

Bible
Fellowship
Church

Catechism



BFC Catechism

The Bible Fellowship Church (BFC) has adopted this statement of Faith and Order to declare with clarity and precision its faith and testimony to the glory of God.

The BFC acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of man. It submits to the written Word of God and to the Holy Spirit as its only sources of guidance and power in maintaining its redemptive life and work in the world. (excerpt from *Bible Fellowship Church Articles of Faith*, Vol 1, 2018 Ed. Preamble)

What is catechism? It is a systematic way to teach the principles of the Christian faith by use of questions and answers. Why catechize our children? The short answer, because God command it. Parents are to “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4, see also Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 22:6, 29:17). A parent’s hope, toil and prayer is that as their children hear God’s Word they will become “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

May it not be said of the next generation that they “did not know the LORD or the work that He had done for Israel” (Judges 2:10) because we failed to diligently teach our children the gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must, by God’s grace, tell of “the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done...so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, and keep His commandments” (see Psalm 78:1-8).

This BFC Catechism is provided for you to train up your children, and to strengthen your knowledge and faith too! May you have many sweet encounters with the Living God and you seek and delight in Him.

BFC Catechism

Article 1 - The Holy Scriptures

WHAT IS THE WORD OF GOD?

Answer:

Children: The Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, is the written Word of God. They are the supreme and final authority of faith and conduct.

Adult: The Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, is the written Word of God, a divine revelation, the original writings of which were verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit. They are the supreme and final authority of faith and conduct.

Scripture: Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

WHAT IS INSPIRATION?

Answer:

Children: Inspiration is a special act of the Holy Spirit by which He guided the writers of the Scriptures so that their words would convey the thoughts He wished to convey.

Adult: Inspiration is a special act of the Holy Spirit by which He guided the writers of the Scriptures so that their words would convey the thoughts He wished to convey and would bear the proper relationship to the thoughts of the other inspired books.

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13

BFC Catechism

(Article 1 - The Holy Scriptures continued)

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS TRUE?

Answer: Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures are kept free from error of fact, doctrine, and judgment. The Holy Scriptures are composed of all books of the Old Testament and New Testament.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:8; Luke 24:44-47; John 17:17;
Acts 26:22-23; Hebrews 4:12

Article 2 - The Trinity

WHO IS GOD?

Answer: There are three persons in the Godhead: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17,
Matthew 28:19; John 16:12-15

WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF THE GODHEAD?

Answer: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one God, the same in substance, eternally equal in power and glory.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1-3; John 10:30;
Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14

BFC Catechism

Article 3 - God the Father

WHO IS GOD THE FATHER?

Answer: There is but one living and true God, immanent, transcendent, infinite in being and perfection.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 45:5-6; Psalm 96; Revelation 4:11

WHAT IS GOD'S CHARACTER?

Answer: God is pure spirit, invisible, immutable, eternal, almighty, and all wise.

Scripture: Psalm 115:1-8; Malachi 3:6a; John 4:24; Romans 11:33-34; 1 Timothy 1:17

WHAT IS GOD'S CHARACTER?

Answer: God is most holy, most free, most loving, most gracious, most merciful. He is longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth.

Scripture: Psalm 103:8-14; Ephesians 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 4:9-10

WHAT IS GOD'S CHARACTER?

Answer: God forgives wickedness, rebellion and sin, the awarder of them that diligently seek Him, and withal most just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin. He will by no means clear the guilty.

Scripture: Exodus 34:6-7; Psalm 119:1-3; Proverbs 6:16-19; Romans 5:9-10

BFC Catechism

Article 4 - God the Son

WHO IS GOD THE SON?

Answer: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Word, the eternal and true God who is of one substance and equal with the Father.

Scripture: Matthew 1:20-23; John 1:1-3, 14; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-17

HOW DID JESUS CHRIST, BEING THE SON OF GOD, BECOME MAN?

Answer:

Children: Jesus Christ took on Himself man's nature, with all of its essential properties except sin. He is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man.

Adult: Jesus Christ took on Himself man's nature, with all of its essential properties except sin. Being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, He embodied two perfect and distinct natures in one person. He is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man.

Scripture: Luke 1:30-35, 2:52; John 1:14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:14, 4:14-15

BFC Catechism

WHAT WAS GOD THE SON'S MINISTRY ON EARTH?

