

## **A Catechism for Western Thought**

To be memorized and recited by students

The word "catechism" comes from a Greek word which is used in the New Testament to refer to teaching someone in an orderly and systematic way, by word of mouth, in the form of dialogue--question and answer.<sup>1</sup> Catechisms have been used since early Christianity to teach the core beliefs of the faith. Some catechisms were composed by individual pastors to teach their congregations the doctrines of the faith, or prepare adults or children to make public professions of faith. Other catechisms have been adopted by entire branches of the Church as their official teaching, such as in my own denomination, the *Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms*, or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The catechism that we will learn this year will consist of the principles of conduct among each other, the virtues that we are inspired to attain by the literature that we study, and statements from that literature. My reason for doing this is that our primary purpose in education is to become virtuous people. I hope that through this tool, that I will hold myself accountable to the task of instruction in virtue, and for us in the attainment of virtue.

1. What are the rules of our class?

**The rules of our class are: Do your work. Don't be a jerk.**

2. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

3. What are the seven virtues?

**Kindness, temperance, love, self-control, humility, diligence, patience.**

4. What are the works of the flesh?

**Sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.**

5. What are the seven deadly sins?

**Envy, gluttony, greed, lust, pride, sloth, wrath.**

6. What is a Christian?

**A Christian is a person who receives and rests upon Christ alone for salvation, as He is offered in the gospel, and follows Him as Lord and Master.**

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.reformedspokane.org/Doctrine\\_pages/Doctrine\\_Intro/Doctrine\\_Intro\\_pages/Catechism.html](http://www.reformedspokane.org/Doctrine_pages/Doctrine_Intro/Doctrine_Intro_pages/Catechism.html)

7. What do Christians believe?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He will come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

8. What is honor?

**Honor is the value of a person in his own eyes and in the eyes of his peers. It is his estimation of his own worth and his excellence recognized by society.**

9. What is shame?

**Shame is the absence of value of a person in his own eyes, and in the eyes of his peers. It is his estimate of his own unworthiness and his disgrace recognized by society.**

10. How does God reveal Himself?

**God reveals Himself in general revelation and in special revelation.**

11. What is general revelation?

**General revelation is God's revealing of Himself in creation, nature, and providence.**

12. What is special revelation?

**Special revelation is God's revealing of Himself through His Word and His Son.**

13. What is conscience?

**Conscience is the writing of God's law on peoples' hearts.**

