

A
SHORT CATECHISM

FOR

YOUNG CHILDREN.

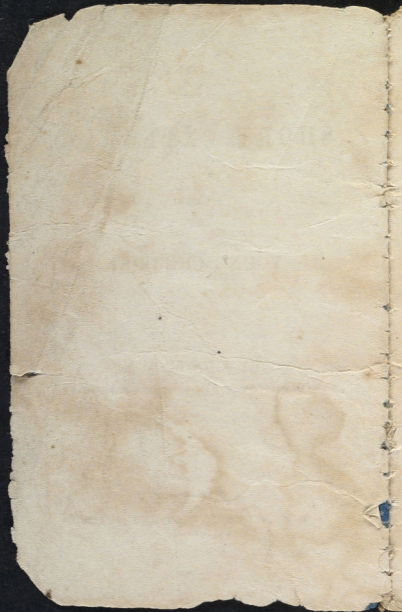
BY JOHN BROWN,

LATE MINISTER OF THE CHURCH AT
HADDONSBURY.

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THE
CHILDREN
OF
THE
CITY
OF
NEW
YORK
BY
J. H. W. [unclear]

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SHORT CATECHISM
FOR
YOUNG CHILDREN.

Question. Who made you ?

Answer. God.

Q. Who redeemed you ?

A. Christ.

Q. Who sanctifies you ?

A. The Holy Ghost.

Q. Of what were you made ?

A. Of dust.

Q. What doth that teach you

A. To be humble and mindful of death

Q. For what end were you made ?

A. To serve God.

Q. Why ought you to serve God ?

A. Because he made, preserves, and re-
deemed me

Q. How should you serve God ?

A. By believing on his Son, calling on his name, and obeying his commands.

Q. To whom are you to pray ?

A. To God only

Q. How often ought you to pray unto God ?

A. At least every morning and evening

Q. For what things are you to pray daily to God ?

A. That he would bring me to Christ, renew my heart, forgive my sin, and keep me from evil.

Q. What kind of a heart have you by nature ?

A. A heart filled with all unrighteousness.

Q. Does your wicked heart make all your thoughts, words, and actions sinful ?

A. Yes ; I do nothing but sin.

Q. Can you of yourself reform and renew your wicked heart ?

A. No ; I am *dead* in trespasses and sins

Q. What then can change and melt your rebellious, hard, and stony heart ?

A. Nothing but God's almighty power and free grace.

Q. Hath God promised you a new heart, pardon of sin, with every other blessing, and commanded you to ask them from him by prayer?

A. Yes.

Q. For whose sake are you to seek these mercies from God in prayer?

A. Only for Christ's sake

Q. Why must you be so earnest in prayer for an interest in Christ, newness of heart, and pardon of sin?

A. That I may live always in readiness for death.

Q. Is your life very short, frail, and uncertain?

A. Yes; perhaps I must die the next moment.

Q. What will become of you, if you die in your sins?

A. I must go to hell with the wicked.

Q. What kind of a place is hell?

A. A place of endless torment; being a lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

Q. Who are the wicked that go to hell at death?

A. Such as refuse Christ, neglect to read God's word, and pray to him; or who lie,

steal, curse, swear, profane the Sabbath, and disobey their parents.

