

1. What is man's primary purpose?

Man's primary purpose is to glorify God¹ and to enjoy Him forever.²

2. What authority from God directs us how to glorify and enjoy Him?

The only authority for glorifying and enjoying Him is the Bible,³ which is the word of God and is made up of the Old and New Testaments.⁴

3. What does the Bible primarily teach?

The Bible primarily teaches what man must believe about God⁵ and what God requires of man.⁶

[WHAT MAN MUST BELIEVE ABOUT GOD]

4. What is God?

God is a spirit,⁷ whose being,⁸ wisdom,⁹ power,¹⁰ holiness,¹¹ justice,¹² goodness,¹³ and truth¹⁴ are infinite,¹⁵ eternal,¹⁶ and unchangeable.¹⁷

¹ Psalm 86:9; Isaiah 60:21; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; Revelation 4:11.

² Psalm 16:5-11; 73:25-28; 144:15; Isaiah 12:2; Luke 2:10; Philippians 4:4; Revelation 21:3-4.

³ Deuteronomy 4:2; Psalm 19:7-11; Isaiah 8:20; John 15:11; 20:30-31; Acts 17:11; 1 John 1:3-4.

⁴ Luke 24:27, 44; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 14:37; Ephesians 2:20; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:2, 15-16.

⁵ Genesis 1:1; John 5:39; John 20:31; Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:15.

⁶ Deuteronomy 10:12-13; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:105; Micah 6:8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

⁷ Deuteronomy 4:15-19; Luke 24:39; John 1:18; John 4:24; Acts 17:29.

⁸ Exodus 3:14; Psalm 115:2-3; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 Timothy 6:15-16.

⁹ Psalm 104:24; Psalm 147:5; Romans 11:33-34; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:20.

¹⁰ Genesis 17:1; Psalm 62:11; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26; Revelation 1:8; 4:8.

¹¹ Habakkuk 1:13; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 3:3, 5; Revelation 15:4.

¹² Genesis 18:25; Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 96:13; Romans 3:5, 26.

¹³ Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 103:5; Psalm 107:8; Matthew 19:17; Romans 2:4.

¹⁴ Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 86:15; Psalm 117:2; Hebrews 6:18.

¹⁵ 1 Kings 8:27; Job 11:7-9; Psalm 139:7-10; 145:3; 147:5; Jeremiah 23:24; Romans 11:33-36.

¹⁶ Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; 102:12, 24-27; Revelation 1:4, 8.

¹⁷ Psalm 33:11; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; James 1:17.

5. Is there more than one God?

There is only one,¹⁸ the living and true God.¹⁹

6. How many persons are in the one God?

Three persons are in the one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.²⁰ These three are one God, the same in substance and equal in power and glory.²¹

7. What are the decrees of God?

The decrees of God are His eternal plan based on the purpose of His will, by which, for His own glory, He has foreordained everything that happens.²²

8. How does God carry out His decrees?

God carries out His decrees in creation and providence.²³

9. What is creation?

Creation is God's making everything out of nothing by His powerful word²⁴ in six days—and all very good.²⁵

10. How did God create man?

God created man, male and female, in His own image²⁶ and in knowledge,²⁷ righteousness, and holiness,²⁸ to rule over the other creatures.²⁹

11. What is God's providence?

God's providence is His completely holy,³⁰ wise,³¹ and powerful³² preserving³³ and governing³⁴ every creature and every action.³⁵

¹⁸ Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; 45:21-22; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6.

¹⁹ Jeremiah 10:10; John 17:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 John 5:20.

²⁰ Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2.

²¹ Psalm 45:6; John 1:1; John 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Jude 24-25.

²² Psalm 33:11; Isaiah 14:24; Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:4, 11-12; Romans 9:22-23.

²³ Psalm 148:8; Isaiah 40:26; Daniel 4:35; Acts 4:24-28; Revelation 4:11.

²⁴ Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6, 9; Hebrews 11:3.

²⁵ Genesis 1:31.

²⁶ Genesis 1:27.

²⁷ Colossians 3:10.

²⁸ Ephesians 4:24.

²⁹ Genesis 1:28; Psalm 8.

12. What did God's providence specifically do for man whom He created?

After the creation God made a covenant with man to give him life, if he perfectly obeyed; God told him not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil or he would die.³⁶

13. Did our first parents remain as they were created?

Left to the freedom of their own wills, our first parents sinned against God and fell from their original condition.³⁷

14. What is sin?

Sin is disobeying or not conforming to God's law in any way.³⁸

15. By what sin did our first parents fall from their original condition?

Our first parents' sin was eating the forbidden fruit.³⁹

16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first disobedience?

