

A

Catechism

on the Tenets

of the

Apostolic Church

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***The Tenets
of the
Apostolic Church***

1. The Unity of the Godhead, and Trinity of the Persons therein.
2. The utter depravity of human nature, the necessity for repentance and regeneration and the eternal doom of the finally impenitent.
3. The virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, ascension, and abiding intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ; His second coming, and millennial reign upon earth.
4. Justification and Sanctification of the believer through the finished work of Christ.
5. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost for believers, with signs following.

6. The nine gifts of the Holy Ghost for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the Church, which is the body of Christ.
7. The Sacraments of Baptism by immersion and of the Lord's Supper.
8. The Divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures.
9. Church government by apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders and deacons.
10. The possibility of falling from grace.
11. The obligatory nature of tithes and offerings.

Tenet 1
The Unity of the Godhead,
and Trinity of the
Persons therein.

Q.1 Who is the True and Living God?

A. The True and Living God is the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Q.2 Is there more than one God?

A. No, there is only one Living and True God,¹ the Holy Trinity.²

Q.3 How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.³ And these three are one God, the same in being, equal in power and glory.⁴

¹ Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10; Isa. 44:8

² 1 John 5:7 (AV/NKJV)

³ Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

⁴ 1 John 5:7 (AV/NKJV); John 10:30; 17:5

Q.4 What is the eternal being of the Triune God?

A. From all eternity God is the Father who perfectly loves His Son in the unity of the Spirit.⁵

Q.5 Do the Scriptures teach that the Son is God?

A. Yes, the Scriptures teach that the Son is God, for they proclaim that He is the Word who was in the beginning with God and was God,⁶ and they show us that He shares in the Honours, Attributes, Names, and Deeds of God, and that He sits with the Father on the Seat of God's Throne.⁷

Q.6 Do the Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is God?

A. Yes, the Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is God, for He is the Giver of Life,⁸ He is called the Spirit of the Father⁹ and of the

⁵ John 17:24

⁶ John 1:1

⁷ An easy way to remember the Biblical evidence for the deity of Christ is with the initials H.A.N.D.S.

⁸ Rom. 8:11; Jn 7:38-39

⁹ Matt. 10:20; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 2:10

Son,¹⁰ He proceeds from the Father and the Son,¹¹ and He is named Lord¹² and God.¹³

Q.7 Are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit ever divided?

A. No, the Triune God is never divided for He is One God and so the Father, Son and Holy Spirit always and ever mutually indwell one another.¹⁴

Q.8 How can we know the True and Living God?

A. We can know the True and Living God, not by our own efforts,¹⁵ but only through His own gracious self-revelation in Jesus Christ our Lord.¹⁶

Q.9 Have the Trinity one purpose?

A. Yes, the Trinity are one in purpose, for Jesus prayed: 'Holy Father, keep through

¹⁰ Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6

¹¹ John 15:26

¹² 2 Cor. 3:17-18

¹³ Acts 5:3-4

¹⁴ John 5:19; 10:38; 14:9-11

¹⁵ Romans 3:11

¹⁶ John 1:18

Your name those whom You have given
Me, that they may be one as We are.¹⁷

**Q.10 What is the will of the Triune God
towards believers?**

A. 'That they all may be one,' and that
'there shall be one Fold', the Church, 'and
one Shepherd', the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁸

¹⁷ John 17:11

¹⁸ John 17:21; 10:16

Tenet 2

***The utter depravity of human nature,
the necessity for repentance and
regeneration and the eternal doom of
the finally impenitent.***

Q.1 How did God create Man?

A. The Triune God made Man in His own image, and after His own likeness.¹⁹

Q.2 What is Man's chief end?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.²⁰

Q.3 What is sin?

A. Sin is the opposite of faith.²¹ It is not trusting in the Lord, nor in His Word.²² It is turning inward and looking in to ourselves, instead of looking outward to Jesus.

¹⁹ Gen. 1:26-28

²⁰ 1 Cor. 10:31; Ps. 73:25-26; John 17:26

²¹ Rom. 14:23

²² Rom. 1:21

Q.4 Did all Mankind Fall in Adam's First Sin?