Answer:

Children: Jesus lived a sinless life, performed miracles, taught the will of God, was crucified, and died. He arose bodily from the dead on the third day, reconciled God and man, and obtained an eternal inheritance.

Adult: The Lord Jesus Christ is the revelation of God to man. He lived a sinless life, performed miracles, taught the will of God, was crucified, and died. He was buried and arose bodily from the dead on the third day. The Lord Jesus offered Himself a sacrifice for sins, satisfied the justice of the Father, propitiated the wrath of God, reconciled God and man, and obtained an eternal inheritance.

Scripture: John 1:14-18; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:5-11;
1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 John 4:9-11

WHAT IS GOD THE SON'S CURRENT MINISTRY?

Answer: The Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, from whence He had come, and was exalted, taking His place at the right hand of the Father, where He makes intercession on behalf of all who come to God through Him.

Scripture: John 14:6; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11;
Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:23-25

Article 5 - God the Holy Spirit

WHO IS GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Answer: The eternal Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of the same substance and equal in power and glory with the Father and the Son.

Scripture: John 14:16-17, 26; Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 9:14

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S GENERAL MINISTRY?

Answer:

Children: By the Holy Spirit the prophets were moved to speak the Word of God, and all writers of the Holy Scriptures were inspired to record the mind and will of God. The Spirit regenerates the sinner by His grace, enabling them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith.

Adult: By the Holy Spirit the prophets were moved to speak the Word of God, and all writers of the Holy Scriptures were inspired to record the mind and will of God. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, moves them to repentance, and regenerates them by His grace, enabling them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith.

Scripture: John 3:5-8, 16:7-15; Titus 3:5; 2 Peter 1:19-21

BFC Catechism

WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER?

Answer:

Children: The Holy Spirit indwells all believers, baptizing them into one body.

Adult: The Holy Spirit indwells all believers, baptizing them into one body of which Christ is the head. He is the divine Comforter, Intercessor, and Advocate, and empowers the believer for service.

Scripture: John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Article 6 – Creation

WHAT IS THE WORK OF CREATION?

Answer:

Children: The triune God created out of nothing and out of things He had made. He is the Governor and Upholder of the creation by His wisdom and by the word of His mighty power.

Adult: The triune God, according to His sovereign will, created out of nothing and out of things He had made, by immediate and mediate action, the worlds and all that is in them. He is the Governor and Upholder of the creation by His wisdom and by the word of His mighty power.

Scripture: Genesis 1:1, 31; Psalm 33:6-9; Psalm 104; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:3

Article 7 – Satan

WHO IS SATAN?

Answer: Satan is a created angelic being who fell from his first estate. He is the god of this age, ruling by the permissive will of God.

Scripture: Isaiah 14:12-15; Jude 1:6

WHAT DOES SATAN DO?

Answer: Satan exercises authority over the unsaved, tempts the believer to sin, and continually accuses the brethren before the throne of God.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-3

WHAT IS SATAN’S FATE?

Answer:

Children: Satan has been defeated by the finished work of Christ on the cross. He will be finally judged and doomed to the lake of fire.

Adult: Satan has been defeated by the finished work of Christ at Calvary. During the millennium he will be confined to the abyss, to be released at the end of that period to lead the armies of evil against God. He will be finally judged and doomed to the lake of fire.

Scripture: John 16:33; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 4:4; Revelation 20:10

Article 8 – Man

WHO IS MAN?

Answer: God, by a special and instantaneous act, created man in His image - holy, righteous, and possessing true knowledge – by forming him out of the dust of the earth and breathing into his nostrils the breath of life.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7-8; Ephesians 4:24

WHAT IS THE FALL OF MAN?

Answer:

Children: Our first parents, through the deception of the devil, disobeyed and transgressed the command of God their Creator.

Adult: Our first parents did not remain in the glorious and happy state of their original creation, but through the subtleness and deception of the devil, they disobeyed and transgressed the command of God their Creator.

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-7

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE FALL OF MAN?

Answer: Adam and Eve incurred on themselves and their posterity the sentence of spiritual and physical death.

Scripture: Romans 3:10-20; Romans 5:12-21

DID ALL MANKIND FALL IN ADAM’S FIRST SIN?

Answer: The guilt and consequences of Adam's sin are imputed to the whole human race, so that all men are guilty, inherently corrupt, totally depraved, and subjects of the wrath of God.