Since the covenant was made not only for Adam⁴⁰ but also for his natural descendants, all mankind sinned in him and fell with him in his first disobedience.⁴¹

17. What happened to man in the fall?

Man fell into a condition of sin and misery.⁴²

18. What is sinful about man's fallen condition?

The sinfulness of that fallen condition is twofold. First, in what is commonly called original sin, there is the guilt of Adam's first sin⁴³

³⁰ Psalm 145:17.

³¹ Psalm 104:24; Isaiah 28:29.

³² Hebrews 1:3.

³³ Nehemiah 9:6.

³⁴ Ephesians 1:19-22.

³⁵ Psalm 36:6; 103:19; Proverbs 16:33; Matthew 10:30.

³⁶ Genesis 2:16-17; Galatians 3:12; James 2:10.

³⁷ Genesis 3:6-8, 13; Ecclesiastes 7:29; 2 Corinthians 11:3.

³⁸ Leviticus 5:17; James 4:17; 1 John 3:4.

³⁹ Genesis 3:6, 12.

⁴⁰ Genesis 2:16-17; James 2:10.

⁴¹ Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

⁴² Genesis 3:16-19, 23; Romans 3:16; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1.

⁴³ Romans 5:12, 19.

with its lack of original righteousness⁴⁴ and the corruption of his whole nature.⁴⁵ Second are all the specific acts of disobedience that come from original sin.⁴⁶

19. What is the misery of man's fallen condition?

By their fall all mankind lost fellowship with God⁴⁷ and brought His anger⁴⁸ and curse⁴⁹ on themselves. They are therefore subject to all the miseries of this life,⁵⁰ to death itself,⁵¹ and to the pains of hell forever.⁵²

20. Did God leave all mankind to die in sin and misery?

From all eternity and merely because it pleased Him God chose some to have everlasting life.⁵³ These he freed from sin and misery by a covenant of grace and brought them to salvation by a redeemer.⁵⁴

21. Who is the redeemer of God's chosen ones?

The only redeemer of God's chosen is the Lord Jesus Christ,⁵⁵ the eternal Son of God,⁵⁶ Who became man.⁵⁷ He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever.⁵⁸

⁴⁴ Romans 3:10; Colossians 3:10; Ephesians 4:24.

⁴⁵ Psalm 51:5; John 3:6; Romans 3:18; 8:7-8; Ephesians 2:1-3.

⁴⁶ Genesis 6:5; Psalm 53:1-3; Matthew 15:19; Romans 3:10-18, 23; Galatians 5:19-21; James 1:14-15.

⁴⁷ Genesis 3:8, 10, 24; John 8:34, 42, 44; Ephesians 2:12; 4:18.

⁴⁸ John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 2:3; 5:6.

⁴⁹ Galatians 3:10; Revelation 22:3.

⁵⁰ Genesis 3:16-19; Job 5:7; Ecclesiastes 2:22-23; Lamentations 3:39; Romans 8:18-23.

⁵¹ Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23.

⁵² Matthew 25:41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:9-11.

⁵³ Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14.

⁵⁴ Genesis 3:15; 17:7; Exodus 19:5-6; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 20:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 9:15; Romans 3:20-22; Galatians 3:21-22.

⁵⁵ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

⁵⁶ Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 1:18.

⁵⁷ Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4.

⁵⁸ Luke 1:35; Acts 1:11; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 7:24-25.

22. How did Christ, the Son of God, become man?

Christ, the Son of God, became man by assuming a real body⁵⁹ and a reasoning soul.⁶⁰ He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to Him;⁶¹ yet He was sinless.⁶²

23. How is Christ our redeemer?

As our redeemer, Christ is a prophet,⁶³ priest,⁶⁴ and king⁶⁵ in both His humiliation and His exaltation.

24. How is Christ a prophet?

As a prophet, Christ reveals the will of God to us for our salvation⁶⁶ by His word⁶⁷ and Spirit.⁶⁸

25. How is Christ a priest?

As a priest, Christ offered Himself up once as a sacrifice for us to satisfy divine justice⁶⁹ and to reconcile us to God,⁷⁰ and He continually intercedes for us.⁷¹

26. How is Christ a king?

As a king, Christ brings us under His power,⁷² rules and defends us,⁷³ and restrains and conquers all His and all our enemies.⁷⁴

⁵⁹ Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14, 17; 10:5.

