

CROSS TIMBERS FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH CATECHISM

1. WHO IS GOD?

Answer: God is a spirit (John 4:24) who is the creator of everything (Genesis 1:1). He is perfectly good (Psalm 34:8) and has all power (Isaiah 40:10). God is a personal being with the ability to think, feel, speak, and act.

2. IS THERE ANY OTHER GOD?

Answer: No. There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) and he exists as a unity of three persons called the trinity. These three persons are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mark 1:9-11).

3. WHEN DID GOD BEGIN TO EXIST?

Answer: God has always existed and had no beginning (Genesis 1:1). He is the only self-existent being.

4. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE THREE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY?

Answer: They love one another (John 14:31; 17:26; Galatians 5:22). They are equal, though they have different roles (Matthew 28:18-20).

5. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FATHER?

Answer: The Father loves the Son (John 3:35). He providentially cares for the world and all who are in it (Matthew 6:26). He reveals Jesus to people (Matthew 16:17) and draws them to him (John 6:44). He forgives sins (Matthew 6:14). He listens to and answers prayers (Matthew 6:9-13). He sends the Holy Spirit to mankind (John 14:26). He keeps believers from the devil (John 10:29), and He sends them out in his service (John 20:21).

6. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE SON?

Answer: The Son offers forgiveness and saves people from their sins (Matthew 9:6; 18:11). He serves as judge over mankind (John 5:22).

7. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and convinces them of the truth of Jesus (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit regenerates those who trust Christ (John 3:5-6). When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit begins to live in that person and to help him become holy (Romans 8:9). He intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).

8. HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT GOD?

Answer: We know God through the wonders of creation (Psalm 19:1-4), through his image in which we are made (Genesis 1:27), and especially through his Son Jesus (John 1:18). We know about God from the Scriptures, the Bible.

9. WHAT ARE THE SCRIPTURES?

Answer: The Scriptures are God's inspired and inerrant message to mankind (2 Timothy 3:16). Whatever the Bible says is true is true. Whatever it says is false is false (John 17:17). There are sixty-six different books of Scripture, thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New Testament.

10. WHAT ARE THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Answer: The books of the Old Testament are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

11. WHAT ARE THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Answer: The books of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude, and Revelation.

12. WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

Answer: Holy men of God wrote the Bible, being guided in their writing by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

13. WHAT IS THE INCARNATION?

Answer: The incarnation is the act by which the Son of God became a human being named Jesus, being born of the Virgin Mary (Matthew 1:23).

14. WAS JESUS PART MAN AND PART GOD?

Answer: No. Jesus was fully man (1 Timothy 2:5) and fully God at the same time (John 1:1), having both a human and a divine nature.

15. WHAT IS MANKIND'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

Answer: All human beings are made in the image of God. However, because of Adam's fall into sin, all are born with a sinful nature, are guilty before God, and are spiritually separated from him (Ephesians 2:1-3).

16. WHAT IS SIN?

Answer: Sin is a violation of the law of God (1 John 3:4).

17. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH WAS THE REASON JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS?

Answer: Jesus suffered and died on the cross that mankind may have their sins forgiven and be cleansed (1 Peter 1:18-19). In his death Jesus took our place under the wrath of God. He was punished for our sins in our place (Isaiah 53:5-6).

18. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER JESUS DIED AND WAS BURIED?

Answer: On the third day Jesus rose from the grave, never to die again (Luke 24:1-8). This rising is called the resurrection.

19. WHERE IS JESUS NOW?

Answer: Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:1-3) where he now lives, seated at the right hand of the Father (Colossians 3:1)

20. HOW CAN A PERSON EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS OF SINS?

Answer: A person's sins are forgiven and he is saved when through faith he commits his life in obedience to Jesus (Ephesians 1:7) and repents of his sin (Luke 13:3).

21. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT?

Answer: To repent of sin is to turn away from it (Ezekiel 18:30).

22. WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

Answer: Justification is the act whereby God declares the sinner forgiven of his sins and in right standing with him (Romans 5:1). When we place our faith in Christ, his righteous life and his death become ours. He paid to God what we owed and could not pay (Romans 3:21-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

23. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

Answer: Sanctification is the process a Christian enters at conversion in which he becomes more and more holy throughout his life (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

24. CAN A SAVED PERSON EVER RETURN TO A STATE OF NOT BEING A CHRISTIAN?

Answer: Yes. Though a believer enjoys the keeping power of God (John 10:28), he can stray into sin and harden his heart against God's convicting power to the point that he could abandon his faith in Jesus. Such a person is lost forever and without hope (Hebrews 6:4-6).

25. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Answer: Baptism is the act of immersing a Christian in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in obedience to the command of Jesus (Matthew 28:19).

26. WHY IS A PERSON BAPTIZED?

Answer: A believer is baptized to obey the command of Jesus and to show others his decision to follow God.

27. WHAT DOES BAPTISM SYMBOLIZE?

Answer: Baptism symbolizes the union the believer enjoys in Jesus' death and resurrection (Romans 6:1-4). It also symbolizes having our sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

28. WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Answer: The church is a local organization of believers, joined together to worship God (Acts 13:2), to teach and learn the Scriptures (Roman 16:25), to hold one another accountable (Matthew 18:15-17), and to serve as a witness to unbelievers (1 Thessalonians 1:8).

29. WHAT ARE THE BASIC OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH?

Answer: The pastor is the main preacher and teacher of the church, who exercises oversight over the group (1 Timothy 3:1-7). Deacons are godly men who assist the pastor and congregation in carrying out the mission of the church (1 Timothy 3:8-10).

30. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Answer: The Lord's Supper is a memorial celebration of Jesus' death for sinners in which believers eat bread and drink juice that represent Jesus' body and blood given for us on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

31. WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Answer: Only those who have been saved should participate in the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

32. WHAT IS THE WASHING OF THE SAINTS' FEET?

Answer: It is a commemoration of Jesus' washing the disciples' feet which teaches humility and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from sin (John 13:2-17).

33. WHAT IS PRAYER?

Answer: Prayer is speaking to God.

34. WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON WHEN HE DIES?

Answer: When a person dies, his spirit goes either to heaven (Philippians 1:23) or to hell (Luke 16:22-23).

35. WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON'S BODY WHEN HE DIES?

Answer: At death the body is left on earth. When Jesus returns, the bodies of the dead will be resurrected and reunited with their spirits (John 5:28-29).

36. WILL JESUS COME TO EARTH AGAIN?

Answer: Yes. At a time that God the Father has planned, Jesus will gloriously return to earth (Hebrews 9:28). He will then take all believers to heaven and condemn all unbelievers to hell (Matthew 25:31-46).

37. WHERE CAN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS BE FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

Answer: The Ten Commandments can be found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

38. WHAT IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall have no other gods before me."

39. WHAT DOES THE FIRST COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The First Commandment directs us to worship God only and to glorify him as God.

40. WHAT IS THE SECOND COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not make for yourself an idol."

41. WHAT DOES THE SECOND COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Second Commandment means that in the worship of God we must not use any images.

42. WHAT IS THE THIRD COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God."

43. WHAT DOES THE THIRD COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Third Commandment means that God's names must always be used with respect and reverence.

44. WHAT IS THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

45. WHAT DOES THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Fourth Commandment instructs us to keep one day in seven as a special day of worship, set apart from the other six days. In the Christian era this day is Sunday in celebration of Jesus' resurrection on that day.

46. WHAT IS THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother."

47. WHAT DOES THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Fifth Commandment directs us to show proper respect and obedience to our parents. By extension the commandment also commands us to show proper respect to all those with legitimate authority over us.

48. WHAT IS THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not murder."

49. WHAT DOES THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Sixth Commandment teaches us that human life is sacred. We should use all lawful means of preserving human life, both ours and others. It is wrong to commit murder.

50. WHAT IS THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not commit adultery."

51. WHAT DOES THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Seventh Commandment means that the marriage covenant is to be guarded from any sexual impurities. Husbands and wives are to be faithful to one another.

52. WHAT IS THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not steal."

53. WHAT DOES THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Eighth Commandment teaches that private ownership must be respected and not violated in any way.

54. WHAT IS THE NINTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

55. WHAT DOES THE NINTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Ninth Commandment directs us always to tell the truth.

56. WHAT IS THE TENTH COMMANDMENT?

Answer: "You shall not covet."

57. WHAT DOES THE TENTH COMMANDMENT MEAN?

Answer: The Tenth Commandment instructs us to be content with what things we have and not to be longing for other things.