A. Adam sinned as the head of humanity, and so all humanity (descending from him by ordinary generations) sinned in him and fell with him in his first sin.²³

Q.5 What did Adam's sin do to you?

A. Adam's sin made me guilty and sinful.²⁴

Q.6 Is human nature utterly depraved through the Fall?

A. Yes, human nature is utterly depraved through the Fall and so man's inclination is after wickedness and not after God,²⁵ and by his own power and endeavour he cannot please God,²⁶ for his sinful nature is enmity against God,²⁷ and he is a slave to sin.²⁸

²³ Rom. 5:12,18-19

²⁴ Rom. 5:12,19; Ps. 51:5; Matt. 15:19-20

²⁵ Eph. 2:1; Col. 1:21

²⁶ Isa. 64:6; Heb. 11:6

²⁷ Rom. 8:7-8

²⁸ John 8:34

Q.7 What is the penalty if man remains in sin?

A. If man remains in sin, he will remain under the condemnation and wrath of God,²⁹ and will know everlasting doom³⁰ in outer darkness and the lake of fire,³¹ which is the second death.³²

Q.8 Is there any salvation from this wrath of God?

A. The only salvation from the wrath of God for our sin is found in the Lord Jesus Christ who bore God's wrath in our place in His death on the Cross.³³

Q.9 How is this salvation in Christ received?

A. Salvation in Christ is received by turning away from sin to Christ in faith and repentance.³⁴

²⁹ John 3:18

³⁰ *Judgement*

³¹ Rev. 20:15

³² Rev. 20:14

³³ John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5

³⁴ Acts 2:38; 20:21

Q.10 Can sinful man repent of his own accord?

A. No, sinful man is a slave to sin, and so cannot turn away from it to Christ by his own power.³⁵ He is dead in Adam and cannot give himself life.³⁶ Only God can give him life and repentance.³⁷

Q.11 How can the sinner who is dead in Adam and a slave to sin receive Christ for salvation?

A. God Himself must give new life to the dead sinner, free his heart from slavery to sin, and open his heart to receive Christ the Saviour.³⁸

Q.12 What is this change of heart whereby God gives new life and frees us from slavery to sin?

A. This change of heart whereby God gives new life and frees us from slavery to sin is called regeneration (or being born again).³⁹

³⁵ Matt. 12:34-35

³⁶ Eph. 2:1-5

³⁷ Acts 5:31; 11:18

³⁸ Eph. 2:1-5; Acts 16:14; 26:18

³⁹ Titus 3:4-6; John 3:5-6

Q.13 How are we born again?

A. We are born again through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ⁴⁰ and through the Word of the Gospel.⁴¹

Q.14 What is repentance?

A. Repentance is a gift of God's grace,⁴² by which a sinner, recognising the reality of his sinfulness, sees the mercy the God in Jesus Christ, and so grieves for and hates his sin and turns away from it to Christ the Saviour.

⁴⁰ 1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2:5-6

⁴¹ James 1:18,21; 1 Pet. 1:23,25

⁴² Acts 5:31; 11:18

Tenet 3

The virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, ascension, and abiding intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ; His second coming, and millennial reign upon earth.

Q.1 Who is our only Redeemer?

A. Our only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴³ God the Son, who became man⁴⁴ and so was and continues to be God and Man in two natures and One Person⁴⁵ forever.⁴⁶

⁴³ John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5

⁴⁴ John 1:14

⁴⁵ Rom. 9:5; 1 Cor. 8:6

⁴⁶ Heb. 7:24

Q.2 How did Christ, the Son of God, become man?

A. Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body⁴⁷ and a reasonable soul.⁴⁸ And being conceived in womb of the Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of her,⁴⁹ yet without sin.⁵⁰

Q.3 Why must Jesus be a true and sinless man?

