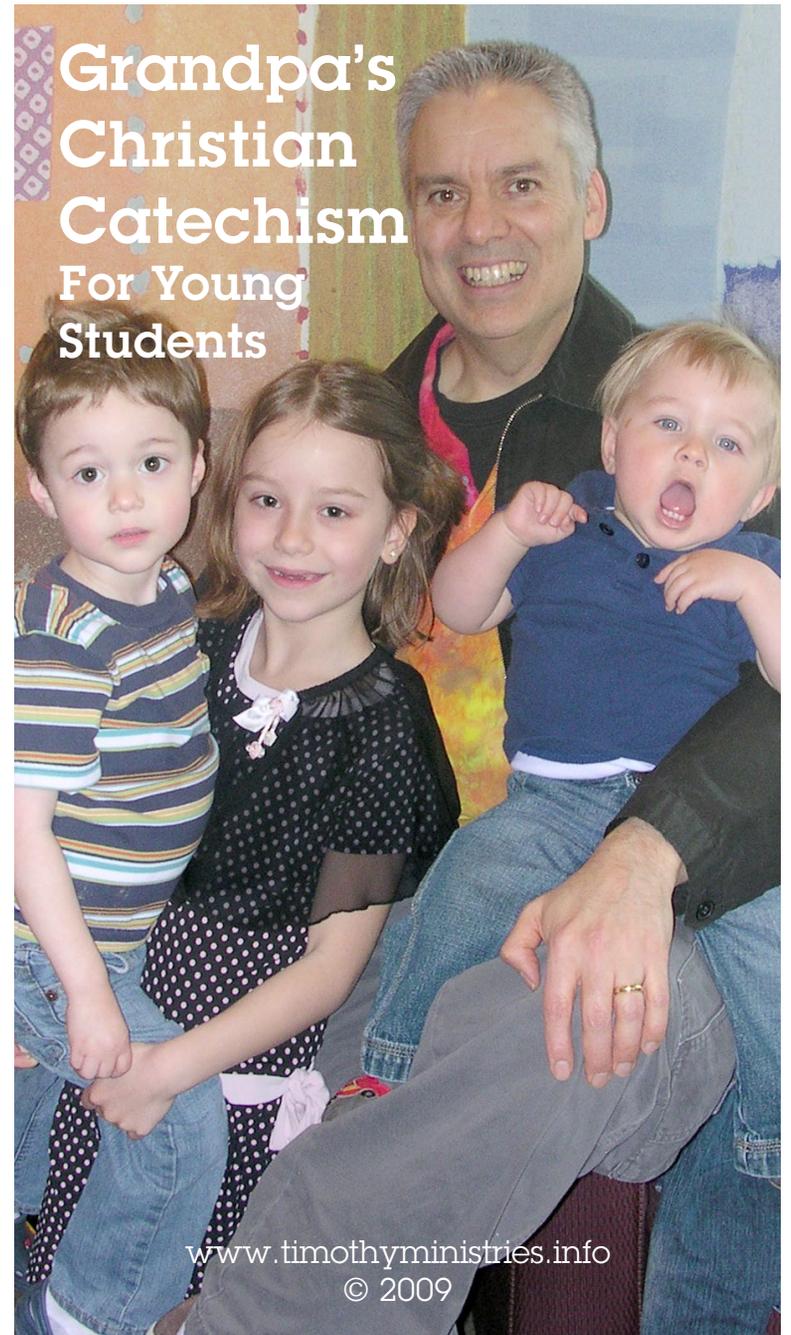




God determined the exact place  
where we should each live.  
Acts 17.26

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# Grandpa's Christian Catechism For Young Students

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**FOR  
Alexandria,  
Micah,  
Noah,  
Annalise  
and  
Maximus**

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# Grandpa's Christian Catechism

## For Young Students

First Edition

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## Biblical Quotations

All direct quotations from the Bible are taken from the NIV, unless otherwise indicated. When other versions are directly quoted, the version is given in a superscript notation. In the rare instances when a Scripture passage is translated directly from the Greek New Testament, the superscript notation is given as GRK.

## Abbreviations Used

- CSB *Holman Christian Standard Bible*, © 2003 by Holman Bible Publishers.
- GRK Original translation from the Greek New Testament.
- KJV *King James Version of the English Bible*, © 1997 by the Online Bible Foundation and Woodside Fellowship of Ontario, Canada.
- NAU *The New American Standard Bible*, © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation.
- NIV *The Holy Bible: New International Version*, © 1984 by International Bible Society.
- NKJ *The New King James Version*, © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
- NLT *Holy Bible, New Living Translation, second edition*, © 2004 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

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## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

34. How can we let people see our faith, hope and love at the end of our lives?

Answer: We can encourage them to trust in Jesus Christ, and we can talk to them about what we are looking forward to in the presence of Jesus (See Psalm 16.11 and 17.15).

35. Do you know what Christian Grandpas look forward to when it's time to die?

Answer: Seeing their Savior face to face (Revelation 22.4)?

Yes, that above all, but they also look forward to the time when they will be reunited with all their loved ones, children and grandchildren and live joyfully together in the Lord's presence forever and ever with no more tears (Revelation 21.4).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

### Introduction

Love for my grandchildren motivated me to write this catechism. Our children need a theological foundation, and this little book is a tool for parents, grandparents and Sunday School teachers to help lay that foundation with biblical substance.

The Church already has its classic catechisms, of course, a stack of which I had at my side as I composed this one. However, most are in Elizabethan English and often emphasize denominational distinctions. The special characteristics of this catechism are that it:

- is written in 21<sup>st</sup>-century *American*,
- includes some of the real questions children ask (not just the questions that they *should* ask),
- allows topics to overlap rather than keeping material in strict systematic categories,
- includes questions and answers about our eschatological destiny to point children toward a future more meaningful than “eternally playing a harp on a cloud,”
- alludes to city (i.e., cultural) transformation as part of our calling,
- and also on pages 42 and 50 includes blessings for sons and daughters that can be adapted by parents and grandparents to pronounce over their loved ones.

I've written for an eight-year-old, but have not avoided technical matters. Some “big words” are explained in the catechism; others will provide an opportunity for the instructor to teach the student a new vocabulary term.

