

Westminster Shorter Catechism

(We are using the illustrated version by Green, Nezamutdinov, Preston and Minof, published by Christian Focus in 2022.)

Q1. What is man's foremost purpose in life?

Man's foremost purpose in life is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36; Ps. 73:25-28.

Q2. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him?

The Word of God, which is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.

2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 2:20; 1 John 1:3-4.

Q3. What do the Scriptures firstly teach?

The Scriptures firstly teach what man should believe about God, and what God requires of man.

2 Tim. 1:13; 2 Tim. 3:16.

Q4. What is God?

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

John 4:24; Job 11:7-9; Ps. 90:2; Jas. 1:17; Ex. 3:14; Ps. 147:5; Rev. 4:8; 15:4; Ex. 34:6-7.

Q5. Are there more gods than one?

There is only one, living and true God.

Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10.

Q6. How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in being, equal in power and glory.

1 John 5:7; Matt. 28:19.

Q7. What are the decrees of God?

The decrees of God are His eternal purposes, according to the counsel of His will, where for His own glory He has ordered and settled everything that happens.

Eph. 1:4,11; Rom. 9:22-23.

Q8. How does God carry out His eternal purposes?

God carries out His eternal purposes in the works of creation and providence.

Ps. 148:8; Isa. 40:26; Dan. 4:35; Acts 4:24-28, Rev. 4:11

Q9. What is the work of creation?

The work of creation is, God's making everything of nothing, by the word of his power, in six days, and all very good.

Gen. 1; Heb. 11:3.

Q10. How did God create man?

God created man, male and female, after His own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with rule over the creatures.

Gen. 1:26-28; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24.

Q11. What are God's works of providence?

God's works of providence are, His most holy, wise, and powerful upholding and ruling over all His creatures and their every action.

Ps. 145:17; Ps. 104:24; Isa. 28:29; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29-31.

Q12. What special act of providence did God do for man whom He created?

After man's creation, God entered into a covenant of life with him, requiring perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or he would die.

Gal. 3:12; Gen. 2:17.

Q13. Did our first parents continue in the condition in which they were created?

Our first parents, left to the freedom of their own will, sinned against God and fell from their created condition.

Gen. 3:6-8, 13; Ecc. 7:29.

Q14. What is sin?

Sin is disobeying, or not keeping God's law.

1 John 3:4.

Q15. By which sin did our first parents fall from the condition in which they were created?

The sin by which our first parents fell from the condition in which they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.

Gen. 3:6, 12.

Q16. Did all people fall in Adam's first sin?

All people both sinned in and fell with Adam in his first sin because the covenant was made not only with Adam but also all his natural descendants.

Gen. 2:16-17; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21-22.

Q17. What happened to us in the fall?

The fall brought all people into a condition of sin and misery.

Rom. 5:12.

Q18. Why is our fallen condition sinful?

Our fallen condition is sinful because of: original sin (which is the guilt of Adam's first sin, the lack of original righteousness, the corruption of his whole nature) and all actual sins which flow from original sin.

Rom. 5:12, 19; Rom. 5:10-20; Eph. 2:1-3; Jas. 1:14-15; Matt. 15:19.

Q19. What is the misery of man's condition after the fall?

After the fall all of us lost communion with God, and are under His wrath and curse. Therefore we are subject to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

Gen. 3:8, 10, 24; Eph. 2:2-3; Gal. 3:10; Lam. 3:39; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41, 46.