

I.

What is man to believe concerning God?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions (1-38)

with
Memory Verses (ESV)

The Westminster Shorter Catechism is summary of the Christian Faith. Written in 1647 as part of the work of the Westminster Assembly, it has shaped the life and theology of millions of Christians. Its question and answer format makes it a great tool for teaching and memorizing.

This booklet includes the first section with a schedule for memorization and review. It is intended to be used in sabbath school classes, family worship, and private devotions. We encourage you to put these words to memory – challenge yourself! Once you've memorized this section, arrange a time with a listener to recite the answers, and continue on to next and last sections:

II. What duty does God require of man? (39-84)

III. What does God require of us, that we may escape
the wrath and curse due to us for sin? (85-107)

May the Lord bless you as you seek to grow deeper in your understanding of the Christian faith!

Yr	Wk	Date	WSC	Bible Memory	WSC Review
1	1		Q1.	1 Cor. 10:31	(Review Q's 46, 78, 94, 102, 106)
1	2				(Review Q's 62, 86, 98, 104, 107)
1	3		Q2.	2 Tim. 3:16-17	(Review Q's 47, 79, 95, 103, 107)
1	4				(Review Q's 1, 63, 87, 99, 105)
1	5		Q3.	Josh 1:8	(Review Q's 1, 48, 80, 96, 104)
1	6				(Review Q's 2, 64, 88, 100, 106)
1	7		Q4.	John 4:24	(Review Q's 2, 49, 81, 97, 105)
1	8				(Review Q's 3, 65, 89, 101, 107)
1	9		Q5.	Deut. 6:4-7	(Review Q's 3, 50, 82, 98, 106)
1	10				(Review Q's 1, 4, 66, 90, 102)
1	11		Q6.	Matt. 28:18-20	(Review Q's 4, 51, 83, 99, 107)
1	12				(Review Q's 2, 5, 67, 91, 103)
1	13		Q7.	Eph. 1:11-12	(Review Q's 1, 5, 52, 84, 100)
1	14				(Review Q's 3, 6, 68, 92, 104)
1	15		Q8.	Is. 40:25-26	(Review Q's 2, 6, 53, 85, 101)
1	16				(Review Q's 4, 7, 69, 93, 105)
1	17		Q9.	Heb. 11:3	(Review Q's 3, 7, 54, 86, 102)
1	18				(Review Q's 5, 8, 70, 94, 106)
1	19		Q10.	Gen. 1:26	(Review Q's 4, 8, 55, 87, 103)
1	20				(Review Q's 6, 9, 71, 95, 107)
1	21		Q11.	Matt. 10:29-30	(Review Q's 5, 9, 56, 88, 104)
1	22				(Review Q's 1, 7, 10, 72, 96)
1	23		Q12.	Hos. 6:7	(Review Q's 6, 10, 57, 89, 105)
1	24				(Review Q's 2, 8, 11, 73, 97)
1	25		Q13.	2 Cor. 11:3	(Review Q's 7, 11, 58, 90, 106)
1	26				(Review Q's 3, 9, 12, 74, 98)
1	27		Q14.	Jms. 4:17	(Review Q's 8, 12, 59, 91, 107)
1	28				(Review Q's 4, 10, 13, 75, 99)
1	29		Q15.	Gen. 3:6	(Review Q's 1, 9, 13, 60, 92)
1	30				(Review Q's 5, 11, 14, 76, 100)
1	31		Q16.	Rom. 5:12	(Review Q's 2, 10, 14, 61, 93)
1	32				(Review Q's 6, 12, 15, 77, 101)
1	33		Q17.	Eccl. 9:3	(Review Q's 3, 11, 15, 62, 94)
1	34				(Review Q's 7, 13, 16, 78, 102)
1	35		Q18.	Ps. 51:5	(Review Q's 4, 12, 16, 63, 95)
1	36				(Review Q's 8, 14, 17, 79, 103)
1	37		Q19.	Eph. 2:1-3	(Review Q's 5, 13, 17, 64, 96)
1	38				(Review Q's 9, 15, 18, 80, 104)