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

A children's catechism obviously cannot provide a thorough theological education nor fully address the spiritual concerns of adults. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that children (and adults) who use this catechism have committed themselves to life-long theological study. I urge that the Bible itself and what we call *biblical theology* remain foremost in this quest, but I recognize the importance of resources on historical theology and systematic theology as well. As theological resources, I heartily recommend the works of Wayne Grudem (see the select bibliography).

Nor can a catechism take the place of straightforward Scripture memorization, or of careful exegesis! My work on this little book will have been counterproductive if it detracts from either of these disciplines or is used as a source of proof-texts. Rather, I hope it will inspire its readers to commit additional passages to memory, and to pursue deeper study of the topics it touches upon.

Please write to me with corrections and suggestions for improvement at

[roderick@tmin.org](mailto:roderick@tmin.org) .

Roderick A. Graciano  
Tacoma, WA, USA

## The Christian Life

28. What exactly happens when a person dies?

Answer: Their body stops working and eventually turns to dust, "and [their] spirit returns to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12.7).

29. So does everyone go to heaven when they die?

Answer: Saved believers go immediately to be with the Lord when they leave their bodies behind (2 Corinthians 5.8 and Philippians 1.23).

30. What about unbelievers?

Answer: God sends them to a place of everlasting punishment when they die (Matthew 25.46).

31. That makes me very sad!

Answer: Me too. That's one reason why we should take every opportunity to share with people about the hope we have because of Jesus (1 Peter 3.15).

32. Well what did you mean by "dying well"?

Answer: We should honor the Lord not only by how we live, but by how we die (Romans 14.8).

33. How can we honor the Lord by how we die?

Answer: First, we should make sure that we have asked forgiveness for our wrongs, and that we have forgiven all who have wronged us. Secondly, as much as possible we should "owe nothing to anyone except to love" them (Romans 13.8<sup>NAU</sup>). Thirdly, we should let others see our faith, hope and love — rather than fear — when death is near.

24. What does it mean to “forgive our debtors”?

Answer: It means to forgive anyone who has taken something from us or has wronged us. This is very important because our Father will not forgive us if we do not forgive one another (Matthew 6.14-15), and it is also important for the health of the one Body of Christ, the Church.

25. If there is only one Body, why are there so many different kinds of Christian groups that go by different names like Baptists or Lutherans or Pentecostals?

Answer: Many of the differences between Christian groups are only cultural (they have different styles of worship), though some differences are doctrinal (they have different ways of understanding the Bible's teaching). Sadly, some of the differences arise from selfishness and competition.

26. Wouldn't it grieve the Lord Jesus to have His Body splintered because of people's selfishness?

Answer: Yes, Jesus asked His Father that His followers “be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me” (John 17.20-23).

27. Thank you for helping me learn about the Christian life; is there anything else I should know?

Answer: Yes, you should learn about how to die well.

## Chapter 1

# Catechism

1. What is a catechism?

Answer: A little book of questions and answers about spiritual things.

2. Where does the word *catechism* come from?

Answer: From the Greek word *katecheo*<sup>1</sup> which means to “instruct” or “teach” (Galatians 6.6).

3. Why do we study our catechism?

Answer: To help us recognize and love the truth (Zechariah 8.19).

4. What is truth?

Answer: It is the opposite of a lie (1 John 2.21).

5. What is truth for the Christian?

Answer: First of all it is Jesus who said, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14.6).

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<sup>1</sup> Pronounced *cot-ee-KHE-oh*.

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

6. What else is truth for the Christian?

Answer: God's word is truth (John 17.17).

7. What is God's word?

Answer: It is everything God says, but we especially call our Holy Bible and God's Son Jesus, *The Word of God* (John 1.1-2).

## The Christian Life

18. What is the Kingdom of God?

Answer: It is His rule as King over creation, His people and His holy angels.

19. If God rules already, why do we pray, "Thy kingdom come"?

Answer: We are asking God to bring our lives and our world into greater submission to His rule.

20. How will we know when we are submitting our lives to God's rule?

Answer: We will notice the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

21. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

Answer: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5.22-23).

22. When will we know that our world is submitting to God's rule?

Answer: When we have safe and peaceful neighborhoods, honest businesses, and a sense of the Lord's presence in our cities (See Ezekiel 48.35).

23. Will that happen before Christ returns?

Answer: Not entirely, because evil will continue in our world until that time. However, Isaiah 58.6-12 instructs us how to join in the Lord's work of restoring and transforming our world even now.

14. How do *we* devote ourselves to the “breaking of bread”?

Answer: By eating with other Christians and pausing to remember our Lord's death by the symbols of bread and wine (or juice). We also do this by participating in communion services where we eat bread and drink wine (or juice) together as we prayerfully remind ourselves of Christ's atoning sacrifice.

15. How do we devote ourselves to “the prayers”?

Answer: By praying the Psalms or other Bible prayers, whether together or alone, and also by praying “without ceasing” as the Holy Spirit prompts us (1 Thessalonians 5.17).

16. Can you give me an example of a Bible prayer that's not in the book of Psalms?

Answer: There are many, but the most famous is the Lord's Prayer.

17. Can you recite the Lord's Prayer for me?

Answer:

Our Father [who] art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, [On] earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen (Matthew 6.9-13<sup>KJV</sup>).

## Chapter 2

# God's Word

1. Why is Jesus called “The Word of God”?

Answer: Because God speaks through His Son (Hebrews 1.2).

2. How has God spoken through His Son Jesus?

Answer: By the words Jesus spoke and the life he lived (John 17.8).

3. What has God the Father revealed through his Son?

Answer: Himself; anyone who has seen the Son has seen the Father (John 14.9).

4. What else has God revealed through his Son?

Answer: The way to the Father, the truth about God and man, and the source of eternal life (John 14.6).

5. Why is the Holy Bible called “The Word of God”?

Answer: Because all the Scriptures it contains are inspired by God (2 Timothy 3.16).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

6. What does *inspired* mean?

Answer: *Inspired* means to be guided by God's Holy Spirit as were the people who wrote the scriptures (2 Peter 1.21).

7. How many inspired books are in our Holy Bible?

Answer: Sixty-six; thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament.