Q. Who are wicked men's companions in hell?

A. Their Father the devil, and all the other evil angels.

Q. Where do the godly go at death?

A. To heaven.

Q. What kind of a place is heaven?

A. A most glorious, holy, and happy place.

Q. Who are the godly that go to heaven at death?

A. Such as embrace Christ, love God, and hate evil.

Q. Who will be godly men's companions in heaven?

A. God their Father, Christ their Saviour, and the holy angels.

Q. What is the only way of getting safe to heaven?

A. By receiving the Lord Jesus, and walking in him.

Q. What are you chiefly to remember in the days of your youth?

A. My Creator and Redeemer.

Q. What doth God chiefly require of you?

A. To believe and obey him

Q. What is the only rule of your faith and obedience?

A. The Bible, or holy Scriptures.

Q. Whom are you to love above all things?

A. God in Christ, is my Father and portion.

Q. Why must you love God above all things?

A. Because he is so glorious in himself and so kind to me.

Q. Wherein is God so kind to you?

A. He gives me my life, health, food and raiment; and offers me his Christ, and all good things with him.

Q. Wherein lies your chief happiness?

A. In the enjoyment of God.

Q. What is God?

A. God is a spirit.

Q. What manner of Spirit is God?

A. He is an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Spirit.

Q. Doth God see and know all things?

A. Yes; he knows the very thoughts of our hearts.

Q. Cannot God do whatsoever he pleaseth?

A. Yes; for he is almighty.

Q. Can he do or approve anything sinful?

A. No; for he is infinitely holy.

Q. How many Gods are there?

A. *One* only.

Q. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. Three; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Q. Is each of these three persons the Most High and only true God?