⁶⁰ Matthew 26:38.

⁶¹ Luke 1:27, 31, 35, 42; Galatians 4:4.

⁶² 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 John 3:5.

⁶³ Deuteronomy 18:18; Acts 2:33; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 1:1-2; 12:25.

⁶⁴ Hebrews 4:14-15; 5:5-6; 7:25.

⁶⁵ Psalm 2:8-11; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 21:5; Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; 1 Corinthians 15:25.

⁶⁶ John 4:41-42; 15:15; 20:30-31.

⁶⁷ Luke 4:18-19, 21; Acts 1:1-2; Hebrews 2:3.

⁶⁸ John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 1:11.

⁶⁹ Isaiah 53; Acts 8:32-35; Hebrews 9:14, 26-28; 10:12.

⁷⁰ Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Colossians 1:21-22; Hebrews 2:17.

⁷¹ Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24.

⁷² Acts 15:14-16.

⁷³ Isaiah 32:1-2; 33:22; Matthew 28:18-20; John 17:2; Colossians 1:13.

⁷⁴ Psalm 2:6-9; 110:3; Matthew 12:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Colossians 2:15.

27. How was Christ humiliated?

Christ was humiliated: by being born as a man and born into a poor family;⁷⁵ by being made subject to the law⁷⁶ and suffering the miseries of this life,⁷⁷ the anger of God,⁷⁸ and the curse of death on the cross;⁷⁹ and by being buried⁸⁰ and remaining under the power of death for a time.⁸¹

28. How is Christ exalted?

Christ is exalted by His rising from the dead on the third day,⁸² His going up into heaven,⁸³ His sitting at the right hand of God the Father,⁸⁴ and His coming to judge the world at the last day.⁸⁵

29. How are we made to take part in the redemption Christ bought?

We take part in the redemption Christ bought when the Holy Spirit effectively applies it to us.⁸⁶

30. How does the Holy Spirit apply to us the redemption Christ bought?

The Spirit applies to us the redemption Christ bought by producing faith in us⁸⁷ and so uniting us to Christ in our effective calling.⁸⁸

31. What is effective calling?

Effective calling is the work of God's Spirit,⁸⁹ Who convinces us that we are sinful and miserable,⁹⁰ Who enlightens our minds in the

⁷⁵ Luke 2:7; 2 Corinthians 8:9.

⁷⁶ Galatians 4:4.

⁷⁷ Isaiah 53:3; Luke 9:58; John 4:6; 11:35; Hebrews 2:18; 12:2-3.

⁷⁸ Psalm 22:1; Isaiah 53:10; Matthew 27:46; Luke 22:44; 1 John 2:2.

⁷⁹ Galatians 3:13; Philippians 2:8.

⁸⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

⁸¹ Matthew 12:40; Acts 3:24-27, 31.

⁸² 1 Corinthians 15:4.

⁸³ Psalm 68:18; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:11; Ephesians 4:8.

⁸⁴ Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:33-34; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 1:3.

⁸⁵ Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; 17:31.

⁸⁶ John 1:11-12; Titus 3:5-6.

⁸⁷ John 6:37, 39; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 2:12-16; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8; Philippians 1:29.

⁸⁸ John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 3:17.

⁸⁹ 2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.

⁹⁰ Acts 2:37.

knowledge of Christ,⁹¹ and Who renews our wills.⁹² This is how He persuades and makes us able to receive Jesus Christ,⁹³ Who is freely offered to us in the gospel.⁹⁴

32. What benefits do those who are effectively called share in this life?

In this life those who are effectively called share justification, adoption, sanctification, and the other benefits that either go with or come from them.⁹⁵

33. What is justification?

Justification is the act of God's free grace⁹⁶ by which He pardons all our sins⁹⁷ and accepts us as righteous in His sight.⁹⁸ He does so only because He counts the righteousness of Christ as ours.⁹⁹ Justification is received by faith alone.¹⁰⁰

34. What is adoption?

Adoption is the act of God's free grace¹⁰¹ by which we become His sons with all the rights and privileges of being His.¹⁰²

35. What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace¹⁰³ by which our whole person is made new in the image of God,¹⁰⁴ and we are made more and more able to become dead to sin and alive to righteousness.¹⁰⁵

⁹¹ Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 2:10, 12; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 1:17-18.

⁹² Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 3:5; Titus 3:5.

