:** God’s image reflects our relationship with him, with one another, and with all of creation. It manifests itself in our ability to think, envision, will, and love. These have been given to us in order for us to reflect God’s kindness, holiness, and love as they have been revealed in Jesus Christ’s life and mission.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:28 *“God blessed them. God said to them, ‘be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”*

Colossians 1:15-16 *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things have been created through him and for him.”*

Romans 8:29 *“For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”*

**11. QUESTION:** Why did God create male and female genders?

**ANSWER:** God created male and female for the purpose of mutual assistance, comfort, and delight. God also gave us marriage as a gift for the birth and upbringing of children, for the joy of family life, and for the well-being of humanity. God’s loving intention for all of us was to create us as sexual creatures. As male and female, we complement, depend on, and require each other whether we are married or single.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:18 *“Yahweh God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper comparable to him.’”*

Genesis 2:24 *“Therefore a man will leave his father and his mother, and will join with his wife, and they will be one flesh.”*

Matthew 19:4-6 *“He answered, ‘Haven’t you read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, “For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall be joined*

*to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?” So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, don’t let man tear apart.”*

**12. QUESTION:** Did God create us with a purpose? If yes, what is the purpose of our lives?

**ANSWER:** Yes, we were created for a purpose. We were created to love and serve God, also to love and serve our world and people. We were created to do the will of God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:27-28 *“God created man in his own image. In God’s image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them. God said to them, ‘be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”*

Psalms 40:8 *“I delight to do your will, my God. Yes, your law is within my heart.”*

Jeremiah 1:5 *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I sanctified you. I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

**13. QUESTION:** Is God the sole ruler of the universe?

**ANSWER:** Everything in the world is under God's control. However, there is a distinction to be made between what God allows and what God causes. We do not fully understand how divine care and human liberty interact, but we do believe in a loving God who watches over us and works everything out for our welfare.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 23:1-2 *“Yahweh is my shepherd: I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.”*

Psalms 121:7-8 *“Yahweh will keep you from all evil. He will keep your soul. Yahweh will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forward, and forever more.”*

Romans 8:28 *“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

**14. QUESTION:** Why does God allow evil and suffering if He is in charge?

**ANSWER:** We are troubled by evil and pain because they are a mystery. Human cruelty has been documented throughout history, especially in our own day. Nation against nation, clan against clan, religion against religion, and individual against individual; we sometimes treat each other cruelly. The toll of suffering is exacerbated by disease and calamity. Only a God who becomes one of us through incarnation can understand our pain and suffering and can aid in such a world. We know that God is with us in our suffering as we look to our resurrected Savior. There is also a God-ordained role of suffering in the life of a believer.

**SCRIPTURE:** Job 7:11 *“Therefore I will not keep silent. I will speak in the anguish of my spirit. I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.”*

Psalms 10:1-2 *“Why do you stand far off, Yahweh? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the weak. They are caught in the schemes that they devise.”*

Mark 8:31 *“He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the*

*elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ”*

*Hebrews 2:18 “For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.”*

*2 Timothy 3:12 “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

*Romans 8:17 “...if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him.... ”*

**15. QUESTION:** Who was God’s chosen one to be the Messiah?

**ANSWER:** God sent his only Son, Jesus of Nazareth, to fulfill God’s promise to Israel by becoming the Messiah, or Christ (both words mean “anointed one”). God has anointed him to save us from sin and death, as he has promised.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 1:16 *“Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, from whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.”*

John 1:41 *“He first found his own brother, Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (which is, being interpreted, Christ).”*

**16. QUESTION:** What was God’s purpose in sending Jesus Christ?

**ANSWER:** He sent Jesus Christ to earth in order for him to free the world from the shackles of sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 3:17 *“For God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him.”*

**17. QUESTION:** What is the relationship between God forgiving our sins and us forgiving others?

**ANSWER:** It is sometimes exceedingly difficult to forgive. Yet when we are forgiven by God, and helped by the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to forgive others. We are to forgive even as we are forgiven. The Christian community is called to be an oasis of forgiveness in the contemporary desert of resentment and rage, vengeance and hatred.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 18:21-22 *“Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times?’*

*Jesus said to him, 'I don't tell you until seven times, but, until seventy times seven.'*

Matthew 6:12 *"Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors."*

Luke 6:27-28 *"But I tell you who hear: love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you."*

Luke 23:34 *"Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.'"*

**18. QUESTION:** How does God respond to our prayers?

**ANSWER:** God always hears our prayers. Yet our prayers are not always answered as we desire but in accordance with God's loving purpose for our lives and those of others.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 5:14-15 *"This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him."*

Isaiah 59:1 *“Behold, Yahweh’s hand is not shortened, that it can’t save; nor his ear dull, that it can’t hear.”*

**19. QUESTION:** What does God require of us?

**ANSWER:** We have a duty to believe in and trust God. This involves loving and obeying Him and letting others know Him in a personal way; also making God our first priority and worshiping Him alone.

**SCRIPTURE:** Micah 6:8 *“He has shown you, O man, what is good. What does Yahweh require of you, but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”*

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 *“Now, Israel, what does Yahweh your God require of you, but to fear Yahweh your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, and to serve Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep Yahweh’s commandments and statutes, which I command you today for your good?”*

**20. QUESTION:** Can someone fully understand God?

**ANSWER:** It is not possible to fully understand God. There are elements that God wants us to know about Him and the things he has revealed; this is what we

are able to understand. If anyone is able to fully understand God then God ceases to be God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 55:8–9 *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways,” says Yahweh. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.’”*

Deuteronomy 29:29 *“The secret things belong to Yahweh our God; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*

## **21. QUESTION:** How did God create angels?

**ANSWER:** God created the angels as spirits who are immortal and holy, with a more extraordinary ability of knowledge. They are mighty and have the responsibility to execute God’s commandments and praise Him.