## The Christian Life

9. What is baptism?

Answer: Baptism is the symbolic dipping of a person in water. Christian baptism is a public act symbolizing that we have participated in Christ's death, burial and resurrection, and are now able to live a new life cleansed from our sins (Romans 6.3-10).

10. What should we do after we have been baptized?

Answer: We should imitate the first Christians and devote ourselves "to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2.42<sup>GRK</sup>).

11. How do we devote ourselves to the apostle's teaching?

Answer: By studying what they wrote and explained in our Bible, and by listening to preaching and teaching that is based on the Scriptures (1 Timothy 4.13).

12. How do we devote ourselves to "the fellowship"?

Answer: By faithfully worshipping and serving with other Christians (Hebrews 10.25).

13. What is the "breaking of bread"?

Answer: When the first Christians shared a meal together, they used bread and wine to remember the Lord's body that was broken and His blood that was shed for them (1 Corinthians 11.23-26).

4. Is there another name for the Body of Christ?

Answer: Yes, we call it the Church of God, that family of people whom "He bought with His own blood" from all times and places (Acts 20.28).

5. How do we become part of the Body of Christ, His Church?

Answer: By receiving Christ as our Savior (Ephesians 5.23). The Bible says that "as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God," that is, to become part of His family that we call the Church (John 1.12).

6. Is there anything else we must do to become part of His Church?

Answer: We cannot earn our way into God's Church anymore than we can earn our way into heaven, but there is something Jesus commands us to do to let others know we have joined God's family.

7. What is that?

Answer: Jesus and His apostles command us to be baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28.19).

8. Who and what are Christ's apostles?

Answer: *Apostles* is what Jesus called some of His followers, like Peter, James, John, and Paul, to whom He gave authority to lead the first Christians, and whom He also sent to proclaim the gospel in all the world (Luke 6.13).

## **Chapter 3**

# **The Scriptures of Our Holy Bible**

1. Why are the scriptures of our Holy Bible important to us?

Answer: Because the person who meditates on them day and night is blessed (Psalm 1.1-2).

2. What does it mean to meditate?

Answer: It means to think about something and enjoy it in your mind.

3. How are we blessed when we meditate on the Scriptures?

Answer: We learn how to obey God and become truly successful (Joshua 1.8)

4. How do the Scriptures help us become successful?

Answer: They equip us for every good work (2 Timothy 3.16-17).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

5. How else are we blessed when we learn God's laws in the Scriptures?

Answer: They make us wise (Psalm 19.7).

6. What does it mean to be wise?

Answer: It means to follow the right path when we face a difficult choice (Proverbs 2.6-9).

7. What helped the Psalmist find the right path?

Answer: He said, "Your word [O Lord] is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119.105).

### Finding Meaning In Life

Everyone wants their life to have meaning. Many search for the meaning of their life without ever finding it. What is it that gives real meaning to a person's life?

**Answer:** Meaning comes from purpose, and purpose comes from our Creator. A basketball has meaning as long as it works for the purpose its manufacturer intended. If the ball neither holds air nor bounces, it has no meaning for anyone; it's just a lump of rubber. Similarly, a person's life only has real meaning if it accomplishes the purpose for which God created it — and unlike a ball, *we sense when our lives lack meaning and purpose*. Jesus lived the supremely meaningful life, and was able to say to the Father, "I have glorified you on the earth *by completing the work You gave Me to do*" (John 17.4<sup>CSB</sup>). Like Jesus, we will find meaning in life by bringing God glory as we accomplish the special work He purposed for us.

Aren't you glad God has revealed His purposes for us in the Scriptures of our Holy Bible?

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

# Chapter 12

## The Christian Life

1. Let's talk about the Christian life. Did you know there are seven things that there is only one of?

Answer: Yes, Ephesians 4.4-6 says,

There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

2. Why are these Seven Unities important?

Answer: We've already learned that there is only one God, but the Seven Unities help us understand that there is only one true religion and only one family of God, *the Body of Christ* (Romans 12.5 and 1 Corinthians 12.27).

3. Why do we call the family of God the Body of Christ and Jesus the Head?

Answer: Because Jesus is the leader of the family, and we are the hands and feet who do His work for Him (Ephesians 1.22-23).

## A Blessing for Daughters

By your faith in Jesus the Messiah,  
I bless you in the Name of His Father,  
the God of Sarah, Rebekah and Rachel.<sup>1</sup>

By your adoption into God's family through the blood of Jesus<sup>2</sup>  
Who made you co-heir with your Lord and brothers,<sup>3</sup>  
I bless you in the Name of your true Father in Heaven,<sup>4</sup>  
YHVH.

May he give you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham,  
so that you may *take possession of the land* where you now live as a  
sojourner, and advance God's kingdom in it.<sup>5</sup>

May you bear much fruit for your Father's glory,<sup>6</sup>  
may He clothe you with strength and dignity,  
that you may laugh fearlessly at the days to come,<sup>7</sup>  
may He give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of Christ,<sup>8</sup>

may you fully understand and experience all  
that God your Father has freely given you,<sup>9</sup>  
including the Spirit of prophecy and healing,<sup>10</sup>  
may you lay hold on that for which Christ Jesus laid hold on you,<sup>11</sup>  
may you be filled with the knowledge of His will  
in all spiritual wisdom and discernment,<sup>12</sup>  
and may you abound in the fruit of the Holy Spirit.<sup>13</sup>

May your spiritual children be like the stars of the heavens,  
and all arise to call you blessed.<sup>14</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_, may God make you like \_\_\_\_\_.

In the Name of your Father, the Father of compassion,<sup>15</sup>  
fulfill your ministry, calling and destiny.<sup>16</sup>

Amen

- 
- 1 Rom 4.16  
2 Joh 1.12,13; 1Jo 3.1  
3 Rom 8.17; 1Pe 3.7  
4 Joh 20.17  
5 Gen 28.4; Mat 6.10  
6 Joh 15.8  
7 Pro 31.25  
8 Eph 1.17  
9 1Co 2.12  
10 Act 2.18; 1Co 14.1  
11 Phi 3.12  
12 Col. 1.9  
13 Gal 5.22,23; Phi 1.9; 1Th 3.12  
14 Gen 15.5; Pro 31.28  
15 2Co 1.3,4  
16 Col 4.17; 2Ti 4.5; Rom 8.28-30

## Chapter 4 Salvation

1. What else do the Scriptures of our Holy Bible help us find?

Answer: Salvation (2 Timothy 3.15).