⁹³ John 6:44-45; Acts 16:14; Philippians 2:13.

⁹⁴ Isaiah 45:22; Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17.

⁹⁵ Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:26, 30; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 1:5.

⁹⁶ Ezekiel 36:27; Romans 3:24.

⁹⁷ Romans 4:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

⁹⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:21.

⁹⁹ Romans 4:6, 11; Romans 5:19.

¹⁰⁰ Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9.

¹⁰¹ 1 John 3:1.

¹⁰² John 1:12; Romans 8:17.

¹⁰³ Ezekiel 36:27; Philippians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

¹⁰⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

¹⁰⁵ Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 6:4, 6, 12-14; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 2:24.

36. What benefits in this life go with or come from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

The benefits that in this life go with or come from justification, adoption, and sanctification are: the assurance of God's love,¹⁰⁶ peace of conscience,¹⁰⁷ joy in the Holy Spirit,¹⁰⁸ and growing and persevering in grace¹⁰⁹ to the end of our lives.¹¹⁰

37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ when they die?

When believers die, their souls are made perfectly holy¹¹¹ and immediately pass into glory.¹¹² Their bodies, which are still united to Christ,¹¹³ rest in the grave until the resurrection.¹¹⁴

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

At the resurrection, believers, raised in glory,¹¹⁵ will be publicly recognized and declared not guilty on the day of judgment¹¹⁶ and will be made completely happy in the full enjoyment of God¹¹⁷ forever.¹¹⁸

[HAVING SEEN WHAT THE BIBLE PRIMARILY TEACHES US TO BELIEVE ABOUT GOD, IT FOLLOWS TO CONSIDER THE DUTY IT REQUIRES OF MAN]

[THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: AS A RULE OF GRATITUDE]

39. What does God require of man?

God requires man to obey His revealed will.¹¹⁹

¹⁰⁶ Romans 5:5.

¹⁰⁷ Romans 5:1.

¹⁰⁸ Romans 14:17.

¹⁰⁹ 2 Peter 3:18.

¹¹⁰ Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5.

¹¹¹ Hebrews 12:23

¹¹² Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6, 8; Philippians 1:23

¹¹³ 1 Thessalonians 4:14.

¹¹⁴ Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15.

¹¹⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:42-43.

¹¹⁶ Matthew 25:33-34, 46.

¹¹⁷ Romans 8:29; 1 John 32:2.

¹¹⁸ Psalm 16:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

¹¹⁹ Deuteronomy 29:29; Micah 6:8; 1 John 5:2-3.

40. What rules did God first reveal for man to obey?

The rules He first revealed were the moral law.¹²⁰

41. Where is the moral law summarized?

The moral law is summarized in the ten commandments.¹²¹

42. What is the essence of the ten commandments?

The essence of the ten commandments is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind, and to love everyone else as we love ourselves.¹²²

43. What introduces the ten commandments?

These words introduce the ten commandments: *I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*¹²³

44. What does the introduction to the ten commandments teach us?

The introduction to the ten commandments teaches us that, because God is Lord and is our God and redeemer, we must keep all His commandments.¹²⁴

45. What is the first commandment?

The first commandment is: *You shall have no other gods before me.*¹²⁵

46. What does the first commandment require?

The first commandment requires us to know and recognize God as the only true God and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.¹²⁶

47. What does the first commandment forbid?

The first commandment forbids denying God¹²⁷ or not worshipping and glorifying Him as the true God¹²⁸ and our God.¹²⁹ It also forbids

¹²⁰ Romans 2:14-15; Romans 10:5.

¹²¹ Deuteronomy 4:13; Matthew 19:17-19.

¹²² Matthew 22:37-40.

¹²³ Exodus 20:2; Deuteronomy 5:6.

¹²⁴ Luke 1:74-75; 1 Peter 1:14-19.

¹²⁵ Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7.

¹²⁶ 1 Chronicles 28:9; Isaiah 45:20-25; Matthew 4:10.

¹²⁷ Psalm 14:1.

giving worship and glory, which He alone deserves, to anyone or anything else.¹³⁰

48. What are we specifically taught in the first commandment by the words *before me*?

The words *before me* in the first commandment teach us that God, Who sees everything, notices and is very offended by the sin of having any other god.¹³¹

49. What is the second commandment?

The second commandment is: *You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*¹³²

50. What does the second commandment require?

The second commandment requires us to receive, respectfully perform, and preserve completely and purely all the regulations for religion and worship that God has established in His word.¹³³

51. What does the second commandment forbid?

The second commandment forbids our worshipping God with images¹³⁴ or in any other way not established in His word.¹³⁵

52. What are the reasons for the second commandment?

The reasons for the second commandment are that God totally rules over us,¹³⁶ that we belong to Him,¹³⁷ and that He is eager to be worshipped correctly.¹³⁸

¹²⁸ Romans 1:20-21.