**SCRIPTURE:** Colossians 1:16 *“For by him all things were created in the heavens and on the earth, visible things and invisible things, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things have been created through him and for him.”*

Psalms 104:4 *“He makes his messengers winds, and his servants flames of fire.”*

2 Samuel 14:17 *“Then your servant said, ‘Please let the word of my lord the king bring rest; for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad. May Yahweh, your God, be with you.’”*

2 Thessalonians 1:7 *“...and to give relief to you who are afflicted with us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire...”*

**22. QUESTION:** Did God leave people to perish in sin?

**ANSWER:** No, God did not leave people to perish in sin; instead, He sent a Deliverer, who is Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the salvation of the world. Those who resist the saving grace are the ones who perish in sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Thessalonians 5:9 *“For God didn’t appoint us to wrath, but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...”*

1 Timothy 2:3-4 *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth.”*

### **23. QUESTION:** Why do we believe in God?

**ANSWER:** It is because of revelation that we believe in God. God is revealed in Israel's history and, most importantly, in Jesus Christ. God can only be known via God. Because the cosmos asks, "Where did all of this originate from?" We believe in God. "It came from God," we say. It was created by God. God is the one who creates. The world reflects God's glory, and the universe points to its Creator. We believe in God because we were created in the image of God. We believe in God through the power of the Holy Spirit enabling us to understand God's revelation. We continue to believe in God as we are members of a religious community that nurtures and generates faith via the preaching of Christ's Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 10:17 *"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

2 Corinthians 4:6 *"...seeing it is God who said, 'Light will shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

Psalms 19:1 *"The heavens declare the glory of God. The expanse shows his handiwork."*

**24. QUESTION:** Why does God save people?

**ANSWER:** Because He loves people, God saves us from sin and judgment, so that we may love and serve him for his glory alone.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 3:16-17 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him.”*

2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but he is patient with us, not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

**25. QUESTION:** What does God grant believers in the new life in Jesus Christ?

**ANSWER:** Believers are reconciled to him by the forgiveness of our sins; we are united with him through Jesus Christ and then we are adopted into the family of God and granted a promise of eternal life.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old*

*things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation; namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

*Romans 6:3–5 “Or don’t you know that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection...”*

**26. QUESTION:** What is God’s desire to accomplish in our lives in Jesus Christ?

**ANSWER:** The desire of God is to free us from the bondage of sin and transform us into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, with the help of the power of his Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 27:4 *“One thing I have asked of Yahweh, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in*

*Yahweh's house all the days of my life, to see Yahweh's beauty, and to inquire in his temple."*

1 Peter 2:21 *"For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps...."*

**27. QUESTION:** Was it all good when God created the world?

**ANSWER:** Yes. God created all things and said it is "very good." However, sin, evil and death have come into the world and corrupted it.

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1:31 *"God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, a sixth day."*

1 Timothy 4:4-5 *"For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer."*

**28. QUESTION:** If the world was good when God created it, then where did sin come from?

**ANSWER:** When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, this introduced sin, pain, toil, separation from God and

death into the world. We too sin and fall short of the glory of God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 51:3-5 *“For I know my transgressions. My sin is constantly before me. Against you, and you only, I have sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight, so you may be proved right when you speak, and justified when you judge. Behold, I was born in iniquity. My mother conceived me in sin.”*

Romans 3:23 *“...for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God...”*

Romans 5:12 *“Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; so death passed to all men, because all sinned.”*

## **29. QUESTION: What do Christians believe in?**

**ANSWER:** Christians believe in the Word of God, the document of the church which has instructed and guided Christians through the years connecting us in a common faith with the earliest Christian communities. Also, we believe in the saving grace of God that He redeemed the world through Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:14 *“Now after John was taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Good News of God’s Kingdom...”*

Romans 10:9 *“...that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

2 Corinthians 4:13 *“But having the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, ‘I believed, and therefore I spoke.’ We also believe, and therefore we also speak....”*

**30. QUESTION:** What can you tell me about Jesus, the Messiah?

**ANSWER:** Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is the Son of God and a member of the Triune God. Jesus is the Savior of the world who came to save. The Son is the Word of God who existed always.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 20:28 *“Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”*

Matthew 28:19 *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

Luke 2:11 *“For there is born to you today, in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

Matthew 3:17 *“Behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”*

Daniel 7:13-14 *“I saw in the night visions, and behold, there came with the clouds of the sky one like a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. Dominion was given him, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which will not pass away, and his kingdom one that which will not be destroyed.”*

John 8:23 *“He said to them, ‘You are from beneath. I am from above. You are of this world. I am not of this world.’”*

**31. QUESTION:** What does it mean to say that Jesus is the only Son of God?

**ANSWER:** To call Jesus the Son of God is to acknowledge that he is genuinely God, one with the Father and the Spirit and that he is everlasting rather than created. Seeing Jesus is seeing God manifested.

