

Simple Catechism Questions for Children

CHAPTER III

Of God.—In general.

What is God?—In general, perfect and invisible spirit, and they that worship Him in spirit, and they that worship Him in truth. How can that be, since eyes, and other corporal members, are used to know Him in the Holy Scriptures?—A. (1) It must be figuratively understood, and the properties in God, as bear some resemblance to the use of those human members. (2) How must we search the Scriptures?—A. (1) In the fear of God, Ps. 119:101. (2) With a praying heart, 1 Th. 5:17. (3) With a diligent judgment, 1 Cor. 14:15.

14.

WELLSBROOK'S CATECHISM

A. (1) In His Essence; (2) in His Attributes; (3) in His Works.
4. Q. May an essence be ascribed to God?
A. Yes; although not in a composition (as essence).
5. Q. How many Gods are there?
A. One God, 1 Tim. 2:5. There is one Mediator between God and man, Christ Jesus.
6. Q. Yet God Himself speaks in the first commandment. Explain that because they in religion men make and hold other gods, called gods, . . . to us there

II. Of God's Name

What doth God also stand for?
A. No; because there is only one God. Gen. 32:29; Judges 6:10.
2. Q. Why do men bear many names?
A. To distinguish the persons like unto them.
3. Q. Why are names given to God?
A. (1) To distinguish Him thereby to make known unto us.
4. Q. Are then all names of God significant?
A. Yes.

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Simple Catechism
Questions for Children

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Introduction

In the Netherlands, this little catechism booklet has been used for years to teach children the basics of theology. Rev. Ledebouer was a minister in the Netherlands in the 19th century. He was born at September 30, 1808, and died in October 1863. He was installed as a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, the state church in the Netherlands, at Benthuizen. This church became more and more liberal. Ledebouer wanted to return to biblical preaching and to the Dutch confessions. Because of this, the state church deposed him. He began to plant churches outside of the main denomination. Both the state itself and the state church persecuted him for preaching in his own churches. In 1907, the churches of Rev. Ledebouer continued into two denominations. First from the Old Reformed Congregations in the Netherlands of Rev. Boone,¹ and second the Netherlands Reformed Churches (GG) of Rev. G.H. Kersten.² Rev. Ledebouer wrote a little catechism booklet to teach children the basics of the Bible. May this translation be blessed by the Lord.

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¹ Oud Gereformeerde Gemeenten in Nederland (OGGiN).

² Gereformeerde Gemeenten in Nederland en Amerika (GG), a denomination of the Netherlands Reformed Congregations en America and Canada.

1. God

1. *Who has created you?*

God (Gen. 1:26).

2. *Who is God?*

He is a most perfect Spirit (John 4:24).

3. *How must God be served?*

In Spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

4. *Are you able to do that?*

No (1 Cor. 2:14).

5. *Why not?*

Because I do not know Him (Eccl. 7:29).

6. *Why is it that you do not know your Creator?*

Because of sin (Rom. 5: 12).

2. Sin

7. *What is sin?*

Disobedience against God (Rom. 7: 10).

8. *What does God require of us?*

That we love him above all (Mat. 22:37, etc.).

9. *What do we love?*

Sin and the world (1 John 2:15).

10. *How did sin come into the world?*

By disobedience of our first parents Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:6).

11. *Where did that sin take place?*

In paradise.

12 *What was the first sin?*

To eat of the forbidden tree.

3. Result of Sin

13. *What followed after this first sin?*

Death and Depravity (Rom. 1:18).

14. *Wherein does that depravity exist?*

In complete impotence and unwillingness to do good (Eph. 4:18).

15. *What is the greatest misery?*

Not to feel his misery (Rev. 3:17).

16. *Is that necessary?*

“Only acknowledge thine iniquity” (Jer. 3:13).

17. *How do you obtain that knowledge?*

By the discovering light of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8).

18. *Wherein does that true knowledge reveal itself?*

In knowing himself guilty and justifying God in His punishment (Ps. 51:4).

19. *What is that punishment?*

Everlasting destruction (2 Thess. 1:9).

20. *Where shall that be?*

In hell (Luke 16:23).

21. *What is hell?*

A lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Rev. 21:8).

Result of Sin

22. *Who will come there?*

Unconverted people and children (Luke 19:27).

23. *What is it to be unconverted?*

To be deprived of God's favor and blessed communion.

24. *Wherein does that reveal itself?*

In hating God and our neighbors (Rom. 8:7, Tit. 3:3).

4. Salvation

25. *Can we be saved from that unconverted state?*

Yes (Acts 2:43).

26. *In what manner?*

By true conversion (Acts 2:38).

27. *What is conversion*

To receive a new heart (Ezek. 36:26).

28. *Who is able to give that to us?*

God alone (Luke 18:27).

29. *What is it to receive a new heart?*

To love God above all (Eph. 4:22-24).

30. *Wherein does it exist more?*

In hating sin, what naturally accompanies it (Ps. 139:21).

31. *Wherein do we need to hate sin?*

In its origin (Rom. 7:7).

32. *What is the cause of sin?*

Lust (Jam. 1:14-15).

33. *Wherein exists that evil concupiscence?*

In desiring anything else than God wants that we should desire (Mat. 10:37).

Salvation

34. *What does God want that we should desire?*

Him alone (Ps. 73:25).

35. *May we then not desire food or drink?*

Yes, but to be led to God by it (1 Cor. 10:31).

36. *What is it to be led by food and drink to God?*

That we acknowledge Him as its Giver (1 Tim. 6:7).

37. *Why does God give us that food and that drink?*

To serve Him (Deut. 8:10-11).