2. What is salvation?

Answer: When someone rescues us from a danger we cannot escape by ourselves, we call that rescue our *salvation* (Psalm 34.6).

3. What dangers do we need salvation from?

Answer: First of all from our own sins (Matthew 1.21).

4. What is *sin*?

Answer: "Sin is lawlessness," which is ignoring and breaking God's laws (1 John 3.4).

5. What examples can you give of God's laws?

Answer: There are the ten commandments that God gave to Moses:

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not misuse the Name of the LORD your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20.3-17).

6. What is the greatest commandment in God's law?

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." (Matthew 22.37-38).

7. Is there another commandment like it in importance?

Answer: Yes, the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22.39).

8. Sin is *lawlessness*, but are there other words that also mean *sin*?

Answer: Yes, Bible versions also use the words *iniquity*, *offense*, *transgression*, and *trespass*.

## The Holy Spirit And The Trinity

25. This is very exciting; I'm so glad that God has given us His Holy Spirit!

Answer: Yes, but we must never forget that the Holy Spirit is a person and the Lord Jesus commands His followers to *receive* the Holy Spirit (John 20.22).

26. What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit?

Answer: It means to willingly receive Him into our lives as we would receive an honored guest into our homes.

27. Does that mean that we work hard to please the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Yes, it means that we are careful to not grieve Him by selfish words or actions, and that we let Him influence all that we do (Ephesians 4.30 and 5.18).

28. Wouldn't everyone want to receive the Holy Spirit?

Answer: Not everyone, because sometimes the Holy Spirit will lead us into battle with the enemy, just as He led Jesus (Matthew 4.1).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

22. Are there other spiritual gifts as well?

Answer: Oh, yes! In 1 Corinthians 12.7-10,28, Paul lists at least 10 more:

1. The message of wisdom
2. The message of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of healing
5. Miraculous powers
6. Prophecy
7. Distinguishing between spirits
8. Speaking in different kinds of tongues
9. The interpretation of tongues
10. Helps

23. Has each Christian really received a spiritual gift like one of these?

Answer: Yes, "God has given each of [us] a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts," and commands us to "Use them well to serve one another" (1 Peter 4.10<sup>NLT</sup>).

24. How can I know what my spiritual gift is?

Answer: Actively do God's work by serving people and you will soon discover how God has given you special abilities.

## Salvation

9. Must we *do* a bad thing in order to sin?

Answer: No, evil thoughts are also sin and make people "unclean" before God (Mark 7.21-23).

10. What if we neither do nor think evil?

Answer: We also sin when we neglect things we *should do*, like loving God (Luke 11.42)

11. Is there anyone who doesn't sin?

Answer: Apart from Jesus, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3.23).

12. What about little babies?

Answer: King David said that he was sinful when he was still in his mother before he was born (Psalm 51.5)!

13. How can a tiny baby be sinful?

Answer: Not by what they do, but by how they fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3.23).

14. Why does everyone fall short of the glory of God, even from birth?

Answer: Because we are born spiritually dead (Ephesians 2.1).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

15. What does it mean to be spiritually dead?

Answer: It means that though our bodies may be healthy, the inner part of us that should love and worship God cannot do as it ought (Romans 8.7).

16. Why is everyone born spiritually dead?

Answer: Because our first parents, Adam and Eve, died spiritually and so could not give spiritual life to their children (John 3.6).

17. How did Adam and Eve die spiritually?

Answer: God gave them a garden full of fruit to eat, but warned them that if they ate from a certain tree they would surely die (Genesis 2.15-17).

18. What happened after God's warning?

Answer: The devil came as a serpent, lied to Adam and Eve, and tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3.1-4).

19. What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit?

Answer: Their bodies lived on, but their spirits died and they became ashamed and afraid before God (Genesis 3.6-10).

20. So now what happens to all Adam's descendants?

Answer: We all inherit Adam's spiritual death and by nature cannot help but sin (1 Corinthians 15.22)!

## The Holy Spirit And The Trinity

18. Why is it important for us to know that the Holy Spirit convicts the world?

Answer: As "we try to persuade men" about the gospel, we rest in the fact that it is the Lord rather than we who turn people's hearts (2 Corinthians 5.11 and Proverbs 21.1).

19. Are there other ways that the Holy Spirit helps us minister to people?

Answer: Yes, through the Holy Spirit "a spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other" (1 Corinthians 12.7<sup>NLT</sup>).

20. What is a "spiritual gift"?

Answer: A spiritual gift is a supernatural aptitude or ability to do part of God's work.

21. Can you give me some examples of spiritual gifts?

Answer: In Romans 12.6-8, Paul lists seven foundational gifts:

1. Prophesying
2. Serving
3. Teaching
4. Encouraging
5. Giving
6. Leading
7. Showing Mercy

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

13. But didn't you say that the Holy Spirit teaches us directly?

Answer: Yes, but the Spirit uses the word of God for His work; in fact, Paul calls God's word "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6.17).

14. Does the Holy Spirit teach us with a sword?

Answer: In a sense, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing between soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4.12).

15. What does the Bible mean when it describes God's word in this way?

Answer: It means that the Holy Spirit uses God's word not only to correct our outward behavior, but also to correct the hidden attitudes of our hearts, because "Nothing in all creation is hidden from *God's* sight" (Hebrews 4.13).

16. So the Holy Spirit not only teaches us, but also corrects us?

Answer: Yes, He not only corrects *us*; the Holy Spirit also convicts *the world* "concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16.8<sup>NAU</sup>).

17. What does it mean to *convict*?

Answer: To *convict* means "to convince someone that their thoughts or actions are wrong."

## Salvation

21. Who can save us from our sins?

Answer: Christ Jesus who "appeared in order to take away sins" (1 John 3.5<sup>NAU</sup>).

22. What other dangers do we need rescuing from?

Answer: From the devil and his angels (1 Peter 5.8).

23. What is the devil?

Answer: He is a wicked angel whose name is Satan; he rules over all the angels who rebelled against God (Ephesians 2.2).