Yr	Wk	Date	WSC	Bible Memory	WSC Review
1	39		Q20.	Eph. 1:3-4a	(Review Q's 6, 14, 18, 65, 97)
1	40				(Review Q's 10, 16, 19, 81, 105)
1	41		Q21.	1 Tim. 2:5	(Review Q's 7, 15, 19, 66, 98)
1	42				(Review Q's 11, 17, 20, 82, 106)
1	43		Q22.	Luke 1:34-35	(Review Q's 8, 16, 20, 67, 99)
1	44				(Review Q's 12, 18, 21, 83, 107)
1	45		Q23.	Acts 3:22-23	(Review Q's 9, 17, 21, 68, 100)
1	46				(Review Q's 1, 13, 19, 22, 84)
1	47		Q24.	John 1:18	(Review Q's 10, 18, 22, 69, 101)
1	48				(Review Q's 2, 14, 20, 23, 85)
1	49		Q25.	Heb. 2:17	(Review Q's 11, 19, 23, 70, 102)
1	50				(Review Q's 3, 15, 21, 24, 86)
1	51		Q26.	1 Cor. 15:25-26	(Review Q's 12, 20, 24, 71, 103)
1	52				(Review Q's 4, 16, 22, 25, 87)
2	1		Q27.	Phil. 2:5-8	(Review Q's 13, 21, 25, 72, 104)
2	2				(Review Q's 5, 17, 23, 26, 88)
2	3		Q28.	Phil. 2:9-11	(Review Q's 14, 22, 26, 73, 105)
2	4				(Review Q's 6, 18, 24, 27, 89)
2	5		Q29.	Tit. 3:4-5	(Review Q's 15, 23, 27, 74, 106)
2	6				(Review Q's 7, 19, 25, 28, 90)
2	7		Q30.	Eph. 2:8-10	(Review Q's 16, 24, 28, 75, 107)
2	8				(Review Q's 8, 20, 26, 29, 91)
2	9		Q31.	Jn. 6:44	(Review Q's 1, 17, 25, 29, 76)
2	10				(Review Q's 9, 21, 27, 30, 92)
2	11		Q32.	Rom. 8:28-30	(Review Q's 2, 18, 26, 30, 77)
2	12				(Review Q's 10, 22, 28, 31, 93)
2	13		Q33.	2 Cor. 5:21	(Review Q's 3, 19, 27, 31, 78)
2	14				(Review Q's 11, 23, 29, 32, 94)
2	15		Q34.	Jn. 1:12-13	(Review Q's 4, 20, 28, 32, 79)
2	16				(Review Q's 12, 24, 30, 33, 95)
2	17		Q35.	Rom. 6:6	(Review Q's 5, 21, 29, 33, 80)
2	18				(Review Q's 13, 25, 31, 34, 96)
2	19		Q36.	Rom. 5:1-2	(Review Q's 6, 22, 30, 34, 81)
2	20				(Review Q's 14, 26, 32, 35, 97)
2	21		Q37.	1 Cor. 15:22-23	(Review Q's 7, 23, 31, 35, 82)
2	22				(Review Q's 15, 27, 33, 36, 98)
2	23		Q38.	1 Jn. 3:2	(Review Q's 8, 24, 32, 36, 83)
2	24				(Review Q's 16, 28, 34, 37, 99)

I. What is man to believe concerning God? (1-38)

Q1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **1 Cor. 10:31**

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

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

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. **2 Tim. 3:16-17**

Q3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?

A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **Josh. 1:8**

Q4. What is God?

A. God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

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

Q5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **Deut. 6:4-7**

Q6. How many persons are there in the godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore 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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." **Matt. 28:18-20**

Q7. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **Eph. 1:11-12**

Q8. How doth God execute his decrees?

A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. **Is. 40:25-26**

Q9. What is the work of creation?

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

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. **Heb. 11:3**

Q10. How did God create man?

A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **Gen. 1:26**

Q11. What are God's works of providence?

A. God's works of providence are his most holy, wise and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Matt. 10:29-30**

Q12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me. **Hos. 6:7**

Q13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. **2 Cor. 11:3**

Q14. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. **Jms. 4:17**

Q15. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created was their eating the forbidden fruit.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **Gen. 3:6**

Q16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. **Rom. 5:12**

Q17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. **Ecc. 9:3**

Q18. *Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?*

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. **Ps. 51:5**

Q19. *What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?*

A. All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **Eph. 2:1-3**

Q20. *Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?*

A. God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and to bring them into an estate of salvation by a redeemer.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **Eph. 1:3-4a**

Q21. *Who is the redeemer of God's elect?*

A. The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

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

Q22. *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **Lk. 1:34-35**

Q23. *What offices doth Christ execute as our redeemer?*

A. Christ, as our redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people." **Acts 3:22-23**

Q24. *How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

No one has ever seen God, the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. **Jn. 1:18**

Q25. *How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **Heb. 2:17**

Q26. *How doth Christ execute the office of a king?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **1 Cor. 15:25-26**

Q27. *Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?*

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Phil. 2:5-8

Q28. *Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?*

A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Phil. 2:9-11**

Q29. *How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by his Holy Spirit.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **Tit. 3:4-5**

Q30. *How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?*

A. The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Eph. 2:8-10**

Q31. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. **Jn. 6:44**

Q32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. **Rom. 8:28-30**

Q33. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Cor. 5:21**

Q34. What is adoption?

A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of, the sons of God.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. **Jn. 1:12-13**

Q35. What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **Rom. 6:6**

Q36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **Rom. 5:1-2**

Q37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order:

Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **1 Cor. 15:22-23**

Q38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory, shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **1 Jn. 3:2**