Scripture: Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

BFC Catechism

Article 9 – Sin

WHAT IS SIN?

Answer: Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God or any transgression of the law of God.

Scripture: Romans 7:11-12; James 2:10, 4:17; 1 John 3:4, 9-10

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF SIN?

Answer:

Children: Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment.

Adult: Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment, and is manifested in the selfishness, rebellion, unbelief, and total depravity of man's being. Sin is the cause of the curse on and defilement of the created universe.

Scripture: Genesis 3:23-24; Romans 1:18-21, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:21

Article 10 - Human Ability and Responsibility

WHAT IS MAN ABLE TO DO?

Answer:

Children: Through the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace, to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God.

Adult: In his original creation man was endowed with the ability to will and do good or evil and was accountable for his willing and doing. But through the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace, to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God.

Scripture: Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 7:21-25, 8:5-8;
1 Corinthians 2:14

IS MAN ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD?

Answer:

Children: Man is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His commands.

Adult: Man is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His commands. Man has not lost his ability to make decisions, but left to himself, he acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature.

Scripture: Acts 17:30-31; Romans 3:19-20

BFC Catechism

(Article 10 – Human Ability and Responsibility continued)

CAN MAN DO ANYTHING GOOD OF HIS OWN?

Answer:

Children: Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation.

Adult: Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation. By that grace, God saves those men whom He causes to will and do good; however, He does this without nullifying man's ability to act responsibly.

Scripture: John 1:12-13; Romans 9:16; Philippians 2:12-13; Titus 2:11-12

Article 11 – Election

WHAT IS ELECTION?

Answer:

Children: Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation.

Adult: Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity, for reasons known only to Himself, and apart from any foreseen faith and/or goodness found in man, He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; John 1:12-13; Romans 9:14-15; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:9

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF GOD’S ELECTION?

Answer: God chose to save so that they might be conformed to Christ’s image. Those so chosen He redeems by His Son and seals by His Spirit.

Scripture: Romans 8:28-30; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 1:11-14; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Article 12 – Salvation

WHAT IS SALVATION?

Answer:

Children: Salvation is the work of God in which He reconciles fallen men to Himself.

Adult: Salvation is the work of God in which He reconciles fallen men to Himself, ultimately removes the consequences of the curse, and bestows upon His redeemed creation the riches of His grace, all to His glory.

Scripture: Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 1:3-7, 2:4-9;
Hebrews 7:25

WHO ARE THE SAVED?

Answer:

Children: Salvation is offered in the gospel to all men, and is received by grace through faith, apart from works or human merit.

Adult: Salvation is offered in the gospel to all men and is accomplished in all the elect. It is received by grace through faith and the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit, apart from works or human merit.

Scripture: John 3:16-17, 6:29-40; Romans 3:21-24, 5:15-17

BFC Catechism

WHO IS THEIR SAVIOR?

Answer:

Children: Salvation centers in a person, Jesus Christ, who is our only Savior.

Adult: Salvation centers in a person, Jesus Christ, and receiving Him includes the remission of sins on the grounds of His shed blood on the cross, the imputation of His perfect righteousness, the reception of the Holy Spirit, and the impartation of eternal life.

Scripture: John 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 5:11-12

Article 13 – Repentance

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Answer: Repentance unto life is a gift of God and a voluntary act of man, accomplished by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.

Scripture: Acts 11:15-18; Romans 2:4; 2 Timothy 2:25; 2 Peter 3:9

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF REPENTANCE?

Answer: Repentance consists in a knowledge of sin and a sense of guilt and corruption that results in the confession and forsaking of sin and a turning to God in loving, obedient service.

Scripture: John 16:8; Acts 26:12-18; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Article 14 – Regeneration

WHAT IS REGENERATION?

Answer:

Children: Regeneration, or new birth, is an instantaneous creative act of God through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

Adult: Regeneration, or new birth, is an instantaneous creative act of God through the agency of the Holy Spirit, whereby divine life is imparted to those dead in sin, making them members of the family of God.

Scripture: John 1:11-13, 3:3-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:4-7

Article 15 – Justification

WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

Answer:

Children: Justification is the act of God's grace whereby the sinner is declared righteous solely through faith in the redemptive work of Christ.

Adult: Justification is the act of God's grace whereby the sinner is declared righteous solely through faith in the redemptive work of Christ. By this action the righteousness of Christ is imputed, sin is pardoned, and the sinner is restored to divine favor.