Knowing the Son means knowing the Father. The Son of God is also a Messianic title reserved only for Jesus in this context. Jesus' birth was also miraculous since it did not involve any human father. Jesus' mother conceived him through the power of the Holy Spirit without any human relations.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1:1-3, 14 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him. Without him, nothing was made that has been made... The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Matthew 11:27 *“All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows the Son, except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father, except the Son and he to whom the Son desires to reveal him.”*

Colossians 1:15, 19 *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation... For all the fullness was pleased to dwell in him....”*

**32. QUESTION:** What is the significance of confessing that Jesus is truly God?

**ANSWER:** With the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus, God's only Son, is deserving of worship. He is the world's Savior and God's revelation. Only God can show us God and save us from sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1:18 *"No one has seen God at any time. The one and only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared him."*

John 3:16-17 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him."*

Hebrews 1:5-6 *"For to which of the angels did he say at any time, 'You are my Son. Today I have become your father?' and again, 'I will be to him a Father, and he will be to me a Son?' When he again brings in the firstborn into the world he says, 'Let all the angels of God worship him.'"*

**33. QUESTION:** What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection?

**ANSWER:** It signifies that death isn't the end of the story and that there is life beyond death for us as well. God will raise us up and care for us forever in ways we can't imagine. It is also Jesus' victory over death and the grave; securing eternal life for all who believe in his name. It is a reversal of the Curse cast on humanity in the Garden.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 6:14 *"Now God raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up by his power."*

2 Timothy 1:10 *"...but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the Good News."*

1 Corinthians 2:9 *"But as it is written, 'Things which an eye didn't see, and an ear didn't hear, which didn't enter into the heart of man, these God has prepared for those who love him.'"*

**34. QUESTION:** Who is our Mediator?

**ANSWER:** Jesus Christ is our Mediator—one who stands between man and God. Christ does this

perfectly because he is both fully God and fully man. He is the eternal Son of God, of one substance with God the Father and he became man.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...”*

John 1:14 *“The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Hebrews 7:24–25 *“But he, because he lives forever, has his priesthood unchangeable. Therefore he is also able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, seeing that he lives forever to make intercession for them.”*

**35. QUESTION:** How is it that Jesus is the Son of God and at the same time has the form of a man?

**ANSWER:** Jesus Christ the Son of God who became man, he took an actual body, and was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and yet he was without sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1:14 *“The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as*

*of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Luke 1:31 *“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and shall name him ‘Jesus.’”*

Galatians 4:4 *“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent out his Son, born to a woman, born under the law...”*

**36. QUESTION:** Is Jesus the Savior of the world?

**ANSWER:** Yes, Jesus is the Savior of the world. Through his death on the cross, he was a ransom once and for all.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 1:21 *“She shall give birth to a son. You shall name him Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.”*

Luke 2:11 *“For there is born to you today, in David’s city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

1 Timothy 1:15 *“The saying is faithful and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”*

**37. QUESTION:** Is there any evidence in the Bible to show how Jesus Christ was humbled to the point of death?

**ANSWER:** Jesus Christ was humble unto the point of His death, he was betrayed by Judas and denied and forsaken by His disciples, the world rejected him, the people chose Barabbas the thief and condemned by Pilate, and was tortured and faced the reality of death where He laid down His life as an offering for sin. He endured the pain and shame.

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 2:8 *“And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross.”*

Matthew 26:56 *“But all this has happened that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.”*

Isaiah 53:2–3 *“For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no good looks or majesty. When we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering and acquainted with disease. He was despised as one from whom men hide their face; and we didn’t respect him.”*

John 19:34 *“However one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.”*

Hebrews 12:2 *“...looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

**38. QUESTION:** Where is Jesus Christ now?

**ANSWER:** Jesus Christ is exalted and seated at the right hand of God the Father, He is highly favored with God the Father, bestowed with all joy, glory, and power over all things in heaven and earth.

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 2:9 *“Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name....”*

John 17:5 *“Now, Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world existed.”*

Ephesians 4:10 *“He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.”*

**39. QUESTION:** Who can claim the redemption of Jesus Christ?

**ANSWER:** Redemption is assured to all. Jesus Christ purchased the redemption of all with his life. We need only respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and chose to follow Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 1:13-14 *“In him you also, having heard the word of the truth, the Good News of your salvation—in whom, having also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is a pledge of our inheritance, to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of his glory.”*

John 6:37, 39 *“All those whom the Father gives me will come to me. He who comes to me I will in no way throw out...This is the will of my Father who sent me, that of all he has given to me I should lose nothing, but should raise him up at the last day.”*

**40. QUESTION:** How was Jesus conceived?

**ANSWER:** Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit who came upon the virgin Mary.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 7:14 *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin will*

*conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

*Matthew 1:18-20 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: After his mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, intended to put her away secretly. But when he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take to yourself Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’”*

**41. QUESTION:** How is Jesus divine and at the same time human in nature?

**ANSWER:** At the conception of Jesus, the divine nature of the eternal Son was united with the human nature. Therefore, Jesus Christ is both fully divine and fully human. He did not inherit the nature of sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 1:14 *“The Word became flesh, and lived among us. We saw his glory, such glory as of the one and only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

Philippians 2:6-8 “...who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross.”

1 John 4:2-3 “By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit who doesn't confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God, and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, of whom you have heard that it comes. Now it is in the world already.”