A. Jesus must be a true and sinless man to knit God and man together in His own person,⁵¹ to stand as the One Mediator between God and man,⁵² representing us before God, to offer perfect obedience to the Father as man for men, to die for our sin, as man for men,⁵³ and to have compassion on us in our temptations.⁵⁴

⁴⁷ Heb. 2:14

⁴⁸ Matt. 26:38

⁴⁹ Luke 1:31,35

⁵⁰ Heb. 7:26

⁵¹ Heb. 2:14

⁵² 1 Tim. 2:5

⁵³ Rom. 5:12-15

⁵⁴ Heb. 4:15

Q.4 Why must our Redeemer also be true God?

A. Our Redeemer must be true God so that by the power of His Godhead, He might bear in His Manhood the burden of God's wrath⁵⁵ and so save us and restore to us righteousness and life.⁵⁶

Q.5 How are the two natures in Christ knit together?

A. The two natures are not changed the one into the other, neither are they mixed through one another like water and wine, neither are they divided from one another as two separate persons; but in one person the nature of God and all His properties, and the nature of man and all his properties remain in their own seat and estate.

⁵⁵ 1 Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:8; Acts 2:24

⁵⁶ 1 John 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; John 6:51; Jer. 23:5

Q.6 What follows upon this union?

A. As a result of the union of God and man in the one person of Jesus Christ, He is the appointed place where God and man meet together, and the sufferings of Christ are of infinite virtue, because His death and blood is the death and blood of God.

Q.7 What wonder do we confess of Christ's Incarnation?

A. In beholding the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son and Word of God, with wonder we confess that truly One of the Trinity suffered in the flesh.

Q.8 What did Christ our Saviour accomplish for us in His sinless life?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ lived the only perfect, sinless human life that has ever been or ever will be lived, in our place and fully obeyed God's Word on our behalf. Where we disobeyed, He obeyed for us. Where we sinned, He was sinless for us.

Q.9 What did Jesus accomplish for us in His Atoning Death?

A. Through His Atoning death in our place as our Substitute⁵⁷ and Representative, the Lord Jesus Christ bore the wrath of God which we deserved as the punishment for our sin,⁵⁸ triumphing over sin and freeing us from its guilt and power.⁵⁹

Q.10 How is Christ our Propitiation?

A. As our Propitiation, Christ suffered the wrath of God in our place and so frees us from the punishment of sin.⁶⁰

Q.11 How is Christ our Redemption?

A. As our Redemption, Jesus paid the price through His death in our place to set us free from the guilt and power of sin.⁶¹

⁵⁷ Isa. 53:5-6; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; Matt. 20:28; 26:28; Mark 10:45; 1 Pet. 8:18

⁵⁸ Gal. 3:13-14; Rom. 3:25; 1 John 4:10

⁵⁹ Col. 2:13-15; Rom. 6:6-7

⁶⁰ Rom. 3:25; Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:10

⁶¹ Mark 10:45; Eph. 1:7; Rom. 6:22

Q.12 How is Christ our Reconciliation?

A. God has reconciled us to Himself through the death of Christ, by not imputing our sins to us, but imputing them to Christ crucified in our place, and so has removed the alienation caused by our sin, bringing us into a right relationship with God.⁶²

Q.13 Did Jesus remain in the Tomb?

A. No. Jesus arose from the dead the third day, triumphing over death and the grave.

Q.14 What does God declare through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ?

A. Through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God declares Him truly to be righteous.⁶³

Q.15 What did Christ accomplish for us in His Triumphant Resurrection?

A. Through His Triumphant Resurrection, we who believe are declared righteous in Him,⁶⁴ receive new life in Him,⁶⁵ and will, at His coming, be raised with Him in glory.⁶⁶

⁶² Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; 1 Pet. 3:18

⁶³ 1 Cor. 15:4

⁶⁴ Rom. 4:25

Q.16 What did Christ accomplish for us in His Ascension to the right hand of the Father?

A. By His Ascension to the right hand of the Father, Christ has entered into the presence of God to appear for us having obtained eternal redemption,⁶⁷ and there intercedes for us,⁶⁸ pours out His Spirit,⁶⁹ and gives gifts of men as ministers to His Church.⁷⁰ And in His Ascension we ascend in Him and are seated with Him in the heavenly realms.⁷¹

Q.17 What is Christ's Abiding Intercession?