38. *What is it to serve God?*

To surrender soul and body to Him to do His (1 Cor. 6:20).

39. *How can that happen?*

By regeneration (John 3:5).

40. *What is regeneration?*

A complete change of man in all his affections (Eph. 4:22-24).

41. *Who is able to work that?*

God by His Word and Spirit (Tit. 3:5).

42. *Must we pray Him for that Spirit?*

Yes, certainly (Mat. 7:7)

43. *Do we have any ground for it?*

Yes, in our baptism.

Salvation

44. *In Whose Name are you baptized?*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mat. 28:19).

45. *Is it sufficient to be baptized?*

No, I need to be washed of my sins in the blood of the Lord Jesus (1 John 1:7).

5. The Lord Jesus Christ

46. *Where has the Lord Jesus shed His blood?*

On Calvary, on the cursed wood of the cross (Gal. 3:13).

47. *Why did Jesus die on the cross?*

For the sins of His people (1 Pet. 2:24).

48. *What is the greatest sin?*

Ingratitude and disobedience (Rom. 5:19).

49. *Where has God given His commandments?*

First in our heart, which our conscience testifies (Rom. 2:15).

50. *What has our heart become by sin?*

A residence of the devils (Rom. 1:29, etc.).

51. *Who has crushed the head of the devil?*

The Lord Jesus Christ (Gen. 3:15).

52. *Who has come to destroy the works of the devil?*

The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Juan 3:8).

6. Good and Evil Works

53. *What is written in 1 John 3:8?*

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

54. *What are the works of the devil?*

Lying, slandering, and murdering (John 8:44).

55. *What does the Lord say about liars?*

That He will destroy them (Ps. 5:6).

56. *Can they, who do the works of the devil, come in heaven?*

No (2 Cor. 6:15).

57. *Who will enter heaven?*

Those who love God and the Lord Jesus (John 17:3, Ps. 65:4).

58. *How must we love the Lord*

With all our heart (Prov. 23:26).

59. *Whom have we given our heart to?*

The devil and the world.

60. *What must then happen to us to come in heaven?*

The Lord Jesus must make his abode in our heart (2 Cor. 13:5).

61. *Must we pray him for that?*

Yes, because He has said, “Seek Me while I may be found, call

Good and Evil Works

ye upon Me while I am near” (Isa. 55:6).

62. *Is it early enough when we have become old?*

No, because I am not sure of my life for a moment (Heb. 4:7).

63. *Whereof does the Bible assure us?*

If we die unconverted, that we enter eternal damnation (John 3:36).

64. *Do you want to be there?*

That is what I show with my works.

65. *With what works do children show this?*

In their disobedience to God and their parents.

66. *Where do children, who remain this way, come?*

With the devils in hell (Luke 16:24).

67. *Are children allowed to play on the streets, or to interact with other mischievous children?*

No, although I am equally depraved, I would learn more evil there (1 Cor. 15:33).

68. *What do children learn on the streets?*

To curse and talk evil.

69. *What has the Lord said of those that curse?*

That He will not hold them guiltless that use His name in vain.

70. *What does that mean?*

That He will visit them with the heaviest punishments, both in soul and body, in hell.

7. The Necessity of Salvation

71. *What must children do then?*

Pray, read God's Word, and be obedient.

72. *What must children think of?*

That I have to give an account of all that I do (2 Cor. 5:10).

73. *Where is that written?*

Ecclesiastes 11:9.

74. *What is written there?*

"But know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

75. *What does the Lord say of them that seek Him early?*

That they shall find Him and obtain favor of the Lord.

76. *And what of those that hate Him?*

That they love death.

77. *Where is that written?*

Proverbs 8:35 and 36.

78. *What is written in verse 35?*

"For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord."

The Necessity of Salvation

79. *What is written in verse 36?*

“But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.”

8. The Bible

80. *Must children seek early to become known with the Bible?*

Yes, because it is God's Word, and He has it commanded to us (John 5:39, Prov. 22:6).

81. *Are we able to understand it?*

No, therefore we need God the Holy Spirit to open of our heart (Acts 16:14).

82. *What has the Lord written in the Bible?*

The way of salvation (Acts 4:12).

83. *By Whom is the Bible written?*

God has it written by His Spirit (2 Ped. 1:21).

84. *May we add or subtract from it?*

No, his part shall be taken away out of the book of life (Rev. 22:18-19).

85. *About what must we be most preoccupied?*

Whether we have received forgiveness of sins by the blood of the Lord Jesus (Heb. 9:22).

86. *Wherein does the highest good exist?*

In knowing and loving God (Eccl. 12:13).

87. *What must we fear the most?*

Sin (Gen. 39:9).

9. Death and Eternal Destination

88. *Who are able to die comfortably?*

The converted people and children (Rev. 14:13).

89. *What must we forsake first?*

The world and its lust (1 John 2:17).

90. *What will become of our bodies?*

They return to dust and will be eaten of worms (Gen. 3:19).

91. *Who only can be called rich?*

Those that have a treasure in heaven (Col. 1:12).

92. *Who are eager to leave the world?*

Those that have the Lord Jesus as their portion.

93. *What says Asaph about this in Psalm 73?*

“Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.”

94. *Who are the most blessed people?*

Who do not know and desire any greater happiness than to do God’s will (John 4:34).

95. *Who are the most unhappy people?*

Those that continue to do their own will and ways.

96. *What shall their end be?*

Eternal destruction.

Death and Eternal Destination

97. *But what shall the end be of the godly?*

Eternal bliss and glory. Amen. (Mat. 25:46).