**42. QUESTION:** What is the significance of the suffering of Jesus?

**ANSWER:** Jesus has been through our pain, understands our grief, and can empathize with our imperfections. As a result, we should persevere and maintain hope in the suffering, knowing that our Savior is with us in it, and that it is through it that we shall grow to know him more deeply.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 53:4-7 “Surely he has borne our sickness and carried our suffering; yet we considered

*him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way; and Yahweh has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he didn't open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he didn't open his mouth."*

**43. QUESTION:** What is the meaning of the Holy Trinity?

**ANSWER:** Trinity is a term that describes how the Triune God reveals Himself in the Bible as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 13:14 *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's love, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."*

**44. QUESTION:** What can you tell me about the Holy Spirit?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Spirit is the Teacher who reminds us of God's Scriptures. The Holy Spirit is a member of the Triune God and God living within us

as

believers.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 5:3-4 *“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land? While you kept it, didn’t it remain your own? After it was sold, wasn’t it in your power? How is it that you have conceived this thing in your heart? You haven’t lied to men, but to God.’”*

John 14:26 *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.”*

1 Corinthians 2:12 *“But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.”*

**45. QUESTION:** Is it true that the Holy Spirit inspired the Bible and its writers?

**ANSWER:** Yes. The Bible itself attests to the inspiration of its writings by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also led the church in the choosing of the canon, and he helps us to embrace the Scriptures as God’s written word to us by an inner witness. The Bible is

necessary, adequate, and trustworthy for our salvation because it reveals Jesus Christ, the living Word.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *“Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that each person who belongs to God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

2 Peter 1:20-21 *“...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation. For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.”*

1 Corinthians 2:11-13 *“For who among men knows the things of a man, except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so, no one knows the things of God, except God’s Spirit. But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God. We also speak these things, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual things.”*

**46. QUESTION:** How does the Holy Spirit help us to pray?

**ANSWER:** We often don't know what to pray for or even how to pray in a way that glorifies God. However, the Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer life by interceding for us when we don't know how or what to pray.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 8:26–27 *“In the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which can't be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows what is on the Spirit's mind, because he makes intercession for the saints according to God.”*

Psalms 10:17 *“Yahweh, you have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause your ear to hear....”*

**47. QUESTION:** What is the Holy Bible?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Bible is a divine revelation which is the Word of God. God reveals His will and guidance in the Holy Bible.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Timothy 3:16 *“Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness....”*

**48. QUESTION:** What does the Holy Bible contain?

**ANSWER:** The Holy Bible contains the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament consists of the Torah, Historical Literature, Wisdom Literature, including Psalms, and the Prophets. The New Testament consists of the Gospels, the Epistles, and Revelation.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings 2:3 *“...and keep the instruction of Yahweh your God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, according to that which is written in the law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do, and wherever you turn yourself.”*

Luke 20:42 *“David himself says in the book of Psalms, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand....’”*

John 6:45 *“It is written in the prophets, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who hears from the Father and has learned, comes to me.”*

Luke 24:44 *“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled.’”*

**49. QUESTION:** Who wrote the Holy Bible?

**ANSWER:** God wrote the Holy Bible using godly people who were led by the Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Peter 1:21 *“For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke, being moved by the Holy Spirit.”*

**50. QUESTION:** Is the Bible truly God’s Word?

**ANSWER:** Yes; this means that God uses the Bible to speak to us and call us to faith and obedience. God also used people to write the Bible and its composition was influenced by the language, philosophy, and culture of the period. The Bible was not written in isolation.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Timothy 3:14-15 *“But you remain in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them. From infancy, you have known the holy*

*Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith, which is in Christ Jesus.”*

1 John 1:3-4 “...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us. Yes, and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ. And we write these things to you, that our joy may be fulfilled.”

Ephesians 2:19-20 “So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone....”

**51. QUESTION:** How does reading the Bible benefit Christians?

**ANSWER:** Reading the Bible is essential. Some of the best rewards of Christian devotion are knowledge of God and his ways; growing in intimacy, friendship, and relationship with God; transformation into the image of God as revealed in the person of Jesus, to name a few.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God....”

Hebrews 2:12 *“...saying, ‘I will declare your name to my brothers. Among the congregation I will sing your praise.’”*

Psalms 119:105 *“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.”*

Isaiah 55:11 *“so is my word that goes out of my mouth: it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.”*

**52. QUESTION:** Is the church mentioned in the Bible, and if so, how is it described or portrayed?

**ANSWER:** Yes, the church is clearly depicted as the Bride of Christ, flock, elect, salt, light, yeast, branches of a vine, living stones, people of God, the body of Christ, and Holy Spirit fellowship; these are only a few of the metaphors used in the New Testament; all of these highlight the unity of Christ and his church.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:14 *“You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can’t be hidden.”*

Luke 12:32 *“Don’t be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.”*

John 15:5 *“I am the vine. You are the branches. He who remains in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

1 Peter 2:9 *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”*

**53. QUESTION:** What does the Bible teach?

**ANSWER:** The Bible teaches everything that human beings need to know and believe in God and what is required of them to do.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Timothy 1:13 *“Hold the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”*

Hebrews 11:6 *“Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.”*

Acts 15:14-15a *“Simeon has reported how God first visited the nations to take out of them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets.”*

**54. QUESTION:** What is contained in the Old Testament?

**ANSWER:** The Old Testament declares the power of God's creation, man's original disobedience; God's calling of Israel as his chosen people; his Law, wisdom, and saving works; and the teaching of the prophets. Also, the Old Testament bears witness of Jesus Christ and it reveals God's intention to redeem and reconcile with the world through Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24:44 *"He said to them, 'This is what I told you, while I was still with you, that all things which are written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me must be fulfilled.'"*

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 *"Now I would not have you ignorant, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ."*

**55. QUESTION:** What is contained in the New Testament?

**ANSWER:** The New Testament declares the birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ; it also gives information about the ministry of the church; the teachings of the apostles; the revelation of Christ's eternal Kingdom; and the promise of his return.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 24:45–49 *“Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send out the promise of my Father on you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high.’”*

**56. QUESTION:** What is the relationship between the Old and the New Testaments?

**ANSWER:** The New Testament reveals Jesus Christ, whereas the Old Testament portrays the revelation of God to Israel. The Old Testament also foretold the ministry of Jesus.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:17-18 *“Don’t think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn’t come to destroy, but to fulfill. For most certainly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished.”*

Luke 24:25–27 *“He said to them, ‘Foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Christ have to suffer these things and to enter into his glory?’ Beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

**57. QUESTION:** How do the Holy Scriptures help the believers stay grounded in the Lord and live a holy life? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this?

