



The Baptist  
Catechism  
1693



The Baptist Catechism of 1693

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## Dedication

The reprinting of this Catechism is dedicated to all the Christian parents who earnestly desire to fulfill one of the noblest duties given to their life – raising their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May the Lord bless your labors, according to His mercy and grace.

## Foreword

It is with great joy that we offer this treasure of biblical truth, a Catechism that has been commonly attributed to Benjamin Keach (1640-1704) however was most likely written by another seventeenth century Particular Baptist named Williams Collins.<sup>1</sup>

The Baptist Catechism of 1693 could be easily regarded as the leader in identifying the majority held doctrine by Baptists in both Europe and America during the eighteenth and well into the nineteenth century.

It is our desire that this catechism along with the 1689 Baptist Confession of faith and the Orthodox Catechism authored by Hercules Collins (no relation to William Collins) would once again be utilized in the evangelizing, teaching and training of the children in our churches and homes. That they would, as in the past, aid our churches in preserving those precious truths that are “most surely believed amongst us”.

Parents and grandparents, gather the children in your life around, and together explore through the questions and answers offered in the Catechism. Read the proof texts and then add your own as the Spirit leads your time together. Allow us to offer a

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<sup>1</sup> Tom Nettles, *Teaching Truth, Training Hearts* (Amityville, NY: Calvary Press, 1998),49

small bit of advice, be certain to record the date you read and discuss a question, also jot down any additional thoughts or scriptures each child may contribute. This will allow you to observe through the years how they have grown in their understanding of the material.

When done daily, a solid and biblical foundation will begin to be established in the hearts and minds of your children. In time and according to God's plans, they will be equipped to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

C.H. Spurgeon once said pertaining to the importance of this Catechism

“In matters of doctrine you will find orthodox congregations frequently change to heterodoxy in the course of thirty or forty years, and it is because too often there has been no catechizing of the children in the essential doctrines of the Gospel. For my part, I am more and more persuaded that the study of a good Scriptural catechism is of infinite value to our children. Even if the youngsters do not understand all the questions and answers...still yet, abiding in their memories, it will be of infinite service when the time of understanding comes, to have known these very excellent, wise and judicious definitions of the things of God.”

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## Q. 1-6 (Humanity & the Bible)

### *Question 1:*

Who is the first and chiefest Being?

### *Answer:*

God is the first and chiefest Being.

Is. 44:6; Ps. 8:1; 97:9

### *Question 2:*

Ought everyone to believe there is a God?

### *Answer:*

Everyone ought to believe there is a God; and it is their great sin and folly who do not.

Heb.6:6; Ps.14:1

### *Question 3:*

How may we know there is a God?

### *Answer:*

The light of nature in man, and the works of God, plainly declare there is a God; but His Word and Spirit only, do it fully and effectually for the salvation of sinners.

Rom. 1:19,20; Ps. 19:1,2,3; Acts 17:24; 1 Cor.2:10; 2 Tim. 3:15,16)

*Question 4:*

What is the Word of God?

*Answer:*

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, are the word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience.

2 Tim. 3:16; Eph. 2:20

*Question 5:*

May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?

*Answer:*

All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted, to read, hear, and understand the Holy Scriptures.

Jn. 5:39; Lk. 16:29; Acts 8:28-30; 17:11

*Question 6:*

What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?

*Answer:*

The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe concerning God, and what duty God requireth of man.

2 Tim. 1:13; 3:15,16

## Q. 7-9 (God)

### *Question 7:*

What is God?

### *Answer:*

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.

Jn. 4:24; Job 11:7-9; Ps. 110:2; Jas. 1:17; Ex. 33:14; Ps. 147:5; Rev. 4:8, 15:4; Ex. 34:6

### *Question 8:*

Are there more gods than one?

### *Answer:*

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

Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10

### *Question 9:*

How many persons are there in the Godhead?

### *Answer:*

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

1 Jhn. 5:7; 1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 10:30; Jn. 14:9; Acts 5:3, 4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

## Q. 10-11 (God's Decrees)

### *Question 10:*

What are the decrees of God?

### *Answer:*

The decrees of God are His eternal purpose, according to the counsel of His will, whereby for His own glory, He hath fore-ordained whatsoever comes to pass.

Eph. 1:11; Rom. 9:22,23; 11:36; Is. 46:10; Lam. 3:37; Dan. 4:35

### *Question 11:*

How does God execute His decrees?

### *Answer:*

God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 6:26; Acts 14:17

## Q. 12-13 (Creation)

### *Question 12:*

What is the work of creation?

### *Answer:*

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.

Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Ex. 20:11; Gen. 1:31

### *Question 13:*

How did God create man?

### *Answer:*

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

Gen. 1:27; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24; Gen. 1:28

## Q. 14-15 (Providence)

### *Question 14:*

What are God's works of providence?

### *Answer:*

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

Neh. 9:6; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 103:19; Matt. 10:29, 30

### *Question 15:*

What special act of providence did God exercise towards man, in the estate wherein he was created?

### *Answer:*

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 pain of death.

Gen. 2:16, 17; Gal. 3:12; Rom. 5:12

## Q. 16-19 (The Fall of Man)

### *Question 16:*

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

### *Answer:*

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

Gen. 3:6; Eccl. 7:29; Rom. 5:12

### *Question 17:*

What is sin?

### *Answer:*

Sin is any want (*lack*) of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 5:13