24. Where did the devil come from?

Answer: God created all the angels and made them good, but Satan and other angels sinned against God and lost their home in heaven (2 Peter 2.4).

25. Why do the devil and his angels concern us now?

Answer: Because they invisibly encourage people's disobedience, and are the true enemy in our battle to do God's will (Ephesians 2.2 and 6.12).

26. Who can save us from the devil and his angels?

Answer: The same Jesus, the Son of God who appeared "to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3.8).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

27. Should we fear the devil?

Answer: Not if we have Jesus, because He is greater than the devil who is in the world (1 John 4.4).

28. How does Jesus save us?

Answer: Through the gospel which "is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1.16).

## The Holy Spirit And The Trinity

8. You said that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us; how does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer: Besides giving us spiritual new birth, the Holy Spirit sustains our spiritual lives moment by moment. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to live the Christian life (John 3.5-7 and 6.63)!

9. How else does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer: The Holy Spirit teaches us about the things of God, and even about the future (John 14.26 and 16.13).

10. How does the Holy Spirit teach us?

Answer: By helping us understand spiritual truths that are foolishness to those who don't know God (1 Corinthians 2.12-14).

11. What does the Holy Spirit use to teach us?

Answer: The Holy Spirit uses gifted human teachers (Ephesians 4.11-12) and also teaches us directly in our minds and hearts (1 John 2.27).

12. If we have the Holy Spirit, do we really need the Scriptures of our Holy Bible?

Answer: Absolutely! As Moses taught us, "people do not live by bread alone; rather we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 8.3<sup>NLT</sup>).

4. Okay, God is one, but a man can be his children's father and parents' son at the same time. Do you mean that our one God has different roles, sometimes acting as a Father, and at another time as a Son?

Answer: No. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons in our one God.

5. What do you mean by *distinct persons*?

Answer: The Father is always the Father, the Son is always the Son, the Spirit is always the Spirit, and all three can appear with one another *at the same time* as they did at the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3.16-17).

6. If Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three distinct persons, how can they be just one God?

Answer: This is a great mystery for which we use the word *Trinity*. It is impossible for material objects to be 3 and 1 at the same time and in the same sense, but it is not impossible for something that is spiritual and infinite like God.

7. Why is it important to know that God is a Trinity?

Answer: Knowing that God exists eternally as three persons helps us understand that God is eternally relational, and so it's no surprise that "God is love" (1 John 4.8).

## Chapter 5

# The Gospel

1. What does the word *gospel* mean?

Answer: *Gospel* means "good news."

2. What is the good news of the Christian Gospel?

Answer: Everyone should know this! The good news is a set of four historical facts:

1. Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
2. He was buried,
3. He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
4. He appeared to many witnesses  
(1 Corinthians 15.3-8).

3. Did Christ die only for *our* sins?

Answer: "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2.2).

4. How did Jesus die?

Answer: He was betrayed by his friend Judas, arrested by His enemies, and condemned by governor Pontius Pilate to be nailed to a cross (Acts 2.23).

5. Had Jesus done something wrong?

Answer: No, "He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone" (1 Peter 2.22<sup>NLT</sup>).

6. Why then was Jesus condemned?

Answer: His enemies envied Jesus, and for this reason made the governor condemn Him (Matthew 27.18).

7. What does it mean *to envy*?

Answer: To envy is to dislike someone because they have something we wish we had instead (Titus 3.3).

8. What did Jesus have that His enemies envied?

Answer: Jesus had "favor with God and men," and His enemies feared that everyone would trust Him instead of them (Luke 2.52 and John 11.46-48).

9. If Jesus was condemned by His enemies, why do we say that He died for *our* sins?

Answer: Even though wicked men nailed Jesus to the cross, it was God who let them do it for His own purpose (Acts 2.23).

10. What was God's purpose for letting Jesus suffer?

Answer: God intended that Jesus would be "pierced for our transgressions" and "crushed for our iniquities," Jesus offered Himself as a "guilt offering" for us (Isaiah 53.5-6,10. Also, see No. 8 on page 12).

## Chapter 11

# The Holy Spirit And The Trinity

1. We've mentioned the Holy Spirit many times; what is the Holy Spirit?

Answer: The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit and *is God* (Acts 5.3-4).

2. We have talked about God the Father and God the Son, and now about God the Holy Spirit; are there three Gods?

Answer: No, as we have learned "God is one" (Deuteronomy 6.4). There is only room in the universe for one, infinite God.

3. What does *infinite* mean?

Answer: *Infinite* means "without end or limit." To say that God is *infinite* means that there is no limit to His knowledge, power or being. As King Solomon said to God, "even the highest heaven cannot contain you" (1 Kings 8.27<sup>NIV</sup>).

A Blessing for Sons

By your faith in Jesus the Messiah,  
I bless you in the Name of His Father,  
the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.<sup>1</sup>

By your adoption into God's family through the blood of Jesus<sup>2</sup>  
Who made you co-heir with your Lord and Brother,<sup>3</sup>  
I bless you in the Name of your true Father in Heaven,<sup>4</sup>  
YHVH.

May he give you and your descendants the blessing of Abraham,  
so that you may *take possession of the land* where you now live as a  
sojourner,

and advance God's kingdom in it.<sup>5</sup>

May you bear much fruit for your Father's glory,<sup>6</sup>  
may He fill you with the power and compassion of the Holy Spirit,<sup>7</sup>  
may He give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of Christ,<sup>8</sup>

may He grant you to know Him, the power of His resurrection  
and the fellowship of His suffering,<sup>9</sup>

may you fully understand and experience all  
that God your Father has freely given you,<sup>10</sup>  
including the mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit,<sup>11</sup>

may you lay hold on that for which Christ Jesus laid hold on you,<sup>12</sup>  
may you be filled with the knowledge of His will  
in all spiritual wisdom and discernment,<sup>13</sup>

and may you abound in the fruit of the Holy Spirit.<sup>14</sup>

May those who bless you prosper and  
may those who would curse you be overcome by good.<sup>15</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_, may God make you like \_\_\_\_\_.  
In the Name of your Father, the Commander of Angel Armies,  
fulfill your ministry, calling and destiny.  
Amen

1 Rom 4.16  
2 Joh 1.12,13; 1Jo 3.1  
3 Rom 8.17  
4 Joh 20.17  
5 Gen 28.4; Mat 6.10  
6 Joh 15.8  
7 Eph 3.16; Col 3.12; 2Ti 1.7  
8 Eph 1.17  
9 Phi 3.10  
10 1Co 2.12  
11 1Co 14.1; 1Pe 4.10,11  
12 Phi 3.12  
13 Col 1.9  
14 Gal 5.22,23; Phi 1.9; 1Th 3.12  
15 Gen 27.29b; Rom 12.21

11. What is a guilt offering?

Answer: It is a sacrifice offered to remove the legal penalty for what a person has done wrong (Leviticus 5.15).