**ANSWER:** Through the Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us in the ways of God.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 119:105 *“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path.”*

John 14:26 *“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.”*

Hebrews 4:12–13 *“For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. There is no creature that is hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.”*

**58. QUESTION:** How are the Ten Commandments evident in the New Testament?

**ANSWER:** The Ten Commandments contain our duty to God, that is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.”

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 10:27 *“He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; your neighbor as yourself.’”*

Matthew 22:40 *“The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”*

**59. QUESTION:** Why are the Ten Commandments important to Christians?

**ANSWER:** They are important because they define our relationship with God and our fellow human beings.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 6:1-3 *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with a promise: ‘that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth.’”*

Matthew 22:40 *“The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”*

**60. QUESTION:** In the Old Testament, the phrase “people of God” appears. What is the relationship between it and the church?

**ANSWER:** The biblical image of the “people of God” ties the Old Testament community to the New Testament community. Through Christ’s fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy of a new covenant, the church

continues and renews the ancient covenant people. God's people are all believers.

**SCRIPTURE:** Jeremiah 31:31, 33 *"Behold, the days come," says Yahweh, "that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah...But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days," says Yahweh: "I will put my law in their inward parts, and I will write it in their heart. I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

1 Corinthians 11:25 *"In the same way he also took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink, in memory of me.'"*

**61. QUESTION:** What is sin?

**ANSWER:** Sin is disobedience of the law of God.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 John 3:4 *"Everyone who sins also commits lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness."*

Galatians 3:10, 12 *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who doesn't continue in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.' The law is*

*not of faith, but, 'The man who does them will live by them.'"*

**62. QUESTION:** How was sin transmitted from the first parents to humanity?

**ANSWER:** Sin was passed down from Adam to humanity by the virtue that they were their descendants and it was passed by natural generation, so as all that came from them in that way are conceived and born in sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 51:5 *"Behold, I was born in iniquity. My mother conceived me in sin."*

John 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

Job 15:14 *"What is man, that he should be clean? What is he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?"*

**63. QUESTION:** What impact does sin have on us?  
What is the effect of sin on humanity?

**ANSWER:** Sin brought separation between humans and God. Sin causes spiritual death, which means that it has tainted but not destroyed the image of God in us.

It infects and distorts all of our interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. While our unique human abilities have not been lost, they have been corrupted by sin. Our sin has enslaved us, and we are powerless to save ourselves

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 2:2–3 *“...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We also all once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”*

Lamentations 3:39 *“Why does a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?”*

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Jude 1:7 *“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, having in the same way as these given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are shown as an example, suffering the punishment of eternal fire.”*

Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

John 8:34 *“Jesus answered them, ‘Most certainly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is the bondservant of sin.’”*

Colossians 2:13-14 *“You were dead through your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh. He made you alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, wiping out the handwriting in ordinances which was against us. He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.”*

**64. QUESTION:** What is the effect of the fall of Adam?

**ANSWER:** The fall of Adam brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 5:12 *“Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; so death passed to all men, because all sinned.”*

Romans 3:23 *“...for all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God....”*

**65. QUESTION:** Did the fall of Adam affect the whole of humanity?

**ANSWER:** Yes, the fall of Adam affected the whole of humanity. This is because the covenant that God made with Adam was not a personal private one but it was binding to the rest of his offspring. Therefore, his actions affected all his descendants.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 17:26 *“He made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the surface of the earth, having determined appointed seasons, and the boundaries of their dwellings....”*

Romans 5:12–20 *“Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; so death passed to all men, because all sinned. For until the law, sin was in the world; but sin is not charged when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those whose sins weren’t like Adam’s disobedience, who is a foreshadowing of him who was to come. But the free gift isn’t like the trespass. For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God, and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not as through one who sinned; for the judgment came by one to condemnation, but the free gift came of many trespasses to justification. For if by the trespass of the*

*one, death reigned through the one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life. For as through the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one, many will be made righteous. The law came in that the trespass might abound; but where sin abounded, grace abounded more exceedingly...."*

1 Corinthians 15:21–22 *"For since death came by man, the resurrection of the dead also came by man. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive."*

**66. QUESTION:** What is the human condition?

**ANSWER:** Humanity has been cut off from God by self-centered rebellion against him, resulting in lawlessness, guilt, shame, death, and the fear of judgment, despite the fact that we were created good and made for relationship with our Creator. This is what it means to be in a state of sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 14:1-3 *"The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt. They*

*have done abominable deeds. There is no one who does good. Yahweh looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who sought after God. They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is no one who does good, no, not one.”*

*Romans 1:18-20 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known of God is revealed in them, for God revealed it to them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity, that they may be without excuse.”*

**67. QUESTION:** What does the forgiveness of sin mean?

**ANSWER:** Forgiveness is God’s costly act in Jesus Christ to pardon sinners and to restore our broken relationships both with God and with one another. Faith, repentance and baptism are the means by which we receive forgiveness. In forgiving others we share the peace of Christ.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 13:38-39 *“Be it known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man is proclaimed to you remission of sins, and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*