¹²⁹ Psalm 81:10-11.

¹³⁰ Ezekiel 8:16-18; Romans 1:25.

¹³¹ Deuteronomy 30:17-18; Psalm 44:20-21; Ezekiel 8:12.

¹³² Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10.

¹³³ Deuteronomy 12:32; Matthew 28:20.

¹³⁴ Deuteronomy 4:15-19; Romans 1:22-23.

¹³⁵ Leviticus 10:1-2; Jeremiah 19:4-5; Colossians 2:18-23.

¹³⁶ Psalm 95:2-3, 6-7; 96:9-10.

¹³⁷ Exodus 19:5; Psalm 45:11; Isaiah 54:5.

53. What is the third commandment?

The third commandment is: *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*¹³⁹

54. What does the third commandment require?

The third commandment requires the holy and reverent use of God's names, titles,¹⁴⁰ qualities,¹⁴¹ regulations,¹⁴² word,¹⁴³ and works.¹⁴⁴

55. What does the third commandment forbid?

The third commandment forbids our treating as unholy or abusing anything God uses to make Himself known.¹⁴⁵

56. What is the reason for the third commandment?

The reason for the third commandment is that the Lord our God will not allow those who break this commandment to escape His righteous judgment, although they may escape punishment from men.¹⁴⁶

57. What is the fourth commandment?

The fourth commandment is: *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*¹⁴⁷

¹³⁸ Exodus 34:14; 1 Corinthians 10:22.

¹³⁹ Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11.

¹⁴⁰ Deuteronomy 10:20; Psalm 29:2; Matthew 6:9.

¹⁴¹ 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; Revelation 15:3-4.

¹⁴² Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:27-28.

¹⁴³ Psalm 138:2; Revelation 22:18-19.

¹⁴⁴ Psalm 107:21-22; Revelation 4:11.

¹⁴⁵ Leviticus 19:12; Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12.

¹⁴⁶ Deuteronomy 28:58-59; 1 Samuel 3:13; 1 Samuel 4:11.

¹⁴⁷ Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15.

58. What does the fourth commandment require?

The fourth commandment requires us to set apart to God the times He has established in His word—specifically one whole day out of every seven as a holy Sabbath to Him.¹⁴⁸

59. Which day of the week has God designated as the Sabbath?

From the beginning of the world until the resurrection of Christ God established the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath.¹⁴⁹ From that time until the end of the world the first day of the week is the Christian Sabbath.¹⁵⁰

60. How do we keep the Sabbath holy?

We keep the Sabbath holy by resting the whole day from worldly affairs or recreations, even ones that are lawful on other days.¹⁵¹ Except for necessary works or acts of mercy¹⁵² we should spend all our time publicly and privately worshipping God.¹⁵³

61. What does the fourth commandment forbid?

The fourth commandment forbids failing to do or carelessly doing what we are supposed to do. It also forbids treating the day as unholy by loafing, by doing anything in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thinking, talking about, or working on our worldly affairs or recreations.¹⁵⁴

62. What are the reasons for the fourth commandment?

The reasons for the fourth commandment are these: God allows us six days of the week to take care of our own affairs;¹⁵⁵ He claims the seventh day as His own; He set the example; and He blesses the Sabbath.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁸ Exodus 31:13, 16-17.

¹⁴⁹ Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:11.

¹⁵⁰ Mark 2:27-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10.

¹⁵¹ Exodus 20:10; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 58:13-14.

¹⁵² Exodus 20:8; Leviticus 23:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7.

¹⁵³ Matthew 12:1-13.

¹⁵⁴ Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 58:13-14; Amos 8:4-6.

¹⁵⁵ Exodus 20:9; 31:15; Leviticus 23:3.

¹⁵⁶ Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:11; 31:17.