Scripture: Romans 3:24-25, 4:20-5:2; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:15-21

Article 16 – Sanctification

WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

Answer: Sanctification is a progressive work of the Holy Spirit in the believer that purifies the life and conforms the whole man to the image of Christ as the Word of God is believed and obeyed.

Scripture: John 17:17; Philippians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 6:11;
2 Corinthians 3:18; Titus 2:11-12

WHEN DOES SANCTIFICATION BEGIN?

Answer: It begins at regeneration, continues throughout the believer's life on earth, and reaches its completion at the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23;
2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

BFC Catechism

Article 17 – Perseverance of the Saints

WHAT IS THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS?

Answer:

Children: Believers are preserved by the power of God so that they shall never totally or finally fall away, but shall persevere unto the end.

Adult: Salvation is the work of God, from its commencement to its consummation. Those regenerated by the Word of God through the work of the Holy Spirit become partakers of the divine nature. They are preserved by the power of God so that they shall never totally or finally fall away, but shall persevere unto the end.

Scripture: John 10:27-30; Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 5:10-11

Article 18 - The Church

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Answer:

Children: The Church is the body of which Christ is the head. All those redeemed by His blood and born of His Spirit are members of that body

Adult: The Church is the body of which Christ is the head. All those redeemed by His blood and born of His Spirit are members of that body and are in mystical union and communion with Christ and fellow believers.

Scripture: Romans 6:5-6; Galatians 3:27-29; Colossians 1:18; 1 Peter 1:18-19;

BFC Catechism

WHAT IS THE VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE CHURCH?

Answer: The Church is universal and local, visible and invisible. The visible Church consists of all those professing faith in Christ. The invisible Church is composed of all those born of the Spirit

Scripture: Matthew 16:18; John 10:16; Acts 2:42-47;
Ephesians 4:4-6

WHAT IS THE MISSION OR PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

Answer: The purpose of the Church is to worship God, to edify the saints and to evangelize the world.

Scripture: John 4:23-24; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-26;
Hebrews 10:23-25

HOW IS THE CHURCH GOVERNED?

Answer:

Children: The Head of the Church administers the affairs of His body through overseers chosen by Himself and selected by the people. The overseers of the Church are to be prayed for, obeyed, and honored.

Adult: The Head of the Church administers the affairs of His body through overseers chosen by Himself and selected by the people. A properly constituted local Church must include the ministry of God's Word, the observance of the ordinances, the oversight by elders, and the exercise of discipline. The overseers of the Church are to be prayed for, obeyed, and honored

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-17; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:11-14;
Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-5

Article 19 - The Evangelistic Mission of the Church

WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Answer: The Church has been commissioned by Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to all nations. Each particular church and every believer bear responsibility for this commission.

Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 4:29-31

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL?

Answer: God has commanded the Church with urgency, compassion, and persuasion to proclaim the gospel to all people and invite them to believe.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Philippians 1:12-14;
Colossians 4:2-6

WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL?

Answer: It is the duty and privilege of everyone who hears the gospel to repent and receive its merciful provisions.

Scripture: Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:12-17

Article 20 – Ordinances - Baptism

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Answer: Water baptism, the immersion of the believer, is a visible testimony to the work of regeneration and a mark of identification and union with Christ.

Scripture: Acts 2:38-39, 8:35-39, 10:44-48; Romans 6:1-11; Titus 3:4-7

DOES BAPTISM HAVE THE POWER TO SAVE?

Answer:

Children: Baptism has no saving or cleansing power, but it is the answer of a good conscience before God.

Adult: Baptism has no saving or cleansing power, but it is the answer of a good conscience before God; hence, it should be administered only to those who have, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, realized the forgiveness of sins and possess the assurance of acceptance with God.

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17; Galatians 3:25-29; Colossians 2:11-15; 1 Peter 3:21-22

Article 20 – Ordinances – Lord’s Supper

WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER?

Answer: The Lord’s Supper is an ordinance of the New Testament, in which, by the giving and receiving of bread and wine, according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, His death is proclaimed.

Scripture: Exodus 12:21-27; Isaiah 53:7; Luke 22:14-20; John 1:29

WHAT DOES THE LORD’S SUPPER TESTIFY?