1 Peter 1:19 *“...but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish or spot, the blood of Christ...”*

2 Corinthians 5:19 *“...namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

Acts 2:38 *“Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*

**68. QUESTION:** Can anyone save themselves from sin and death?

**ANSWER:** No. We do not have the power to save ourselves, for sin has tarnished our morality, confused our minds and captured our will. It is only God who can save us.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 2:1-9 *“You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We also all once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, that no one would boast.”*

**69. QUESTION:** What is repentance?

**ANSWER:** To repent means that one has to have a change of heart where they turn from sinful ways and turn to God. Making this change only happens with God’s help.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 57:15-18 *“For the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy, says: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite. For I will not contend forever, neither will I always be angry; for the spirit would faint before me, and the souls whom I have made. I was angry because of the iniquity of his covetousness and struck him. I hid myself and was angry; and he went on backsliding in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him. I will lead him also, and restore comforts to him and to his mourners.’”*

1 John 2:1-2 *“My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, we have a Counselor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.”*

**70. QUESTION:** How can we repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ?

**ANSWER:** With the help of God, you need to only acknowledge and turn away from your sinful ways, then you will receive the free gift of God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE:** Joel 2:32 *“And it will happen that whoever will call on Yahweh’s name shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the remnant, those whom Yahweh calls.”*

Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Therefore let’s also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let’s run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

John 1:12 *“But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God’s children, to those who believe in his name....”*

**71. QUESTION:** What is the sign of repentance?

**ANSWER:** The sign is to first regret your sins and confess them. Then pray to God for strength to live a holy life that pleases Him. People become more Christ-like when they repent. The Spirit of God stirs people’s hearts to repent. Upon repentance, believers obey God and follow his commandments.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 *“I now rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that you were grieved to repentance. For you were grieved in a godly way, that you might suffer loss by us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation, which brings no regret. But the sorrow of the world produces death.”*

Matthew 28:19–20 *“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

1 Corinthians 12:13 *“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all given to drink into one Spirit.”*

1 Peter 3:18–22 *“Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit, in whom he also went and preached to the spirits in prison, who before were disobedient, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, while the ship was being built. In it, few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. This is a symbol of baptism, which now saves you—not the*

*putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, angels and authorities and powers being made subject to him.”*

**72. QUESTION:** Are there other ways for us to be saved?

**ANSWER:** No, there is no other way for us to be saved from the sinful nature. It is only through Jesus Christ that we can receive redemption from the chains of sin and death.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 4:12 *“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that is given among men, by which we must be saved!”*

Philippians 3:8–9 *“Yes most certainly, and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith....”*

**73. QUESTION:** What is our hope as Christians?

**ANSWER:** Our hope is in God, who by the resurrection of Jesus Christ has given us a living hope. We hope for a transformed world in which justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We also hope for a new heaven and a new earth, when death will be no more, and crying and pain will have passed away.

**SCRIPTURE** Psalms 71:5 *“For you are my hope, Lord Yahweh, my confidence from my youth.”*

1 Timothy 1:1 *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ our hope....”*

1 Peter 1:3 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead....”*

Amos 5:24 *“But let justice roll on like rivers, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”*

2 Peter 3:13 *“But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”*

**74. QUESTION:** Should we share the Gospel with persons of different faiths?

**ANSWER:** Yes. All individuals, including those who practice other religions, can benefit from the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. However, we believe that God's Spirit is active in all who seek God, providing truth and encouraging them to follow the Triune God. When we preach the Gospel to them, we do so in humility, "like beggars telling others where food can be obtained."

**SCRIPTURE:** John 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.'"*

2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but he is patient with us, not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

Titus 2:11 *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men...."*

Romans 15:7 *"Therefore accept one another, even as Christ also accepted you, to the glory of God."*

**75. QUESTION:** What is the destiny of those who die without ever hearing about Jesus in a way they can understand?

**ANSWER:** It is not for us to say how God will deal with people who die in ignorance of Jesus. Three things are clear: first, God loves the world; secondly, the destiny of all people is in the hands of God, whose love, mercy and justice we trust. Third, the existence of a real heaven and a real hell is well-defined in the Bible. The Scripture is quite clear about the destiny of those who do not know God. In Mathew 28: 19, Jesus commanded his followers to “make disciples of all nations.” When people die without hearing about Jesus, the burden of that responsibility falls on the ones who knew and never told them. “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in him whom they have not heard? How will they hear without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent?” Romans 10:14-15

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 103:8 *“Yahweh is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness.”*

Romans 9:32 *“Why? Because they didn’t seek it by faith, but as it were by works of the law. They stumbled over the stumbling stone....”*

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”*

**76. QUESTION:** What is prayer?

**ANSWER:** Prayer is simply a conversation with God; talking to God, where we express our thankfulness and desires to Him in the name of Christ. Prayer is also listening to God so we can follow his guidance. This is facilitated by the help of the Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 62:8 *“Trust in him at all times, you people. Pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. Selah.”*

John 16:23 *“In that day you will ask me no questions. Most certainly I tell you, whatever you may ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.”*

**77. QUESTION:** Can prayers be alternative for work?

**ANSWER:** While prayer can become a mere rote exercise and an excuse for doing nothing, true prayer involves offering our lives in love and service to God

and to our neighbors. When we pray for the poor and needy, the lonely and the mourning, the homeless and dispossessed, we commit ourselves to doing what lies in our power to alleviate their sufferings.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 6:7-8 *“In praying, don’t use vain repetitions as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their much speaking. Therefore don’t be like them, for your Father knows what things you need before you ask him.”*

Romans 12:1 *“Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.”*

James 2:14-17 *“What good is it, my brothers, if a man says he has faith, but has no works? Can faith save him? And if a brother or sister is naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you tells them, “Go in peace. Be warmed and filled;” yet you didn’t give them the things the body needs, what good is it? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself.”*

**78. QUESTION:** Are prayer and healing related?

**ANSWER:** They are intimately related. While we acknowledge that God may choose to use medicine to

heal, we believe through the example of Scriptures, especially in the early church, that we should continue to intimately relate prayer and healing.

