

The Catechism

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The First Ecumenical Catechism of Iosh

1. What is God?

A: God is the eternal King (1) who created all (2). He is immortal and invisible (3) to the "physical realm" unless He chooses to show Himself. He is both a transcendent and an immanent being (4)-not limited to the earth and its physical realms but not excluded from them. God is a Holy (5), Wise (6), and Righteous (7) being. He is the judge of sin. (8) God is a God of Peace (9), Mercy (10), Comfort (11), Grace (12), Love (13), Omnipotence (14), Omniscience (15), and Omnipresence (16).

- (1) Psalms 24:1, 47:2, 93:1, 95:3, Isaiah 40:28, I Timothy 1:17
- (2) Acts 17:24, Isaiah 40:28
- (3) I Timothy 1:17 [Invisible: Romans 1:20, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 11:27]
- (4) Acts 7:49, Matthew 5:34-35
- (5) Hosea 11:9, Habakkuk 3:3, John 17:11, I Peter 1:15, Revelation 15:4
- (6) Romans 16:27, I Timothy 1:17
- (7) John 3:33, Romans 1:17, 10:3, Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2
- (8) Psalm 7:11
- (9) Romans 15:33, 16:20, I Thessalonians 5:23, Philippians 4:9,
- (10) Luke 1:78
- (11) Romans 12:1, II Corinthians 1:3
- (12) Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 5:10, 12
- (13) II Corinthians 13:11, I John 4:8
- (14) Romans 15:19, II Corinthians 12:9, I Peter 1:5
- (15) Jeremiah 17:10, I Corinthians 2:11, Revelation 2:23
- (16) Psalm 139:7, Jeremiah 23:24. Matthew 18:20

2. What is the Trinity?

A: The trinity is a term describing the relationship between {God the Father (1), God the Son (2), and God the Holy Spirit (3)} (4). The term attempts to account for both the {oneness and equality} (5) of the Godhead as found in Deuteronomy. 6:4 and the distinctness (6) of the members of the Trinity as seen throughout the Bible.

- (1) Matthew 5:45, 6:8, 26, 32, Luke 6:36, I Corinthians 8:4, 6,
- (2) John 1:1, 20:28, Philippians 2:6, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:8, I John 5:20
- (3) Acts 5:3-4,
- (4) Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 4:4-6, I Peter 1:2
- (5) Matthew 28:19, John 10:30, 14:16, I John 5:7, II Corinthians 13:1,
- (6) John 1:1, 14:26

3. Who is God the Father?

A: God the Father is the first person of the Trinity. (~~See the notes on the Trinity.~~) He is the giver of life to mankind. (1) God the Father is the Father of Jesus Christ. (2) He is the Father of all Christians. (3) As such, He is also the model after which mankind (Christians) is to follow. (4) He has all the qualities listed above for God.

- (1) Job 38:4-7, Malachi 2:10, Acts 17:29, I Corinthians 8:6, Hebrews 12:9, James 1:17
- (2) John 20:17, II Corinthians 11:31
- (3) John 3:16, 20:17, I Peter 1:23
- (4) Matthew 5:48

4. Who is God the Son?

A: God the Son is the second person of the Trinity. (~~See the notes on the Trinity.~~) He is the preexistent Word of God. (1) He is God become flesh. (2) He is the firstborn from the dead. (3) He is the Savior of the human race, making a way between God and man once again by suffering the death of the Cross. (4) God the Son also has all the qualities listed above for God.

- (1) John 1:1-4, 14-15, 30, 6:62, 8:58, 17:5, Philippians 2:5-11
- (2) Isaiah 9:6-7, John 1:14, Philippians 2:6-8, I Timothy 3:16
- (3) Colossians 1:15, 18
- (4) Acts 20:28, Colossians 1:13-17, Hebrews 10:4-10

5. Who is God the Holy Ghost?

A: God the Holy Ghost is the third person of the Trinity. (~~See the notes on the Trinity.~~) He is the gift of Jesus to the Church. (1) He is the comforter, the one sent alongside to help. (2) He is the breath of God. (3) The Holy Spirit glorifies other members of the Trinity. (4) The Holy Spirit has all the qualities listed above for God.

- (1) Acts 2:38
- (2) John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:7
- (3) II Timothy 3:16
- (4) John 16:14

6. What is the image of God in humanity?

A: The image of God in humanity refers to the text of Genesis 1:26-27. Being in the image of God means that our bodies are built in a manner like the being of God. Mankind is a reflection of God. All that is done reflects upon the image of God in mankind: whether or not it is being cared for. (1)

(1) Romans 8:29, I Corinthians 11:7, James 3:9

7. What is sin?

A: Sin is anything unlike God. As noted in the question on God, God is Holy. It is His holiness that is the standard for sinfulness. (1) Sin is what all mankind tends to go towards without a regenerate life. (2)

(1) Romans 3:23

(2) Romans 3:23, Galatians 3:22, I John 1:10

8. What is Original Sin?

A: Original Sin is the sin passed down through the generations to each individual person from Adam and Eve and their sin in the garden. (1) It was the original choice of Adam and Eve to eat the fruit forbidden by God. (2) This sin causes the separation between God and man that only the redemptive power of the cross can mend. (3)