Answer:

Children: Those who worthily partake in this remembrance of Him testify and renew their thankfulness and commitment to God and their mutual love and fellowship with each other as members of the same mystical body.

Adult: Those who worthily partake in this remembrance of Him feed upon Him to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, have their union and communion with Him confirmed, and testify and renew their thankfulness and commitment to God and their mutual love and fellowship each with the other as members of the same mystical body.

Scripture: Galatians 2:20-21; Ephesians 5:20-21; Colossians 2:6-7

BY WHAT MANNER SHOULD THE BELIEVER COME TO THE LORD’S SUPPER?

Answer: The Scriptures direct that each one spiritually examine himself before partaking of the bread and the cup “until He comes.”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 11:17-34

Article 21 - The Lord's Day

WHAT IS THE LORD'S DAY?

Answer: The first day of the week has been recognized by the Church as the Lord's Day since apostolic times.

Scripture: John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7

WHO SHOULD OBSERVE THE LORD'S DAY?

Answer: We believe, therefore, that it ought to be observed by all believers, voluntarily and in love, as a day set apart as holy to the Lord.

Scripture: Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Mark 2:27-28

HOW IS THE LORD'S DAY TO BE SET APART AS HOLY?

Answer: The Lord's Day is set apart for corporate worship of God, remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord from the dead, and fellowship and mutual encouragement of the saints.

Scripture: Matthew 12:1-14; Acts 4:42; Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 10:19-25

Article 22 - Divine Healing

WHAT DO WE CONFESS ABOUT DIVINE HEALING?

Answer: It is the believer's privilege to seek the will of the Lord in matters of physical healing. This healing, whether by natural, medical, or supernatural means, must come from the omnipotent God who created the human body.

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-5; James 5:13-16

WHEN DO WE SEEK DIVINE HEALING?

Answer: The believer may ask the Lord for physical healing according to the Scriptures, and if the healing is for the highest glory of God, His power will be displayed.

Scripture: Mark 1:32-39; John 9:1-3, 11:1-4

BFC Catechism

Article 23 - Civil Government

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT?

Answer: God ordained and instituted civil government for the welfare of society, to promote and to protect the good, and to restrain and punish the evil.

Scripture: Daniel 4:17; Romans 13:1-3; 1 Peter 2:13-17

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CIVIL GOVERNMENT?

Answer:

Children: It is the duty of Christians to pray for those in authority and to render due loyalty, respect, and obedience to them

Adult: It is the duty of Christians to pray for those in authority, to render due loyalty, respect, and obedience to them, and to pay taxes and customs demanded of them. Where demands of civil law militate the supreme and higher law of God, Christians should obey God rather than man.

Scripture: Acts 4:13-20, 5:27-32; Romans 13:4-7;
1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1-2

BFC Catechism

Article 24 – Resurrection

WHAT IS THE FINAL RESURRECTION?

Answer:

Children: The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection of man. At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised.

Adult: The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the resurrection of man. At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. Believers will, at the resurrection, receive spiritual and immortal bodies like Christ's own glorious body.

Scripture: Psalm 16:8-11; John 11:23-26; Acts 2:24-32; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Philippians 3:20-21

WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF THIS RESURRECTION?

Answer:

Children: The event of the resurrection is divided into two stages, separated by a period of a thousand years. The first resurrection includes only the righteous dead. The second resurrection is universal.

Adult: The event of the resurrection is divided into two stages, separated by a period of a thousand years. The first resurrection includes only the righteous dead. The second resurrection is universal and occurs at the close of the millennium when all the unregenerate dead are raised to be brought before the Great White Throne for judgment.

Scripture: Daniel 12:2; John 5:27-29; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13

Article 25 - The Second Coming of Christ

WHAT IS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST?

Answer: The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the personal visible, bodily return of our Lord to this earth to conform believers to His image and to establish the millennial kingdom.

Scripture: John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49;
1 John 3:2

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN CHRIST RETURNS TO EARTH?

Answer:

Children: In connection with Christ's return there will be the resurrection of the righteous dead, the rapture of the saints, the salvation of Israel, the great tribulation, and the inauguration of the millennial reign.

Adult: In connection with Christ's return there will be the resurrection of the righteous dead, the rapture of the saints, the salvation of Israel, the great tribulation, and the inauguration of the millennial reign. Following the millennium will be the resurrection and judgment of the unrighteous. The righteous will be eternally glorified with Him; the unrighteous will be eternally punished.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:50-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Romans 11:25-26; Revelation 20:6

WHAT SHOULD THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST MOTIVATE US TO DO?