A. The Lord Jesus Christ by His Ascension has entered into the Heavenly Holy of Holies, and there He ever lives to make intercession for us and as our Intercessor and Mediator He purifies our prayers and presents them perfect to His Father.

⁶⁵ 1 Pet. 1:3; Eph. 2:5-6

⁶⁶ 1 Cor. 15:20-22

⁶⁷ Heb. 9:11-12

⁶⁸ Heb. 7:25

⁶⁹ Acts 2:33

⁷⁰ Eph. 4:8-11

⁷¹ Eph. 2:4-6

Q.18 Will Christ return?

A. Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ will return in the same way He ascended.⁷²

Q.19 What will happen when Christ returns?

A. When Christ returns the dead in Christ shall be raised and, together with those still living by faith in Christ, caught up and glorified in His presence, and we will be with the Lord forever more.⁷³

Q.20 What is Christ's Millennial Reign?

A. After His return for and with His saints, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign upon the earth for a thousand years, in righteousness and peace.⁷⁴

⁷² Acts 1:11

⁷³ 1 Thess. 4:13-18

⁷⁴ Rev. 20:4

Q.21 Is this Millennial Kingdom the final home of the saved?

A. No, Christ's Millennial Kingdom is not the final home of the saved, for when Christ has reigned upon the earth for a thousand years the final judgement will come,⁷⁵ and a new heaven and new earth will be established where the saved will live for all eternity in the presence, love and fellowship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.⁷⁶

⁷⁵ Rev. 20:11-15

⁷⁶ Rev. 21:1-4, 22-27

***Tenet 4
Justification and Sanctification
of the believer
through the
finished work of Christ.***

Q.1 How does the salvation which Christ purchased for us through His atoning work become ours?

A. The salvation which Christ purchased for us through His life, death, resurrection and ascension for us becomes ours through our union with Christ.⁷⁷

Q.2 What is the double grace which is ours through union with Christ?

A. Through our union with Christ we partake of the double grace of justification and sanctification in Him.

⁷⁷ Eph. 1:3-14

Q.3 What is Justification?

A. Justification is the act of God's free grace⁷⁸ wherein He pardons all our sins⁷⁹ and accepts us as righteous in His sight,⁸⁰ only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us⁸¹ and received by faith alone.⁸²

Q.4 On what basis are we justified?

A. We are justified only by the finished work of Christ.⁸³

Q.5 What is the faith through which we are justified?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving gift of God's grace⁸⁴ by which we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.⁸⁵

⁷⁸ Rom. 3:24

⁷⁹ Rom. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:19

⁸⁰ 2 Cor. 5:19

⁸¹ Rom. 4:6,11; Rom. 5:19

⁸² Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9

⁸³ Rom. 3:24-25; 5:9

⁸⁴ Eph. 2:8-9; Cf. Rom. 4:16

⁸⁵ John 20:30-31; Gal. 2:15-16; Phil. 3:3-11

Q.6 What is the imputation of Christ's righteousness which we receive in Justification?

A. That God imputes to us the righteousness of Christ means that He reckons Christ's righteousness to our account. The righteousness of the Christian is not found in himself but in Christ alone, and we are clothed with Him for righteousness.⁸⁶

Q.7 What is sanctification?

A. Sanctification is the work of God's free grace⁸⁷ by which we are renewed in our whole person in the image of God,⁸⁸ and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness.⁸⁹

⁸⁶ Rom. 10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9; Isa. 61:10

⁸⁷ Ezek. 36:27; Phil. 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:13

⁸⁸ 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:23-24; 1 Thess. 5:23

⁸⁹ Ezek. 36:25-27; Rom. 6:4,6,12-14; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 2:24

Q.8 What is adoption?