12. But haven't we said that Jesus did no wrong?

Answer: Correct! "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5.21).

13. So, can we say that Jesus became our substitute and received *our* punishment on the cross?

Answer: Yes, "Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring [us] to God" (1 Peter 3.18).

14. Did the torture of being nailed to a cross kill Jesus?

Answer: No, when He finished suffering for our sins, He gave up His own spirit (John 19.3).

15. How was Jesus buried?

Answer: He was laid in a cave carved from rock, and the doorway was closed with a big round stone (Matthew 27.59-60). Then on the third day, Sunday morning, Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to His friends (Acts 10.39-41).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

16. What do we call it when a person is raised up or revived from apparent death, like Lazarus?

Answer: We call it a resuscitation.

17. What do we call it when a dead person rises to life in a new and perfect body that will never die?

Answer: We call it a *resurrection* (John 11.21-25).

18. So, was Jesus resuscitated or resurrected?

Answer: Resurrected! "Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him" (Romans 6.9).

19. How many people saw Jesus after His resurrection?

Answer: More than 500 people at once (1 Corinthians 15.6).

20. What does the resurrection of Jesus prove?

Answer: That He is the Son of God (Romans 1.4).

21. What else does the resurrection of Jesus prove?

Answer: That He is the one appointed to set us free from sin and guilt (Acts 13.30-39).

## Rewards And Persecution

11. Didn't persecution of God's people only happen in far away places long ago?

Answer: No, the Bible says that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3.12).

12. Won't God protect us from harm?

Answer: Yes, not even a single sparrow can fall to the ground without the Father's permission (Matthew 10.29), but sometimes we must make great sacrifices to serve Jesus.

13. Is it possible we might have to sacrifice our very lives to follow Jesus?

Answer: Jesus taught us that when things become that dangerous we should flee (Luke 21.20-21). But he also taught us that, "there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15.13<sup>NLT</sup>).

14. It sounds like the Christian life can be difficult!

Answer: Following Jesus is costly and hard, but He has sent His Holy Spirit as our Helper (John 14.16).

5. What *kind* of reward will the Lord give us?

Answer: "God has [already] given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5.11).

6. Yes, but what will we receive in the next life?

Answer: Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms; ... I am going there to prepare a place for you" (John 14.2).

7. Won't having our own room in God's mansion be wonderful?

Answer: Certainly, but Jesus said, "And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14.3).

8. What do you mean?

Answer: To be with Jesus and see His glory will be our greatest reward (John 17.24).

9. Amen! But if I'm going to be with Jesus someday, then I want to do what pleases Him now.

Answer: Then remember to love your enemies and rejoice when people mistreat you for following Him (Luke 6.35 and Matthew 5.11-12).

10. Do people really get mistreated for following Jesus?

Answer: Yes, Jesus said, "No servant is greater than his master.' If [people] persecuted me, they will persecute you also" (John 15.20).

## Chapter 6

# Reconciliation

1. Since Jesus died for our sins, are we automatically saved?

Answer: No, we must be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5.20).

2. What does it mean to be reconciled?

Answer: It means to restore a broken relationship, as in making right an offense between two brothers (Matthew 5.23-24).

3. Why do we need to be reconciled to God?

Answer: Because our iniquities have separated us from our God, and our sins have hidden His face from us (Isaiah 59.2).

4. Why does sin separate us from God?

Answer: Because God is perfectly good and pure and cannot look favorably upon evil nor tolerate wrong (Habakkuk 1.13).

5. What then would God have us do?

Answer: God "commands all people everywhere to repent" (Acts 17.30).

6. What is repentance?

Repentance is a complete turning away from our sinful thoughts and actions (Ezekiel 18.30).

7. How do we show our repentance?

Answer: First, by confessing our sins (Mark 1.4-5).

8. What does it mean to confess?

Answer: To confess is to admit to our actions and agree with the truth about them (Joshua 7.19-20).

9. To whom do we confess?

Answer: First of all to God, and then to anyone else whom we have wronged by our actions (James 5.16).

10. How else do we show our repentance?

Answer: By our good works (Acts 26.20).

11. Do our good works save us then?

Answer: No, "it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2.8-9).

12. What then must we do to be saved?

Answer: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16.31).

13. Does "believe in the Lord Jesus" mean we must believe he was a real person?

Answer: Of course Jesus was a real person, but to believe in Him means to trust in Him (John 14.1).

14. What do we need to trust Jesus about?

Answer: That He is truly the Christ, sent by God to be our Savior and Lord (1 John 5.1).

## **Chapter 10**

# **Rewards And Persecution**

1. At the judgment, what will the Lord reward us for?

Answer: "The Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does" (Ephesians 6.8).

2. Can you name some of the good deeds that God will reward?

Answer: First, God "rewards those who earnestly seek [to know and serve] Him," and who reverence His name (Hebrews 11.6 and Revelation 11.18).

3. Are there specific kinds of service that God will reward?

Answer: Yes, "when you give to the needy ... in secret, then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6.3-4).

4. What other service does God call us to?

Answer: God calls us into His work of planting and watering the Gospel message in people's lives, for which "each will be rewarded according to his own labor" (1 Corinthians 3.8).

17. Reigning with Christ will be a big responsibility, won't it?

Answer: Yes, we will sit with Him on His throne and we will even judge the wicked angels (1 Corinthians 6.3 and Revelation 3.21).

18. Mankind will be judged too, won't they?

Answer: Yes, "man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9.27).

19. Do you mean that Christian believers will be judged also?

Answer: Yes, "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5.10).