Answer: The Second Coming is the believer's source of encouragement and comfort inspiring him to active service for Christ, and is a motive for purification and holy living.

Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; 1 John 3:1-3

BFC Catechism

Article 26 - The Judgments

WHO IS THE JUDGE IN GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENTS?

Answer: The Scriptures enumerate several judgments that differ in time, place, subjects, and results. All judgment has been entrusted to the Son by the Father.

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:21-22, 27, 9:39-41; Acts 10:42-43, 17:30-31

WILL BELIEVERS BE JUDGED?

Answer:

Children: Through the death of Christ on the cross, the believer's sins have been judged, and he has passed from death unto life.

Adult: Through the death of Christ on the cross, the believer's sins have been judged, and he has passed from death unto life. In no case do the redeemed come again into judgment concerning their eternal destiny. Each saint, however, will be required to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ regarding his works and conduct.

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-23; John 5:22-24; Romans 8:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:10

WHAT IS THE DESTINY OF NON-BELIEVERS?

Answer: The unregenerate will be judged, condemned, and banished to eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

Scripture: Matthew 25:24-30; John 8:24; Revelation 20:11-15

Article 27 - The Kingdom of God

WHAT DOES GOD REIGN OVER?

Answer:

Children: God is the almighty Sovereign who reigns eternally over all His creation.

Adult: God is the almighty Sovereign who reigns eternally over all His creation. His kingdom triumphs forever according to His will. Even sinful rebellion of mankind cannot defeat Him, but instead serves and glorifies Him.

Scripture: Psalm 93:1-2, 103:19; Proverbs 16:4; Daniel 4:34-35; Ephesians 1:20-23

WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS KINGDOM?

Answer: God's plan, demonstrated throughout human history, has been to reveal His kingship on earth by delegating kingly dominion to human being as His image bearers.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8

HOW IS GOD'S KINGDOM ADVANCED?

Answer:

Children: The kingdom of God is advanced in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and His present reign.

Adult: The kingdom of God is advanced in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and His present reign. Acknowledging this reign, Christians confess Christ as Lord and willingly submit to His rulership in their personal lives and welcome His authority over all creation.

Scripture: Matthew 6:10; Acts 2:22-36; Romans 10:9-10; James 4:7

BFC Catechism

(Article 27 - The Kingdom of God continued)

WHAT IS THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST?

Answer:

Children: The millennial reign of Christ is a further advancement of the kingdom whereby Jesus, through His second coming, brings his inaugurated kingdom to earth and makes it visible.

Adult: The millennial reign of Christ is a further advancement of the kingdom whereby Jesus, through His second coming, brings His inaugurated kingdom to earth and makes it visible. During this reign, Christ will fulfill kingdom promises as He establishes righteousness, justice, and peace throughout all creation.

Scripture: Isaiah 2:4-5, 11:6-9; Revelation 19:11-16

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE MILLENNIUM?

Answer:

Children: At the start of this period, saints will be resurrected bodily to join in the reign of Christ. Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities suspended.

Adult: At the start of this period, saints will be resurrected bodily to join in the reign of Christ. Satan will be bound and his deceitful activities suspended. At the end of this millennial reign, Satan will be released to lead a rebellion against God's people and the Lord Jesus. In climatic manifestation of His kingship, Christ will defeat the rebellion.

Scripture: Revelation 20:1-10

BFC Catechism

(Article 27 - The Kingdom of God continued)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

Answer: When Christ has subdued all enemies, including death, He will present the kingdom to His Father. The triune God will preside over a new heaven and new earth, and the people of God will dwell with Him forever.

Scripture: Psalm 2:8-9; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28;
Revelation 21:1-7, 22:3-5

Article 28 - The Eternal State

WHAT IS THE ETERNAL STATE?

Answer: There are two final, eternal destinies for man: heaven for the righteous and penitent, and hell for the unrighteous and impenitent.

Scripture: Mathew 13:47-50, 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE FINAL JUDGMENT?

Answer: At the Great White Throne judgment, all of the enemies of God will be consigned to the place of eternal conscious punishment, from which there is no escape. The new heavens and the new earth shall be created as the final state in which the righteous shall dwell forever in the presence of God.

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-4