A. Adoption is the work of God's free grace, by which we become well-beloved sons of God in Christ, the Well-Beloved Son of God,⁹⁰ and share in the same love with which the Father loves Christ His Son.⁹¹

Q.9 What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness,⁹² and do immediately pass into glory;⁹³ and their bodies, being still united to Christ,⁹⁴ do rest in their graves,⁹⁵ till the resurrection.⁹⁶

⁹⁰ Eph. 1:5-6; Jn 1:12; Gal. 3:26-27; Heb. 2:10-18

⁹¹ Jn 17:23; 26

⁹² Heb. 12:23

⁹³ Phil. 1:23

⁹⁴ 1 Thess. 4:14

⁹⁵ Isa. 57:2

⁹⁶ Job. 19:26

Q.10 What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers being raised up in glory,⁹⁷ shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment,⁹⁸ and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God⁹⁹ to all eternity.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ 1 Cor. 15:43

⁹⁸ Matt. 10:32

⁹⁹ 1 Jn 3:2

¹⁰⁰ 1 Thess. 4:17

Tenet 5
The Baptism of the Holy Ghost for
believers, with signs following.

Q.1 What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A. In the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ pours out His Holy Spirit upon us to fill us.¹⁰¹ The Spirit pours out the love of God in our hearts,¹⁰² assures us that we are well-beloved children of God, causing us to cry out 'Abba, Father' to God in love, and to tell others of His great love in Jesus.¹⁰³ Through being filled with the Spirit, the Father and the Son also come to us,¹⁰⁴ and so we are immersed in the loving fellowship of the Triune God.

¹⁰¹ Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 2:32-33

¹⁰² Rom. 5:5

¹⁰³ Acts 1:8

¹⁰⁴ John 14:18,23

Q.2 Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit promised to every believer?

A. Yes, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is promised to every believer, for 'the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.'¹⁰⁵

Q.3 Do we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at Regeneration?

A. No. The Scriptures speak of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience distinct from regeneration.¹⁰⁶

Q.4 Are there biblical signs which mark the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A. In the Scriptures the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a recognisable event, accompanied by signs following.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁵ Acts 2:38-39

¹⁰⁶ Acts 2:38; 8:12, 16-17; Acts 19:2; Eph. 1:13

¹⁰⁷ Acts 8:18-20; 10:46; 19:6

Q.5 How do we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A. Christ baptises us in His Holy Spirit through faith in Him,¹⁰⁸ on the basis of His finished work on the Cross.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁸ Gal. 3:2,5

¹⁰⁹ Acts 2:22-33; Gal. 3:13-14

Tenet 6

The nine gifts of the Holy Ghost for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the Church, which is the body of Christ.

Q.1 What is the Church?

A. The Church is the Body of Christ.¹¹⁰

Q.2 Who is the Head of the Church?

A. The Lord Jesus Christ is Head of the Church.¹¹¹

Q.3 How is the Church on earth known?

A. The Church on earth is known after Pentecost as the body of believers who continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.¹¹²

¹¹⁰ Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18, 24

¹¹¹ Eph. 1:22; 5:23; Col. 1:18; 2:19

¹¹² Acts 2:42

Q.4 What does the Holy Spirit do for the Church, the Body of Christ?

A. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ the Head of the Church, unites the Church to Christ her Head, builds the Church up in Christ through the Word and the gifts, and always points the Church and her members more and more to Christ.¹¹³

Q.5 What is the Eternal Purpose of the Triune God?

A. The Eternal Purpose¹¹⁴ of the Triune God is for all things to be brought together under Christ as Head,¹¹⁵ as Christ fills His Body with all His fullness¹¹⁶ so that the Church will know the exceeding riches of God's grace in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus,¹¹⁷ and God will be glorified in the Church by Christ Jesus to all eternity.¹¹⁸

¹¹³ John 16:14; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 6:63; 1 Thess. 1:5; Eph. 6:17

¹¹⁴ Eph. 3:10-11

¹¹⁵ Eph. 1:10

¹¹⁶ Eph. 1:23

¹¹⁷ Eph. 2:7

¹¹⁸ Eph. 3:21

Q.6 What are the nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

A. The nine Gifts of the Holy Spirit are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues.¹¹⁹

Q.7 What is the purpose of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

A. The Holy Spirit distributes His Gifts for the edification, exhortation and comfort of the Church.¹²⁰

Q.8 Should we expect these Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church today?