(1) Romans 5:12-14

(2) Genesis 3:7

(3) II Corinthians 5:17-18

9. How did the Fall affect humanity?

A: After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, several things happened. {One, they knew that they were naked (the glory of God no longer covered them). They were forced to leave the Garden. They had to work the earth to produce food for themselves. Women began to have pain in childbirth.} (1) This was also the point at which original sin began. (2)

(1) Genesis 3:7-24

(2) Romans 5:12-14

10. What is Atonement?

A: Atonement is the making amends for the sins of all mankind past, present, and future by the blood shed by Jesus on the Cross. (1)

(1) Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, John 3:17, 11:49-50, 15:13, Romans 5:11

11. What is Justification?

A: Justification is a term which describes the "legal" movement of a person from "heathen" to "Christian". It is the point of Salvation at which the convert is no longer held accountable for his sins. A good, short definition is "Just-as-if-you'd-never-sinned". (1)

(1) Romans 3:26, 8:33

12. What is Regeneration?

A: Regeneration is the reversal of the corrupted sin nature after the Salvation experience. This is God's aspect of Salvation. (1)

(1) John 1:12-13, 3:7, Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:5

13. What is Total Depravity?

A: Total Depravity is a term which signifies that man has been affected in all areas of his life by the fall. Man's total person has been tainted by the fall and tends toward corruption. (1)

(1) Romans 1:26-27, 6:6, 12, 17, 8:10, II Corinthians 3:14, II Timothy 3:2-4

14. What is Adoption?

A: Adoption is a part of salvation that puts the convert into the care of the Father and lets him qualify for the benefits of being a child of God. (1)

(1) Romans 5:8,10, 8:14-16, Galatians 3:10-11, I John 3:1,

15. What is Sanctification?

A: Sanctification is a part of Salvation that is the process, throughout the life of a believer, of becoming more like God. (1)

(1) I Thessalonians 5:23, Ephesians 5:26, Titus 2:14

16. What is Repentance?

A: Repentance is the seeking of forgiveness for sins from God through the shed blood of Jesus. (1)

(1) Matthew 3:11, 9:13, Mark 1:4, II Peter 3:9

17. What is Faith?

A: Faith is a commodity that God gives to mankind to carry out His will on Earth. (1) This includes faith to become saved (2), faith to do mighty works of God (3), faith to receive mighty works of God (4), and belief in God's power over one's own life (5).

(1) Hebrews 11:1

- (2) Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:16
- (3) Matthew 17:20, 21:21
- (4) Matthew 8:10, Matthew 9:2, Luke 17:19
- (5) Acts 6:5,8, 11:24, Romans 1:17

18. What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a work of the Holy Spirit that brings greater life, a closer relationship with God to the believer, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

(1) It is evidenced by speaking in other tongues. (2)

- (1) Luke 3:16, Acts 1:5,8
- (2) Acts 2:4

19. What is the Law?

A: Law demands absolute submission and compliance. (1) It condemns those who do not fulfill its requirements. (2) It is written in the hearts of mankind so that everyone knows it without the Church or Scripture.

- (1) Romans 8:7, I Corinthians 9:7
- (2) Galatians 5:19-21

20. What is the Gospel?

A: Gospel demands nothing but freely gives grace and salvation. (1) It is made known by special revelation. (2)

- (1) Ephesians 3:6
- (2) Galatians 1:16

21. What is a Sacrament?

A: A sacrament is a ritualistic practice that keeps the members of the Church mindful of the events which they represent. (1) The two main sacraments are Communion (2) and Baptism (3).

- (1) Luke 22:19
- (2) Luke 22:17-20
- (3) Matthew 28:19

22. What is Baptism?

A: Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change of a believer. It represents the death of the "old nature" during Salvation. (1)

- (1) Colossians 2:12

23. What is the Lord's Supper?

A: The Lord's Supper is the sacrament of Communion. It consists of bread and wine (grape juice). It is a representation and remembrance(1) of the death of Jesus and the breaking of His body and the shedding of His blood. (2)

- (1) Luke 22:19
- (2) Luke 22:17-20

24. What is Prayer?

A: Prayer is spoken or thought communication with God. (1) It is central to the relationship with God. (2)

- (1) Luke 11:2, I Thessalonians 5:17
- (2) Philippians 4:6-7

25. What is the Church?

A: The Church is the universal community of believers that follow Jesus Christ. (1) It includes both those alive and those who have gone on to be with the Lord. (2)

- (1) Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:47, I Corinthians 10:32, 14:12
- (2) Hebrews 12:1

26. What is Worship?

A: Worship is glorifying God simply because He is worthy of it. (1)

- (1) Psalms 5:7, 95:6

27. What is the Incarnation?

A: The Incarnation was the act of the Word of God permanently taking human form to become a connection between God and man. (1)

- (1) John 1:1-4, 14

28. What is the Age of Accountability?

A: The Age of Accountability is the age at which children become fully aware of their sins and gain the penalty of original sin. (1)

- (1) Luke 18:16, Romans 9:11

29. What is Praise?

A: Praise is the glorification of God for the things that He has given or for the things He has done. (1)

(1) Psalms 7:17, 42:5

30. What is Providence?

A: Providence is the care which God takes of everything in the Universe to the . detail. (1)

(1) Matthew 6:25-30