A. Yes.

Q. Do not then these three persons make three Gods?

A. No; they are but one and the same God.

Q. Wherein are they the same?

A. In substance.

Q. Wherein are they equal?

A. In power and glory.

Q. Is not then God far more great and glorious than we can conceive?

A. Yes.

Q. Had ever God a beginning?

A. No.

Q. Will he ever have an end?

A. No; he is from everlasting to everlasting.

Q. Had everything besides God a beginning?

A. Yes.

Q. Will everything besides God have an end?

A. No; angels and souls of men will live for ever.

Q. Who gave all things their beginning?

A. God.

Q. Of what did God make all things?

A. Of nothing.

Q. By what did God make all things?

A. By the word of his power.

Q. In what time did God make all things?

A. In the space of six days.

Q. For what end did God make all things?

A. For his own glory.

Q. In what condition did God make all things?

A. He made all things very good.

Q. Do all things continue to be very good?

A. No; sin hath made devils and men very bad.

Q. Which is the worst thing in the world?

A. Sin, that abominable thing which God hates

Q. What makes sin so exceeding bad ?

A. It offends God and breaks his law.

Q. How many kinds of sin are there ?

A. Two.

Q. What are these two kinds ?

A. Original and actual.

Q. What is original sin ?

A. It is that sin in which I was conceived and born.

Q. Doth original sin wholly defile you, and is it sufficient to send you to hell, though you had no other sin ?

A. Yes.

Q. What other sin besides original sin have you ?

A. I have actual sin also

Q. What is actual sin ?

A. It is the sin which I daily commit, in thought, word, and deed.

Q. What are the wages of sin ?

A. Death and hell.

Q. What are you then by nature ?

A. I am an enemy to God, a child of Satan, and an heir of hell.

Q. Was mankind originally created in such a sinful and miserable state ?

A. No ; our first parents, Adam and Eve, were created in a holy and happy state

Q. Did they continue in that holy and happy state in which they were created?

A. No; they fell from it.

Q. How fell they from it?

A. By sinning against God.

Q. What was Adam and Eve's first sin?

A. Their eating the forbidden fruit.

Q. Who forbade them to eat this fruit?

A. God.

Q. Who tempted them to eat it?

A. The devil.

Q. What evil was there in their eating this fruit?

A. They thereby broke God's covenant, and so ruined themselves and their natural posterity.

Q. How many covenants are there?

A. Two.

Q. What are these?

A. The covenant of works and the covenant of grace.

Q. With whom did God make the covenant of works?

A. With Adam, for himself and his posterity.

Q. With whom did he make the covenant of grace?

A. With Christ in the elect's name.

Q. What was the condition of the covenant of works?

A. Adam's perfect obedience.

Q. What is the condition of the covenant of grace?

A. Christ's fulfilling all righteousness.

Q. Which of these two covenants is most excellent and glorious?

A. The covenant of grace.

Q. Wherein is the covenant of grace more excellent?

A. Its blessings are both large and free and it cannot be broken.

Q. Why cannot the covenant of grace be broken?

A. Because Christ cannot fail as Adam did.

Q. Did you and all mankind break the covenant of works, in Adam's eating the forbidden fruit?

A. Yes.

Q. How can that be, since you were not then born?

A. Adam represented me, and I sinned in him.

Q. What did you fall from by Adam's eating the forbidden fruit?

A. A state of holiness and happiness.

Q. Into what did you fall by it?

A. Into an estate of sin and misery.

Q. Is there any way of recovery from that state of sin and misery into which the breach of the covenant of works has brought you?

A. Yes; by the covenant of grace.

Q. Cannot your good thoughts, words, or actions, recover you by the covenant of works?

A. No; everything I do is sinful.

Q. Can God pardon your sin without a satisfaction to his justice?

A. No; *he will by no means clear the guilty.*

Q. Can you satisfy God's justice for your own sin?

A. No; I cannot even cease from adding to my sin.

Q. Is God willing to receive satisfaction for your sin from another in your stead?

A. Yes.

Q. But who is able and willing to give satisfaction for your sin?

A. Jesus Christ is both able and willing, and hath fully satisfied the law and justice of God for me.

Q. Why could none but Chr.st satisfy for your sin?

A. Because none but he could bear infinite wrath.

Q. But who is this Jesus Christ?

A. He is the eternal Son of God in our nature

Q. Who provided Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer?

A. God, whom we have offended by our sin.

Q. What moved God to provide this glorious Surety and Redeemer for us?

A. Nothing but his own free love.

Q. How many offices hath Christ?

A. Three.

Q. What are the three offices of our Redeemer?

A. The offices of a Prophet, Priest, and King.

Q. For what end do you need a Redeemer with this threefold office?

A. To cure my threefold misery.

Q. What is your threefold misery?

A. Ignorance, guilt, and bondage.

Q. How doth Christ as a Prophe cure your ignorance?

A. By his word and Spirit teaching me

Q. How doth Christ as a Priest remove your guilt ?

A. By obeying God's law and dying for me.

Q. How doth Christ as a King redeem you from bondage ?

A. By delivering me from the power of sin and Satan.

Q. How many natures hath Christ ?

A. Two.

Q. What are the two natures of our Redeemer ?

A. The nature of God and the nature of man.

Q. Was Christ God from all eternity ?

A. Yes.

Q. Was Christ man from all eternity ?

A. No.

Q. When did our Redeemer become man ?

A. *In the fullness of time* ; more than 1800 years ago.

Q. What doth Christ now continue to be ?

A. Both God and man in one person

Q. How long will Christ continue to be both God and man in one person ?

A. For ever.

Q. In what condition was Christ born when he became man ?

A. In a low condition

Q. What was that low condition ?

A. He was born of a mean woman, in a stable, and laid in a manger.

Q. What kind of a life had Christ in this world ?

A. A most afflicted and sorrowful life.

Q. What made Christ's life so afflicted and sorrowful ?

A. The wrath of God and the contradiction of sinners.

Q. What shameful and painful death did Christ die ?

A. The cursed death of the cross.

Q. For what end did Christ endure all these sufferings ?

A. To satisfy God's justice, and atone for our sins.

Q. What became of Christ after his death ?

A. His body was buried, and his soul went to heaven.

Q. How long did Christ's body continue in the grave ?

A. Part of three days.

Q. Did Christ's body corrupt in the grave?

A. No.

Q. How came that?

A. Because he was without sin.

Q. What became of Christ after his lying in the grave?

A. He arose from the dead and ascended to heaven.

Q. Where sits he there?

A. At the right hand of God.

Q. How long will Christ continue sitting at the right hand of God?

A. For ever.

Q. Will Christ ever come again to this world?

A. Yes.

Q. When will he come again to it?

A. At the last day.

Q. For what end will he come again at the last day?

A. To judge the world.

Q. Whom will Christ judge at the last day?

A. All devils and men, both quick and dead.

Q. Of what must we then give an account to God?

A. Of all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Q. Whereby will the dead be raised up to the last judgment?