A. We should not only expect, but earnestly desire and seek these gracious Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the church today, according to God's Word in Scripture.¹²¹

¹¹⁹ 1 Cor. 12:7-10

¹²⁰ 1 Cor. 14:3

¹²¹ 1 Cor. 12:31; 14:1, 39

Q.9 What is the test of the authentic Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

A. The true Gifts of the Spirit will do the work of the Spirit and glorify Christ in full conformity to the Spirit-inspired Scriptures.¹²²

¹²² Jn 16:14; Rev. 19:10; Heb 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:3; 14:29; 1 Thess. 5:19-22; 1 Jn 4:1

***Tenet 7
The Sacraments
of Baptism by immersion
and of the Lord's Supper.***

Q.1 What is a sacrament?

A. The sacraments are visible and holy signs and seals, appointed by God and in which He more fully declares and seals to us the promise of the gospel: namely, that He grants us out of free grace the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life, for the sake of the one sacrifice of Christ accomplished on the Cross.

Q.2 What are the true sacraments of the church?

A. The true sacraments of the church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q.3 What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, instituted by Jesus Christ¹²³, to be to the person baptised a sign of his union with Christ, in His death, burial, and resurrection¹²⁴, of his being ingrafted into Him¹²⁵, of forgiveness of sins¹²⁶, and of his giving up himself to God through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.¹²⁷

Q.4 Who should be baptised?

A. All those who profess repentance and faith in Christ should be baptised, and no one else.¹²⁸

¹²³ Matt. 28:19

¹²⁴ Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12

¹²⁵ Gal. 3:27

¹²⁶ Mark 1:4; Acts 22:16

¹²⁷ Rom. 6:4-5

¹²⁸ Acts 2:38; Matt. 3:6; Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-37; Acts 10:47-48

Q.5 How is baptism rightly administered?

A. Baptism is rightly administered by immersion, or dipping the whole body of the believer in water,¹²⁹ in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to Christ's institution, and the practice of the apostles,¹³⁰ and not by sprinkling or pouring of water, or dipping some part of the body, after the tradition of men.¹³¹

Q.6 Whose work is Baptism?

A. To be baptised in the name of the Triune God is to be baptised not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore, although it is performed by human hands, baptism is nevertheless truly God's own work.

Q.7 What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's supper is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by the Word of Christ to eat

¹²⁹ Matt. 3:16; Jn. 3:23

¹³⁰ Matt. 28:19-20

¹³¹ Jn 4:1-2; Acts 8:38-39

and to drink. This Sacrament is bread and wine, but not mere bread and wine, such as are ordinarily served at the table, but bread and wine comprehended in, and connected with, the Word of God. And as the words¹³² remain with them, as they shall and must, then they are truly the body and blood of Christ. For as the lips of Christ say and speak, so it is, as He can never lie or deceive.¹³³

Q.8 What is the benefit of the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is the life-giving food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so as not to fall back in battle, but become ever stronger and stronger.¹³⁴

¹³² 'This is My body ... This is My blood ...'

¹³³ 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 10:16-17; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20

¹³⁴ Jn 6:51-58

Q.9 Who are to come to the Table of the Lord?

A. Those who truly repent of their sins and trust in Christ's words that His body was broken for you and His blood was shed for you for the forgiveness of sins should come to the Table of the Lord. But those who do not repent or trust Christ's words eat and drink judgment upon themselves.¹³⁵

¹³⁵ 1 Cor. 10:19-22; 11:26-32

Tenet 8
The Divine inspiration
and authority of
the Holy Scriptures.

Q.1 What is the chief purpose of the Holy Scriptures?

A. The chief purpose of the Holy Scriptures is to reveal Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of men.¹³⁶

Q.2 What is the inspiration of Scripture?

A. The inspiration of Scripture is God's work of breathing out His Word in such a way that the holy writers of Scripture wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, so that the very words of Scripture are the very words of God.¹³⁷

¹³⁶ Luke 24:27; Jn 5:39, 46; 2 Tim. 3:15

¹³⁷ 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Acts 4:25; Rom. 3:1-2

Q.3 What is the authority of Scripture?