**SCRIPTURE:** James 5:13-15 *“Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praises. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the assembly, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will heal him who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”*

2 Kings 20:4-5 *“Before Isaiah had gone out into the middle part of the city, Yahweh’s word came to him, saying, ‘Turn back, and tell Hezekiah the prince of my people, “Yahweh, the God of David your father, says, ‘I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day, you will go up to Yahweh’s house.”*

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 *“By reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted excessively, a thorn in the flesh was given to me: a messenger of Satan to torment me, that I should not be exalted excessively. Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me. He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you,*

*for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.”*

**79. QUESTION:** Can we pray to any other being apart from God?

**ANSWER:** No. This would be wrong; it is only God who is able to search the hearts, hear our petitions and forgives our sins, then he is able to fulfill the desires of our hearts.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Kings 8:39 “...*then hear in heaven, your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to every man according to all his ways, whose heart you know (for you, even you only, know the hearts of all the children of men) ....*”

Acts 1:24 “*They prayed and said, ‘You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two you have chosen....’*”

Romans 8:27 “*He who searches the hearts knows what is on the Spirit’s mind, because he makes intercession for the saints according to God.*”

Micah 7:18 “*Who is a God like you, who pardons iniquity, and passes over the disobedience of the*

*remnant of his heritage? He doesn't retain his anger forever, because he delights in loving kindness. "*

**80. QUESTION:** What does it mean to pray in the name of Christ?

**ANSWER:** To pray in the name of Christ is to obey what he commands, and to have confidence in His promises. This is also to ask for mercy for His sake. This gives us boldness, strength, and hope of acceptance in prayer, from Christ and His mediation.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 14:13–14 *"Whatever you will ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you will ask anything in my name, I will do it."*

Daniel 9:17 *"Now therefore, our God, listen to the prayer of your servant, and to his petitions, and cause your face to shine on your sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake."*

1 John 5:13-15 *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to*

*us. And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.”*

**81. QUESTION:** How are we supposed to pray?

**ANSWER:** We are to pray with awe at God’s majesty and a deep knowledge of our own unworthiness, needs, and sins; with contrite, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, confidence, sincerity, zeal, love, and perseverance, waiting on Him; and with humble surrender to His will.

**SCRIPTURE:** Ecclesiastes 5:1 *“Guard your steps when you go to God’s house; for to draw near to listen is better than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they don’t know that they do evil.”*

Luke 15:17-19 *“But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight. I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me as one of your hired servants.’”*

**82. QUESTION:** Where do we get help?

**ANSWER:** Our help comes from the Lord God our father.

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalms 121: 1-2 *“I will lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? My help comes from Yahweh, who made heaven and earth.”*

Isaiah 41:10 *“Don’t you be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.”*

**83. QUESTION:** What will heaven be like?

**ANSWER:** Heaven is pictured in the Bible in different ways: an eternal kingdom, the Father’s house, a house with many rooms, a marriage feast, an unending day and the joy of God’s presence. Our most profound delights here on earth are only a dim reflection of the fullness of life that awaits us.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 14:2-3 *“In my Father’s house are many homes. If it weren’t so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and will*

*receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also.”*

Matthew 8:11 *“I tell you that many will come from the east and the west, and will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven....”*

1 Corinthians 2:9 *“But as it is written, ‘Things which an eye didn’t see, and an ear didn’t hear, which didn’t enter into the heart of man, these God has prepared for those who love him....’”*

**84. QUESTION:** What is the ultimate purpose of a human being?

**ANSWER:** The ultimate purpose of a human being is to worship and glorify God. This will only happen when they have a loving relationship with God and have an assurance of everlasting life.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 11:36 *“For of him, and through him, and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *“Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

Psalms 73:24-28 *“You will guide me with your*

*counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom do I have in heaven? There is no one on earth whom I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart fails, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For, behold, those who are far from you shall perish. You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to you. But it is good for me to come close to God. I have made the Lord Yahweh my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.”*

**85. QUESTION:** Will all human beings experience death?

**ANSWER:** Yes. All humans will experience death because death is described as the wages of sin. All of humanity has sinned, therefore we will experience death.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Hebrews 9:27 *“Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, judgment....”*

Romans 5:12 *“Therefore as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin; so death passed to all men, because all sinned.”*

**86. QUESTION:** Do Christians believe in the resurrection of the dead?

**ANSWER:** Yes, Christians believe in the resurrection of the dead. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust. They shall be raised by the power of Jesus Christ, who has conquered the grave and sin.

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 24:15 *“having hope toward God, which these also themselves look for, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.”*

1 Corinthians 15:51–53 *“Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must become imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

**87. QUESTION:** What events shall follow the resurrection?

**ANSWER:** After the resurrection of all the people, there shall be the judgment of angels and men however no person knows the exact time. What is

expected of believers is to watch and pray, and be ready for the coming of the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Peter 2:4 *“For if God didn’t spare angels when they sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus, and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment....”*

Luke 21:35–36 *“For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

**88. QUESTION:** What is the final verdict for the wicked on the Day of Judgment?

**ANSWER:** On the Day of Judgment the wicked will be cast on Jesus Christ’s left hand and upon full conviction of their own sin, they shall have the condemnation declared upon them.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 25:33 *“He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”*

Romans 2:15–16 *“...in that they show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience testifying with them, and their thoughts among themselves accusing or else excusing them in the day when God*

*will judge the secrets of men, according to my Good News, by Jesus Christ. ”*

**89. QUESTION:** What will happen to the righteous on the Day of Judgment?

**ANSWER:** The righteous will be with Christ on the Day of Judgment. They shall be put on His right hand and be received into heaven where they shall be freed from sin and death.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with God’s trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.”*

Matthew 25:33 *“He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”*

**90. QUESTION:** What do Christians believe about everlasting life?

**ANSWER:** To believe in Christ is to have eternal life here and now; a life that continues and is not ended by

death. Jesus is the resurrection and the life; those who believe in him, even though they die, will live.

