

# The Catechism...

What's it all about?

## A C A T E C H I S M ;

That is to say, An Instruction to be learned of every Person, before he be brought to be confirmed by the Bishop.

*Question.*

**W**HAT is your Name ?

*Answer,* N. or M.

*Quest.* Who gave you this Name ?

*Answ.* My Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptism; wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of Heaven.

*Quest.* What did your Godfathers and Godmothers then for you ?

*Answ.* They did promise and vow three things in my Name : First, that I should renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh; Secondly, that I should believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith; And thirdly, that I should keep God's holy Will and Commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life.

*Quest.* Dost thou not think that thou art bound to believe, and to do as they have promised for thee ?

*Answ.* Yes, verily; and by God's help so I will. And I heartily thank our heavenly Father, that he hath called me to this state of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. And I pray unto God to give me his grace, that I may continue in the same unto my life's end.

*Catechist.* Rehearse the Articles of thy Belief.

*Answer.*

**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

First - the word: Catechism

katēkhein (Gk) - to instruct orally, usually by Q & A



# First - Brief History of Catechism

- Early church: St Luke writes his Gospel specifically so that Theophilus (the God-lover) may “know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed (‘catechized’)”
- The Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer were always foundational. MONTHS of preparation was normal!
- 1261: The Lambeth Declaration: priests were to expound the Faith no less than four times a year(!)
- The Anglican Catechism first published in 1548 ‘Book of Common Prayer’, (based on Luther’s model) then re-issued with the section on Sacraments in 1662
- Since then, well over 1,000 different catechisms have been published by different churches!

## Second - How the Catechism was used...

*The Curate of every Parish shall diligently upon Sundays and Holy-days, after the second Lesson at Evening Prayer, openly in the Church instruct and examine so many Children of his Parish sent unto him, as he shall think convenient, in some part of this Catechism.*

*And all Fathers, Mothers, Masters, and Dames, shall cause their Children, Servants, and Prentices, (which have not learned their Catechism,) to come to the Church at the time appointed, and obediently to hear and be ordered by the Curate, until such time as they have learned all that is here appointed for them to learn.*

*So soon as Children are come to a competent age, and can say, in their mother tongue, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and also can answer to the other questions of this short Catechism; they shall be brought to the Bishop: And every one shall have a Godfather, or a Godmother, as a witness of their Confirmation.*

# The Anglican Catechism: Basic Elements



# Basic Elements:

Identity and  
commitment

Belief and  
Faith

Naming and  
Promising

The Creed

The Ten  
(Commandments)  
and  
The Two

The Lord's  
Prayer

The  
Sacraments

Law and  
Behaviour

Prayer

Grace and  
strength



# 1. NAMING AND PROMISING

## Naming

*Question.* What is your Name?

*Answer.* N. or M. nomen vel nomina (name or names) - an convention of typography

*Question.* Who gave you this Name? (names can be legally changed at baptism)

*Answer.* My Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptism; wherein I was made a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.

Let's break those down:

1. a *member* of Christ
2. the *child* of God
3. an *inheritor* of the Kingdom of Heaven

# 1. NAMING AND PROMISING

## Promising...

*Question.* What did your Godfathers and Godmothers then for you?

*Answer.* They did promise and vow three things in my name. First, that I should renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh. Secondly, that I should believe all the articles of the Christian faith. And thirdly, that I should keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life.

### Breaking it down (the negatives)

1. renouncing the Devil and all his works
2. renouncing the pomps and vanity of the world
3. renouncing the sinful lusts of the flesh

### Breaking it down (the positives)

1. believe the articles of the Faith
2. keep God's will and commandments
3. walk steadfastly in faith and obedience through life



# 1. NAMING AND PROMISING

## Conclusion...

*Question.* Dost thou not think that thou art bound to believe, and to do, as they have promised for thee?

*Answer.* Yes verily: and by God's help so I will. And I heartily thank our heavenly Father, that he hath called me to this state of salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. And I pray unto God to give me his grace, that I may continue in the same unto my life's end.

### Breaking it down

1. Belief requires God's help (relationship)
2. State of salvation, through Jesus
3. Gift of grace, for perseverance

# Next Time...

Identity and  
commitment

Belief and  
Faith

Naming and  
Promising

The Creed



The Ten  
(Commandments)  
and  
The Two

The Lord's  
Prayer

The  
Sacraments

Law and  
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