63. What is the fifth commandment?

The fifth commandment is: *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.*¹⁵⁷

64. What does the fifth commandment require?

The fifth commandment requires us to respect and treat others, whether above, below, or equal to us, as their position or our relationship to them demands.¹⁵⁸

65. What does the fifth commandment forbid?

The fifth commandment forbids being disrespectful to or not treating others as their position or relationship to us demands.¹⁵⁹

66. What is the reason for the fifth commandment?

The reason for the fifth commandment is the promise of long life and prosperity, if these glorify God and are for the good of those who obey this commandment.¹⁶⁰

67. What is the sixth commandment?

The sixth commandment is: *You shall not murder.*¹⁶¹

68. What does the sixth commandment require?

The sixth commandment requires making every lawful effort to preserve one's own life and the lives of others.¹⁶²

69. What does the sixth commandment forbid?

The sixth commandment forbids taking one's own life or the lives of others unjustly or doing anything that leads to suicide or murder.¹⁶³

70. What is the seventh commandment?

The seventh commandment is: *You shall not commit adultery.*¹⁶⁴

¹⁵⁷ Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16.

¹⁵⁸ Romans 13:1, 7; Ephesians 5:21-22, 24; Ephesians 6:1, 4-5, 9; 1 Peter 2:17.

¹⁵⁹ Matthew 15:4-6; Romans 13:8.

¹⁶⁰ Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:2-3.

¹⁶¹ Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17.

¹⁶² Ephesians 5:28-29.

¹⁶³ Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:22; 1 John 3:15.

¹⁶⁴ Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18.

71. What does the seventh commandment require?

The seventh commandment requires us and everyone else to keep sexually pure in heart, speech, and action.¹⁶⁵

72. What does the seventh commandment forbid?

The seventh commandment forbids thinking, saying, or doing anything sexually impure.¹⁶⁶

73. What is the eighth commandment?

The eighth commandment is: *You shall not steal.*¹⁶⁷

74. What does the eighth commandment require?

The eighth commandment requires that we lawfully acquire and increase our own and others' money and possessions.¹⁶⁸

75. What does the eighth commandment forbid?

The eighth commandment forbids anything that either does or may unjustly take away money or possessions from us or anyone else.¹⁶⁹

76. What is the ninth commandment?

The ninth commandment is: *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*¹⁷⁰

77. What does the ninth commandment require?

The ninth commandment requires us to tell the truth and to maintain and promote it and our own and others' reputations,¹⁷¹ especially when testifying.¹⁷²

78. What does the ninth commandment forbid?

The ninth commandment forbids anything that gets in the way of the truth or injures anyone's reputation.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁵ 1 Corinthians 7:2-3, 5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.

¹⁶⁶ Matthew 5:28; Ephesians 5:3-4.

¹⁶⁷ Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19.

¹⁶⁸ Leviticus 25:35; Ephesians 4:28b; Philippians 2:4.

¹⁶⁹ Proverbs 28:19; Ephesians 4:28b; 2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8.

¹⁷⁰ Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20.

¹⁷¹ Zechariah 8:16; Acts 25:10; 3 John 12.

¹⁷² Proverbs 14:5, 25.

¹⁷³ Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 15:3; Proverbs 6:16-19; Luke 3:14.

79. What is the tenth commandment?

The tenth commandment is: *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*¹⁷⁴

80. What does the tenth commandment require?

The tenth commandment requires us to be completely satisfied with our own status in life¹⁷⁵ and to have a proper, loving attitude toward others and their possessions.¹⁷⁶

81. What does the tenth commandment forbid?

The tenth commandment forbids any dissatisfaction with what belongs to us,¹⁷⁷ envy or grief at the success of others, and all improper desire for anything that belongs to someone else.¹⁷⁸

[THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: AS A REVEALER OF OUR SIN]**82. Can anyone perfectly keep the commandments of God?**

Since the fall no ordinary man can perfectly keep the commandments of God in this life but breaks them every day in thought, word, and action.¹⁷⁹

83. Are all sins equally evil?

In the eyes of God some sins in themselves are more evil than others, and some are more evil because of the harm that results from them.¹⁸⁰

84. What does every sin deserve?

Every sin deserves God's anger and curse, both in this life and in the life to come.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁴ Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21.

¹⁷⁵ Psalm 34:1; Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5.

¹⁷⁶ Luke 15:6, 9, 11-32; Romans 12:15; Philippians 2:4.

¹⁷⁷ 1 Corinthians 10:10; James 3:14-16.

¹⁷⁸ Galatians 5:26; Colossians 3:5.

¹⁷⁹ Genesis 8:21; Romans 3:9-10, 23.

¹⁸⁰ Ezekiel 8:6, 13, 15; Matthew 11:20-24; John 19:11.