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

1 John 2:25 *“This is the promise which he promised us, the eternal life.”*

John 11:25-26 *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”*

## **91. QUESTION:** Who is Satan?

**ANSWER:** Satan is a liar and the enemy of everything godly. Satan hates the light but loves the darkness. Satan seeks to destroy.

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*

2 Corinthians 2:11 *“...that no advantage may be gained over us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”*

**92. QUESTION:** What does the word “Amen” mean?

**ANSWER:** To cite the Heidelberg Catechism, “Amen” means that “this shall truly and certainly be. My prayer is much more certainly heard by God than I am persuaded in my heart that I desire such things from him.”

**SCRIPTURE:** 1 Chronicles 16:36 *“Blessed be Yahweh, the God of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting. All the people said, ‘Amen,’ and praised Yahweh.”*

Isaiah 65:16 *“...so that he who blesses himself in the earth will bless himself in the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth will swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from my eyes.”*

2 Corinthians 1:20 *“For however many are the promises of God, in him is the ‘Yes.’ Therefore also through him is the ‘Amen’, to the glory of God through us.”*

1 John 5:14-15 *“This is the boldness which we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he listens to us. And if we know that he listens to us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions which we have asked of him.”*

### 3

## CONCLUSION



Catechism Lesson. 1859 Painting by  
Józef Szermentowski. National Museum in Warsaw  
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The purpose of this catechism is to impart the vital beliefs and practices of the Christian faith. It is expected that this catechism will become a point of reference for the composition or revision of future catechisms that are contextualized for each context. This catechism is also a point of reference for church leaders, both clergy and laity, who are involved in the teaching and training of new believers; it is also a point of reference for all Christians

who want to enhance their faith in Christ and seekers who wish to learn about the claims of the Christian faith.

It is the prayer of the author that this catechism will be translated or adapted into many languages so that the entire global church could benefit from this important resource. As the worldwide church continues growing in world areas where Christ was not followed, this catechism could be used to develop contextualized catechisms for these world areas. This catechism was not written with one-size-fits-all philosophy in mind. This is why culturally, age and time appropriate catechisms should always be available to the worldwide church to continue making Christ-like disciples.

This catechism teaches the basics of the Christian faith in a summarized form. The question and answer format facilitates the learning and teaching process. The cited Scriptures support the answer to each question. The fundamental Christian truths in this catechism are an asset to the believer and the seeker. The believer will learn more about their faith and the seeker will understand the veracity of the Christian faith and hopefully accept the call of Jesus Christ to be his disciple.

This catechism is intended to help growing Christians as well as the serious seekers. This catechism can be taught formally and informally. While formal teaching requires

a formal setting, informal teaching does not. This catechism can be taught while the catechist and the catechumens are walking together. The catechism then takes the form of a catechesis. Catechesis is a religious instruction that is given orally to the catechumens while catechism is a book. In other words, catechesis becomes catechism once it is written down in a book.

This catechism was written with the global church in mind; it is for the worldwide church. Special care has been taken to make sure that this important resource does not become sectarian. The Christian truths contained in this book are accepted by all the three wings of the church (Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant). It is the prayer of the author that this catechism will inspire the community of faith to regularly use catechisms available to them to continue making Christ-like disciples. The best way to communicate the church's core teachings is through the use catechisms. Whether you are faithful or an aspiring faithful, this catechism is for you.

Dozens of Christians and seekers approached the author looking for a simple and comprehensive way to teach or learn the essential doctrines of the church as taught in the Holy Bible. After more than a year of prayers and consultations, the Holy Spirit moved the author to pen this catechism. Any imperfections in this book are the author's

and anything good in it is of the Lord who should get all the credit.

# About the Author

Rev. Aweis A. Ali, PhD, is a missiologist and an authority on the persecuted church in the Muslim world with special expertise on the Somali church. He became a disciple of Christ in 1986 through the ministry of SIM. Aweis was a co-pastor of a house church in Mogadishu, Somalia, in the mid 1990s when 12 of the 14 members were martyred for their faith. Aweis has been ministering in the Muslim world since 1993; he has lived and served in world areas that include the Horn of Africa, East Africa, West Africa and the United States. Aweis earned a B.Th. degree from the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa; an M.Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri; and a Ph.D. from Africa Nazarene University in Nairobi. Aweis' Ph.D. thesis is titled "Persecution of Christians and its Effect on Church Growth in Somalia." Aweis is the author, editor or translator of 11 books and more than a dozen articles. He is the founder and the Series Editor of the annual *Maansada Masiixa* (Anthology of Somali Christian Poetry) as well as the Somali Bible Society Journal, the official biannual journal of the Somali Bible Society. The author's research interests include the persecution of Christians, church history and church growth in the Muslim world; Waaqism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam in the Somali peninsula; global paremiology and Somali

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## Other books by the Author

Other Books by Dr. Aweis A. Ali as an author, editor, or translator





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