A. The authority of Scripture is the authority of God, for when Scripture speaks God speaks, and so to disbelieve or disobey Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God Himself.¹³⁸

Q.4 What is the sufficiency of Scripture?

A. The Scriptures are sufficient in that they set forth all that we need to make us wise unto salvation and thoroughly equipped for every good work.¹³⁹

Q.5 What is the clarity of Scripture?

A. Scripture is clear in that all that we need to know and believe for salvation and godliness is clearly set forth so that the ordinary believing reader may understand.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸ Matt. 4:4; 22:31; John 10:35; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

¹³⁹ 2 Tim. 3:15, 17; Lk 16:29, 31

¹⁴⁰ Deut. 30:11-14; Ps 19:7-8; 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:19

Q.6 Is Holy Scripture infallible and inerrant?

A. As the Word of God who is Truth and cannot lie, the Scriptures are pure and true, and so the Bible is infallible and inerrant in all that it affirms and teaches.¹⁴¹

Q.7 Why must God's Word be read and preached?

A. God's Word must be read and preached, for it is through His Word that He gives new life and faith in Christ.¹⁴²

Q.8 What two words has God spoken in the Scriptures?

A. In the Scriptures, God has spoken His two words of Law and Gospel.

Q.9 What is God's Word of Law?

A. God's Word of Law is our mirror to show us our sin, and so our tutor to bring us to Christ, by revealing our need for salvation.¹⁴³

Ps 12:6; 18:30; 119:151, 160; Prov. 30:5-6; Lk 24:25;
Jn 10:35; 17:17

¹⁴² Rom. 10:17; 1 Pet. 23, 25

¹⁴³ Gal. 3:24

Q.10 What is God's Gospel Word?

A. God's Gospel Word is the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ, God's Son, who died for our sins and rose for our justification.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴⁴ Mark 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 4:25

Tenet 9
***Church government by apostles,
prophets, evangelists,
pastors, teachers,
elders and deacons.***

Q.1 How does Christ the Head govern His Church?

A. Christ the Head governs His Church through gifts of men He has set as ministers in the Body to express His Headship.¹⁴⁵

Q.2 What are these ministries which Christ has given as gifts to His Church?

A. When Christ ascended on high He gave gifts to men of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁵ Eph. 4:11

¹⁴⁶ Eph. 4:11

Q.3 What is the ministry of the apostleship?

A. The apostleship, in establishing assemblies, ordaining ministers,¹⁴⁷ imparting spiritual gifts,¹⁴⁸ reveals the mind of God in connection with the government of the Church.¹⁴⁹

Q.4 What is the ministry of the prophets?

A. The prophets give forth the mind of God in the midst of His Church, which can be separating, foretelling, directing, warning, confirming and exhorting.¹⁵⁰

Q.5 What is the ministry of the evangelists?

A. The work of an evangelist is to reach the unsaved through the ministry of the gospel.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁷ Acts 6:6; 14:23

¹⁴⁸ 2 Tim. 1:6

¹⁴⁹ 2 Cor. 11:28; Acts 15; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-11; 3 Jn 10

¹⁵⁰ Acts 11:28; 13:2; 21:10-11

¹⁵¹ Acts 8:4-13, 26-40; cf. Acts 21:8

Q.6 What is the ministry of the pastors and elders?

A. The ministry of the pastors and elders is to care for those who are saved by ministering to them the things of Christ, the Good Shepherd.¹⁵²

Q.7 What is the ministry of the teachers?

A. The ministry of the teachers is to make the profoundest mysteries of the Word of God as simple as can be to the humblest believer.¹⁵³

Q.8 Where is the only true source of these ministries to be found?

A. The only true source of these ministries is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, for He is the true apostle,¹⁵⁴ the true prophet,¹⁵⁵ the true evangelist,¹⁵⁶ the true pastor¹⁵⁷ and the true teacher.¹⁵⁸ Those whom He has called to

¹⁵² Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:2; Heb. 13:7; 1 Pet. 5:1-5

¹⁵³ 1 Cor. 12:28; Acts 2:42

¹⁵⁴ Heb. 3:1

¹⁵⁵ Acts 3:22-23

¹⁵⁶ Luke 4:18, 43

¹⁵⁷ 1 Pet. 2:25; 5:4

¹⁵⁸ Matt. 26:18

these ministries in His church exercise only a share of the true ministry¹⁵⁹ which is in Christ and minister only out of their union with Him.