20. Will some Christians be punished?

Answer: True believers will not be punished, because "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8.1).

21. Why then will true believers be judged?

Answer: In order to receive "praise from God" (1 Corinthians 4.5), and "receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward" (Colossians 3.23-24).

## Chapter 7

# God And Creation

1. Speaking of God, what is the first thing we must know about *Him*?

Answer: God is *one*; only He is God and there is no other (Deuteronomy 6.4).

2. What is the next thing we should know about God?

Answer: God is supremely good (Mark 10.18).

3. If there is only one God, and He is supremely good, why do so many people prefer worshipping idols and other false gods?

Answer: Because false idols don't demand that their worshippers become holy like the true God does (Leviticus 19.2).

4. In this catechism, we have repeatedly used the word *holy*. What does *holy* mean?

Answer: To be holy means to have neither evil nor impurity; it can also mean to be set apart for God's special purposes (Colossians 1.22; Hebrews 7.26).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

5. Why else do people avoid worshipping the one true God?

Answer: Because God is light; all who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed (1 John 1.5 and John 3.20).

6. What does that mean?

Answer: When people learn about God's goodness and holiness it causes them to realize how selfish and sinful they are, so they would rather follow false gods that are more like fallible humans.

7. What is a third thing that we must know about God?

Answer: God is our Creator (Ecclesiastes 12.1).

8. What is a creator?

Answer: Someone who makes a thing out of nothing.

9. What did God create?

Answer: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1.1).

10. How could someone make the sun and the moon, the stars and the whole world out of nothing?

Answer: "Nothing is impossible with God," and so we call Him the Almighty (Luke 1.37 and Revelation 19.6).

## Mankind

12. What does the word *firstborn* mean in this context?

Answer: It means that our Lord Jesus will be *the heir* who inherits the whole creation, and also the Head of His family (Colossians 1.15 and Hebrews 1.2).

13. Does Jesus have a family?

Answer: Yes, He has always had a Father, and we will be His many adopted brothers and sisters for eternity (Romans 8.29).

14. As adopted brothers and sisters of Jesus, what will happen to us after He returns?

Answer: We will live with Him in the heavenly city, New Jerusalem (Revelation 21.2-3).

15. What will that be like?

Answer: We will grow to know Jesus as intimately as a bride knows her husband (Revelation 19.7-8).

16. What kinds of things will we do together?

Answer: We've already learned from Revelation 5.10 that we will help the Lord "reign on the earth". Revelation 20.5 says that we "will reign [with Him] for ever and ever".

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

6. How can we respond to God's call to be holy?

Answer: By offering ourselves wholly to God and conforming our lives to His will (Romans 12.1-2).

7. Can you share an example of God's character that He intends us to imitate?

Answer: Yes, God cares for widows, orphans and strangers, and He intends that we do likewise (Deuteronomy 10.17-19; James 1.27).

8. I'm afraid that mankind is not living up to God's intentions for us.

Answer: That is true; the old self of fallen man is being corrupted by its deceitful desires (Ephesians 4.22).

9. Has God's image in us been messed up?

Answer: Yes, but "we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory are being transformed into his [image] with ever increasing glory" (2 Corinthians 3.18).

10. Do you mean that God's image is being restored in us?

Answer: Yes, our new self "is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator" (Colossians 3.10).

11. It sounds like God still has a purpose for us.

Answer: Yes, for us "who are called according to His purpose ... He also predestined [us] to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren" (Romans 8.28-29<sup>NAU</sup>).

## God And Creation

11. Did God make people out of nothing?

Answer: God first made the earth, "then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2.7).

12. If everything is made from nothing, or from the earth that is made from nothing, then what holds it all together?

Answer: The Son of God holds all things together, "sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Colossians 1.17 and Hebrews 1.3).

13. But if God created and sustains everything, *who made God?*

Answer: No one. God is *eternal*, which means that He has always existed and will never come to an end.

14. If God has always existed, why can't we see Him?

Answer: First of all, God is Spirit, and our eyes are not tuned to see spirit anymore than they are tuned to receive the TV signals that float through the air (John 4.24).

15. Is there another reason we cannot see God?

Answer: Yes, God is omnipresent, which means that He is everywhere all the time. He is just too big for us to ever see all of Him at once (Jeremiah 23.23-24).

16. Will we see *part of God* someday?

Answer: We will see all of God that is important for us to see, because we will see God's Son just as He is (1 John 3.2).

17. Since God is omnipresent, everywhere all the time, should I be frightened?

Answer: Only if you do evil because "there is no dark place, no deep shadow where evildoers can hide" (Job 34.22).

18. But I love God and with His help I always try to do good.

Answer: Then you should be glad that "the Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15.3<sup>NLT</sup>).

19. Does God really see and know everything?

Answer: Yes, even things that haven't happened yet, "declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done" (Isa 46.10<sup>NKJ</sup>).

20. Is there anything else I should know about God?

Answer: Yes, a great many things, including the fact that "God is love" (1 John 4.8).

21. What does it mean that "God is love"?

Answer: First, that God is relational and inclined to fellowship with people, and secondly, that He is willing to make great sacrifices for those He cares about (1 John 4.9-10).

## Chapter 9

# Mankind

1. What is man that God is so mindful of us and cares for us so much more than He does for the other animals?

Answer: "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1.27).

2. What does it mean to be created in God's image?

Answer: It means to share some of God's character, attributes and responsibilities (compare 2 Peter 1.4<sup>CSB</sup>).

3. Can you give me an example of one of God's responsibilities that He intended us to share?

Answer: God intended human beings to rule with him over the rest of His creation (Genesis 1.26-28 and Psalm 8.4-6).

4. Can you give me an example of one of God's attributes that He intends us to share?

Answer: Yes, Jesus said, "Be merciful, just as your [heavenly] Father is merciful" (Luke 6.36).

5. Can you tell me another of God's attributes that He intends us to share?

Answer: Yes, God said, "Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19.2).

33. Will there be animals?

Answer: Oh, yes! "The wolf and the lamb will live together, the leopard will lie down with the baby goat, the calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion and a little child will lead them. ... nothing will hurt or destroy ..." (Isaiah 11.6-9<sup>NLT</sup>).