¹⁸¹ Matthew 25:41; Galatians 3:10; Ephesians 5:6; James 2:10.

[THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: AS A CALL TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST]

85. What does God require from us to escape His anger and curse, which we deserve for our sin?

To escape God's anger and curse, which we deserve for our sin, God requires from us faith in Jesus Christ and repentance unto life¹⁸² along with diligent involvement in all the external ways Christ uses to bring us the benefits of redemption.¹⁸³

86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,¹⁸⁴ by which we receive and rest on Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.¹⁸⁵

87. What is repentance unto life?

Repentance unto life is a saving grace,¹⁸⁶ by which a sinner, being truly aware of his sinfulness, understands the mercy of God in Christ,¹⁸⁷ grieves for and hates his sins, and turns from them to God,¹⁸⁸ fully intending and striving for a new obedience.¹⁸⁹

[THREE MEANS OF GRACE]

88. What are the ordinary, external ways Christ uses to bring us the benefits of redemption?

The ordinary, external ways Christ uses to bring us the benefits of redemption are His regulations, particularly the word, sacraments, and prayer, all of which are made effective for the salvation of His chosen ones.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸² Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21.

¹⁸³ Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25; Colossians 3:16.

¹⁸⁴ Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:16.

¹⁸⁵ John 20:30-31; Galatians 2:15-16; Philippians 3:3-11.

¹⁸⁶ Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25.

¹⁸⁷ Psalm 51:1-4; Joel 2:13; Luke 15:7, 10; Acts 2:37.

¹⁸⁸ Jeremiah 31:18-19; Luke 1:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

¹⁸⁹ 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 119:57-64; Matthew 3:8; 2 Corinthians 7:10.

¹⁹⁰ Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42.

[FIRST MEANS OF GRACE: THE WORD]**89. What makes the word effective for salvation?**

The Spirit of God causes the reading and especially the preaching of the word to convince and convert sinners and to build them up in holiness and comfort through faith to salvation.¹⁹¹

90. How is the word to be read and heard in order to become effective for salvation?

For the word to become effective for salvation, we must pay careful attention to it, prepare ourselves, and pray for understanding.¹⁹² We must also receive it with faith and love, treasure it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.¹⁹³

[SECOND MEANS OF GRACE: THE SACRAMENTS]**91. How do the sacraments become effective means of salvation?**

The sacraments become effective means of salvation, not because of any special power in them or in the people who administer them, but rather by the blessing of Christ and the working of His Spirit in those who receive them by faith.¹⁹⁴

92. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a holy regulation established by Christ,¹⁹⁵ in which Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied to believers by physical signs.¹⁹⁶

93. What are the sacraments of the New Testament?

The sacraments of the New Testament are baptism¹⁹⁷ and the Lord's Supper.¹⁹⁸

¹⁹¹ Nehemiah 8:8-9; Acts 20:32; Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

¹⁹² Deuteronomy 6:16-17; Psalm 119:18; 1 Peter 2:1-2.

¹⁹³ Psalm 119:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:10; Hebrews 4:2; James 1:22-25.

¹⁹⁴ 1 Corinthians 3:7; 1 Corinthians 1:12-17.

¹⁹⁵ Matthew 26:26-28; 28:19; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

¹⁹⁶ Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

¹⁹⁷ Matthew 28:19.

¹⁹⁸ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

94. What is baptism?

The sacrament of baptism is a washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,¹⁹⁹ which is a sign and seal that we are joined to Christ, that we receive the benefits of the covenant of grace, and that we are engaged to be the Lord's.²⁰⁰

95. Who should be baptized?

Those who are not members of churches should not be baptized until they have publicly stated that they believe in Christ and will obey Him,²⁰¹ but the infant children of church members should be baptized.²⁰²

96. What is the Lord's Supper?

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which bread and wine are given and received as Christ directed to proclaim His death.²⁰³ Those who receive the Lord's Supper in the right way share in His body and blood with all His benefits, not physically but by faith, and become spiritually stronger and grow in grace.²⁰⁴

97. What is the right way to receive the Lord's Supper?

The right way to receive the Lord's Supper is to examine whether we discern the Lord's body, whether our faith feeds on Him, and whether we have repentance, love, and a new obedience—so that we may not come in the wrong way and eat and drink judgment on ourselves.²⁰⁵

[THIRD MEANS OF GRACE: PRAYER]**98. What is prayer?**

Prayer is offering our desires to God²⁰⁶ in the name of Christ²⁰⁷ for things that agree with His will,²⁰⁸ confessing our sins,²⁰⁹ and thankfully recognizing His mercies.²¹⁰

¹⁹⁹ Matthew 28:19.