Q.9 Why has Christ placed these ministries in His Church?

A. Christ has placed these ministries in His Church that, in their several ways, they would lovingly and impartially contribute to the perfecting of the saints, to the work of the ministry, and the edifying of the Body of Christ.¹⁶⁰

Q.10 Must the people of God willingly submit to the ministers and elders of the church?

A. Yes, the people of God must willingly submit to the ministers and elders of the church, for these ministers watch out for the souls of Christ's flock, and this is the express command of God in His Word.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁹ Acts 1:17, 25

¹⁶⁰ Eph. 4:11-16

¹⁶¹ Heb. 13:17

Q.11 From where does the authority of the ministers of the church come?

A. The authority of the ministers of the church is not inherent in them as individuals, but comes only from Christ and His Word.¹⁶²

¹⁶² Heb. 13:7

Tenet 10
The possibility of
falling from grace.

Q.1 Where is God's grace to be found?

A. God's grace is to be found only in the Lord Jesus Christ and Him crucified.¹⁶³

Q.2 What does the Scripture mean when it speaks of those who have fallen from grace?

A. When the Scripture speaks of those who have fallen from grace, it is speaking of those who have become estranged from Christ and are no longer resting and relying on Him alone for salvation, but who instead attempt to justify themselves by their own works and efforts.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ Titus 2:11; 2 Tim. 1:9-10; Jn 1:14, 16; Eph. 2:4-6

¹⁶⁴ Gal. 5:4; Heb. 10:29

Q.3 Is it possible to fall from grace?

A. Scripture not only teaches us that it is possible to fall from grace,¹⁶⁵ but also that some have so fallen.¹⁶⁶ Yet the Scriptures also proclaim the gracious, keeping power of Christ, in whom alone our secure salvation is found.¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁵ Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-31

¹⁶⁶ Gal. 5:4

¹⁶⁷ John 10:27-29

Tenet 11
The obligatory nature of tithes and offerings.

Q.1 What is a tithe?

A. A tithe is a tenth, and to tithe our income is to give a tenth of it to God in grateful recognition that all that we have has been entrusted to us by Him, as an act of worship and an obedient expression of love.¹⁶⁸

Q.2 To whom do we bring our tithes?

A. We bring our tithes to Christ, the Head of the Church, by giving to His Body in the local assembly.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁸ Heb. 7:8; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:2; 9:7-8; Gen. 14:20; 28:20-22

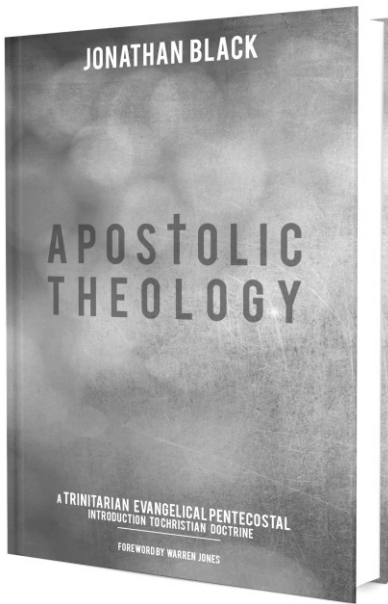
¹⁶⁹ Heb. 7:8; Mal. 3:10

Q.3 If we are not justified by our obedience and good works, why must believers obey God in good works?

A. Living faith always produces good works,¹⁷⁰ and so those who have been justified by the blood of Christ alone, love their Saviour by keeping His commandments.¹⁷¹ Through faith, hearts are renewed and endowed with new affections, so as to be able to bring forth good works.

¹⁷⁰ Jas. 2:17

¹⁷¹ Jn 14:15, 21, 23-24; Eph. 2:10



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