34. What about the people?

Answer: "The earth will be filled with people who know the LORD," and they will prosper and "will live as long as trees" (Isaiah 11.9 and 65.22<sup>NLT</sup>).

35. It all sounds so wonderful! Will we get to see and be with the Lord Himself?

Answer: Yes, all "his servants will serve Him. They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads" (Revelation 22.4).

## Chapter 8

# Jesus And His Coming

1. We know that "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"; who is God's one and only son?

Answer: The one who "was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 1.4).

2. But wasn't Jesus the son of Joseph and Mary; why do we call Him God's son?

Answer: Joseph was only thought to be Jesus' father; Jesus' real father was God (Luke 3.23).

3. Was God married to Jesus' mother Mary?

Answer: That's a good question, but the answer is, No. God is spirit and neither He nor the angels get married, only people do (Matthew 22.30).

4. Joseph was at the stable when Jesus was born; wasn't *he* Mary's husband?

Answer: Yes, Joseph *became* Mary's husband, but Mary and Joseph were only engaged when she became pregnant with Jesus (Matthew 1.18).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

5. How then could Mary get pregnant if she did not have the help of a husband?

Answer: What happened to Mary has only happened one time in history: the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of God overshadowed her and caused the baby to be conceived within her (Luke 1.34-35).

6. So, even though God was not physically married to Mary, He really did cause the egg in her womb to grow into a baby?

Answer: Yes, this is why the baby Jesus was born completely holy and is truly called the Son of God (Luke 2.35).

7. Does this mean that part of Jesus came from God and part from Mary, just like part of us comes from our father and part from our mother?

Answer: In a mysterious way Yes; this is why Jesus is both truly God and truly man (1Timothy 2.5).

8. If Jesus is truly God, and God is eternal, where was He before He became a baby in Mary's womb?

Answer: He was in heavenly glory with His Father God since before the world began (John 17.5).

9. If the Son of God lived in heavenly glory, why did He come to earth as a human being?

Answer: God sent His Son into the world "to save the world through Him" (John 3.17).

## Jesus And His Coming

28. What will happen after the Lord has destroyed His enemies and saved Israel?

Answer: "The LORD will be king over the whole earth" (Zechariah 14.9).

29. What will *we* do when the Lord rules as king over the whole earth?

Answer: We "will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years" (Revelation 20.6).

30. What will it mean to "be priests of God"?

Answer: We will be like pastors and shepherds to the many adults and children who remain on the earth, sheltering them, providing for their needs and teaching them to worship the Lord (Isaiah 32.1-5; Revelation 2.26-27).

31. What will it mean to reign with Christ?

Answer: We will help the Lord govern the nations by taking charge of the world's cities (Luke 19.11-19).

32. What will the world be like when Jesus is ruling over it?

Answer: The Lord will make cities beautiful and turn deserts into gardens like Eden (Isaiah 51.3).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

23. Are you saying that we will look like Jesus?

Answer: We will have glorious, immortal bodies like Jesus, but more importantly, we will be free from sin and perfectly loving like Him (Philippians 3.21 and 1 Corinthians 15.49).

24. What will happen after we are changed and caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds?

Answer: The Lord will fight against His enemies and the enemies of His people Israel (Zechariah 14.3).

25. Won't the Israelites be caught up to meet the Lord in the air with us?

Answer: No, not those whose hearts are hardened and who do not yet believe in Jesus (Romans 11.25).

26. What will happen to those Israelites?

Answer: The LORD says, "They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son" (Zechariah 12.10).

27. Does that mean the Israelites will repent?

Answer: Yes, "On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity" ... "and so all Israel will be saved" (Zechariah 13.1 and Romans 11.26).

## Jesus And His Coming

10. So the Son of God came to earth in obedience to His Father God?

Answer: Yes, Jesus did not come on his own, but God the Father sent Him (John 8.42).

11. Why is that important?

Answer: It's important to understand that when Jesus spoke to people, He did not speak of His own accord, but the Father who sent Him commanded Him "what to say and how to say it" (John 12.49 and 14.24).

12. We can be sure that Jesus spoke the truth then! What did Jesus say about Himself?

Answer: In the gospel of John, Jesus said:

- A. I AM the Messiah (4.26)
- B. I AM the Bread of Life (6.51)
- C. I AM the Light of the World (8.12)
- D. I AM the Witness (8.18)
- E. Before Abraham was I AM (8.58)
- F. I AM the Gate for the sheep (10.7-9)
- G. I AM the Good Shepherd (10.11)
- H. I AM the Resurrection and the Life (11.25)
- I. I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life (14.6)
- J. I AM the True Vine (15.1).

## Grandpa's Christian Catechism

13. We've learned many wonderful things about Jesus, including where He came from, but where is He now?

Answer: Jesus has gone back "into heaven and is at God's right hand — with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him" (1 Peter 3.22).

14. How did Jesus get back to heaven?

Answer: After His resurrection, Jesus gave instructions to His followers and then "He was taken up [to heaven] before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight" (Acts 1.2,9).

15. What is Jesus doing in heaven?

Answer: "Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us" (Romans 8.34).

16. What does it mean to *intercede*?

Answer: It means to pray to God and plead for someone as Jesus is constantly doing for those who come to God through Him (Hebrews 7.25).

17. Will Jesus stay in heaven?

Answer: Jesus "must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything [in our world], as He promised long ago through His holy prophets" (Acts 3.21).

## Jesus And His Coming

18. Does that mean Jesus is coming back to our world?

Answer: Yes, an angel told our Lord's followers, "This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1.11).

19. What will Jesus do when He comes back?

Answer: First He will appear in the sky and send angels with a loud trumpet call to gather all His chosen ones from all over the world (Matthew 24.30-31).

20. As his chosen ones, what will happen to us?

Answer: Believers in Jesus who have already died will be resurrected; we who are still alive "will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4.16-17).

21. Do you mean we will suddenly be able to fly?

Answer: Yes, we will have powers like the angels because "in the twinkling of an eye ... we will be changed" and receive new bodies that will never die (1 Corinthians 15.51-55).

22. What will our new bodies be like?

Answer: "What we will be has not yet been revealed, [but] we know that when [Jesus] appears we will be like Him," inside and out (1 John 3.2<sup>CSB</sup>)!