²⁰⁰ Acts 2:38-42; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21.

²⁰¹ Acts 2:41; 8:12, 36, 38; 18:8.

²⁰² Genesis 17:7, 9-11; Acts 2:38-39; 16:32-33; Colossians 2:11-12.

²⁰³ Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

²⁰⁴ 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

²⁰⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:27-32.

²⁰⁶ Psalm 10:17; 62:8; Matthew 7:7-8.

²⁰⁷ John 16:23-24.

99. How does God direct us to pray?

The whole word of God,²¹¹ but especially the Lord's prayer,²¹² which Christ taught His disciples, directs our prayers.

100. What does the beginning of the Lord's prayer teach us?

The beginning of the Lord's prayer (*Our Father in heaven*) teaches us to draw near to God with completely holy reverence²¹³ and confidence,²¹⁴ as children to a father²¹⁵ who is able and ready to help us.²¹⁶ It also teaches that we should pray with and for others.²¹⁷

101. For what do we pray in the first request?

In the first request (*hallowed be your name*) we pray that God will enable us and others to glorify Him in everything He uses to make Himself known²¹⁸ and that He will work out everything to His own glory.²¹⁹

102. For what do we pray in the second request?

In the second request (*your kingdom come*) we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed,²²⁰ that the kingdom of grace may be advanced,²²¹ with ourselves and others brought into and kept in it,²²² and that the kingdom of glory may come quickly.²²³

²⁰⁸ 1 John 5:14.

²⁰⁹ Psalm 32:5-6; Daniel 9:4-19; 1 John 1:9.

²¹⁰ Psalm 103:1-5; 136; Philippians 4:6.

²¹¹ 1 John 5:14.

²¹² Matthew 6:9-13.

²¹³ Psalm 95:6.

²¹⁴ Ephesians 3:12.

²¹⁵ Matthew 7:9-11; Luke 11:11-13; Romans 8:15.

²¹⁶ Ephesians 3:20.

²¹⁷ Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-2.

²¹⁸ Psalm 67:1-3; 99:3; 100:3-4.

²¹⁹ Romans 11:33-36; Revelation 4:11.

²²⁰ Matthew 12:25-28; Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8.

²²¹ Psalm 72:8-11; Matthew 24:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25.

²²² Psalm 119:5; Luke 22:32; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5.

²²³ Revelation 22:20.

103. For what do we pray in the third request?

In the third request (*your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*) we pray that by His grace God would make us have the capability and the will to know, obey, and submit to His will in everything,²²⁴ as the angels do in heaven.²²⁵

104. For what do we pray in the fourth request?

In the fourth request (*Give us today our daily bread*) we pray that we may receive an adequate amount of the good things in this life as a free gift of God and that with them we may enjoy His blessing.²²⁶

105. For what do we pray in the fifth request?

In the fifth request (*Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors*), encouraged by God's grace, which makes it possible for us sincerely to forgive others,²²⁷ we pray that for Christ's sake God would freely pardon all our sins.²²⁸

106. For what do we pray in the sixth request?

In the sixth request (*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one*) we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin²²⁹ or support and deliver us when we are tempted.²³⁰

107. What does the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?

The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (*for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever*) teaches us to be encouraged only by God in our prayers²³¹ and to praise Him by acknowledging that kingdom, power, and glory are His.²³² To show that we want to be heard and have confidence that we are, we say *Amen*.²³³

²²⁴ Psalm 19:14; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20-21.

²²⁵ Psalm 103:20-21; Hebrews 1:14.

²²⁶ Proverbs 30:8-9; Matthew 6:31-34; Philippians 4:11, 19; 1 Timothy 6:6-8.

²²⁷ Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13.

²²⁸ Psalm 51:1-2, 7, 9; Daniel 9:17-19; 1 John 1:7.

²²⁹ Psalm 19:13; Matthew 26:41; John 17:15.

²³⁰ Luke 22:31-32; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Hebrews 2:18.

²³¹ Daniel 9:4, 7-9, 16-19; Luke 18:1, 7-8.

²³² 1 Chronicles 29:10-13; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 5:11-13.

²³³ 1 Corinthians 14:16; Revelation 22:20.