A. By the Almighty power of God.

Q. Who will bring us and all mankind to the judgment-seat of Christ?

A. The holy angels.

Q. Whom will Christ set upon his right hand in the day of judgment?

A. The righteous.

Q. Whom will he place on his left hand?

A. The wicked.

Q. What will be the sentence of the righteous?

A. *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Q. What will be the sentence of the wicked?

A. *Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

Q. What will become of the wicked after the passing of this sentence?

A. They will be cast, soul and body, into hell-fire.

Q. What will become of the righteous ?

A. They will triumphantly pass into heaven with Christ.

Q. How long will the wicked continue in hell, and the saints in heaven ?

A. For ever and ever.

Q. What will the wicked for ever do in hell ?

A. They will roar, curse, and blaspheme God.

Q. What will the righteous for ever do in heaven ?

A. They will behold the glory and sing the praises of God in Christ.

Q. How may we attain to that blessed state ?

A. By getting an interest in Christ and his righteousness.

Q. What mean you by the righteousness of Christ ?

A. His obedience and suffering, or his doing and dying.

Q. Can you be saved by the righteousness of Christ in a state of sin and a course of disobedience to God's commands ?

A. No; *without holiness no man shall see the Lord.*

Q. How many commandments of God are there?

A. Ten.

Q. Upon what did God of old write the ten commandments?

A. Upon two tables of stone.

Q. How many commandments are in the first table?

A. Four.

Q. How many commandments are in the second table?

A. Six.

Q. What doth the first table contain?

A. Our duty to God.

Q. What doth the second contain?

A. Our duty to man.

Q. To whom did God deliver these two tables of his law?

A. To Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

Q. What is the fulment of the whole law of God?

A. Love to God and love to man.

Q. What doth the first commandment require of you?

A. To take the Lord alone to be my God in Christ.

Q. Why must you take God as in Christ for your God?

A. Because out of Christ *God is a consuming fire.*

Q. What doth the second command require of you?

A. To pray to, and praise God, and read and hear his word.

Q. What doth the third command forbid you?

A. To curse, swear and speak lightly of God.

Q. What doth the fourth command require of you?

A. To remember the Sabbath-day to keep it holy.

Q. What doth the fifth command enjoin you?

A. To honor and obey my father and mother.

Q. What doth the sixth command forbid you?

A. To fight, or hurt myself or my neighbor.

Q. What doth the seventh command forbid?

A. All uncleanness and filthy language.

Q. What doth the eighth command forbid?

A. All cheating, stealing, and robbing.

Q. What doth the ninth command forbid?

A. Lying and speaking evil of my neighbor.

Q. What doth the tenth command forbid?

A. All envying and coveting what is my neighbor's.

Q. In what manner ought you to keep all these ten commandments?

A. Perfectly and constantly.

Q. Can you keep any of them in this manner?

A. No; I break them daily.

Q. In what do you daily break the commands of God?

A. In my thoughts, words, and deeds.

Q. What doth the least breach of these commands deserve?

▲ God's eternal wrath and curse.

Q. By whom think you to escape God's wrath and curse ?

A. By Jesus Christ, the surety of lost sinners.

Q. Will every man be saved by what Christ hath done and suffered ?

A. No ; *many are called, but few chosen.*

Q. Who may warrantably expect salvation through Christ ?

A. Such as truly believe in him and repent of their sins.

Q. Can you believe and repent of yourself ?

A. No ; faith and repentance are the gift of God.

Q. Are you not a stranger to God, and far off from him by nature ?

A. Yes ; but I am brought near to him by the blood and Spirit of Christ.

Q. What are the ordinary means of our acquaintance with Christ ?

A. The word, sacraments and prayer.

Q. How many sacraments are there ?

A. Two.

Q. What are these ?

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q. Who appointed these sacraments ?

A. Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the church.

Q. For what end hath Christ appointed these sacraments?

A. To seal and apply himself and his benefits to us.

Q. How long will Baptism and the Lord's supper continue in the church?

A. Till Christ's second coming.

Q. Wherewith were you baptized?

A. With water.

Q. What doth the water used in baptism signify?

A. The precious blood of Christ.

Q. From what doth the blood of Christ cleanse us?

A. From the filth and guilt of our sin.

Q. From what sin did you need to be washed in your infancy?

A. From my original sin.

Q. In whose name were you baptized?

A. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Q. What did you renounce in your baptism?

A. The service of the devil, the world, and the flesh.

Q. What did you engage to do in your baptism?

A. To take the Lord alone to be my God in Christ, and to serve him always.

Q. How can you perform your baptismal engagements?

A. I must pray daily to God for grace to enable me.

Q. Can you pray aright of yourself?

A. No; but I must earnestly plead that Christ would teach and enable me to pray.

Q. By what means doth Christ teach and enable us to pray?

A. By his word and Spirit.

Q. What special pattern of prayer hath Christ left us in his word?

A. The Lord's prayer.

Q. Can you repeat the Lord's prayer?

A. Yes; *Our Father which art in Heaven, &c.*

Q. How many petitions are in it?

A. Six.

Q. Which is the first petition in the Lord's prayer?

A. *Hallowed be thy name.*

Q. What is the second petition?

A. *Thy kingdom come*

Q. What is the third petition?

A. *Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

Q. What is the fourth petition?

A. *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Q. What is the fifth petition?

A. *Forgive us our debts (or sins) as we forgive our debtors.*

Q. What is the sixth petition?

A. *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Q. How doth Christ's Spirit enable you to pray?

A. By giving me a praying heart, and showing me what I ought to plead for.

Q. Will not God accept the request of your lips?

A. No; unless it proceed from my heart.

Q. Can you pray with your heart before it be renewed by the Spirit of God?

A. No.

Q. What is the prayer of the wicked in God's account?

A. *It is an abomination to the Lord*

Q. Will you then receive Christ, pray earnestly, and live soberly, righteously, and godly?

A. Yes; through the grace of God enabling me, I will.

Q. What will your sincere prayers and holy life end in at last?

A. In my full enjoyment of God in Christ, and triumphant praising him for evermore.

Instructive Questions and Answers

- Q. Who was the first man ?
A. Adam.
- Q. Who was the first woman ?
A. Eve.
- Q. Who was the first murderer ?
A. Cain.
- Q. Who was the first martyr ?
A. Abel.
- Q. Who was the first translated ?
A. Enoch.
- Q. Who was the oldest man ?
A. Methusaleh.
- Q. Who built the ark ?
A. Noah.
- Q. Who was the most faithful man ?
A. Abraham.
- Q. Who was the meekest man ?
A. Moses.
- Q. Who was the most patient man ?
A. Job.
- Q. Who wrestled with the angel of God ?
A. Jacob.
- Q. Who led Israel into Canaan ?
A. Joshua.
- Q. Who was the strongest man ?

- A. Samson.
Q. Who killed Goliath?
A. David.
Q. Who was the wisest man?
A. Solomon.
Q. Who was in the whale's belly?
A. Jonah.
Q. Who was cast into the lion's den?
A. Daniel.
Q. Who saves lost men?
A. JESUS CHRIST.
Q. Who is Jesus Christ?
A. THE SON OF GOD.
Q. Who was the mother of Christ?
A. Mary.
Q. Who was the beloved disciple?
A. John.
Q. Who betrayed his master?
A. Judas.
Q. Who denied his Master?
A. Peter.
Q. Who were struck dead for lying?
A. Ananias and Sapphira.
Q. Who was the first Christian martyr?
A. Stephen.
Q. Who was the chief apostle of the
gentiles?
A. Paul.

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