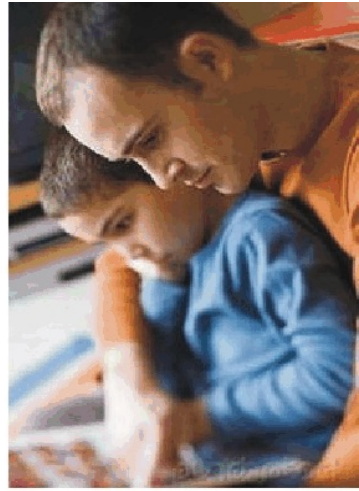


CBC's

Articles of Faith



atechism



Pastor Mike Aylestock

**A Q&A tool
for dads &
moms to
use in
passing their
faith to their
children.**

CBC’s “Articles of Faith” Catechism

A catechism is a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers and is used for teaching the faith. This catechism was prepared by Pastor Mike Aylestock to coordinate with the doctrinal summary of *Community Baptist Church* called our *Articles of Faith*. The text of the *Articles of Faith* appears in each section, before the list of questions.

The value of this catechism will be realized as families incorporate it into a larger plan developed with the goal of passing the faith to a new generation and preparing them for a life of usefulness to God. To that end I encourage dads and moms to make this a regular part of family training throughout the developmental years of their children. Set this as your goal – “by the time my children leave home they will know the answers to these questions from memory.” See pastor’s *What is Happening? A Call to Dads & Moms* for a larger plan for passing the faith to your family.

Bibliology – Doctrine of the Bible.	2
Theology – Doctrine of God.	3
Christology – Doctrine of Jesus Christ.	4
Pneumatology – Doctrine of the Holy Spirit.	5
Angelology – Doctrine of Angels.	6
Anthropology – Doctrine of Man.	7
Harmartiology – Doctrine of Sin.	11
Soteriology – Doctrine of Salvation.	13
Ecclesiology – Doctrine of the Church.	15
Eschatology – Doctrine of Future Events.	19

Bibliology – The Doctrine of the Bible

We believe the writings of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written, were verbally inspired, therefore making God the actual author of the Bible. We believe that God has preserved His words without error and that we have God's Word and word's in the original Biblical languages today. We have confidence in the Greek testament commonly referred to as the *Textus Receptus* and in it's English translation (the King James Version). The Old and New Testaments are our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21

1. What is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. I call the first part the Old Testament and the second part the New Testament.

2. What is the Old Testament?

The Old Testament is the history of God dealing with man beginning with man's creation and ending just before John the Baptist who introduced Jesus Christ. The Old Testament begins with Genesis and ends with Malachi.

3. What books are found in the Old Testament?

Learn the OT Bible books from memory, in the order found in our English Bible.

4. What is the New Testament?

The New Testament is the history of God dealing with man beginning with John the Baptist and ending 100 years after Jesus Christ. The New Testament also tells of God's work with man until the end of time. The New Testament begins with Matthew and ends with Revelation.

5. What books are found in the New Testament?

Learn the NT Bible books from memory, in the order found in our English Bible.

6. Who wrote the Bible?

God wrote the Bible. He *breathed* each word of it into the mind of each man who He used to write a part of it down. That is what *inspiration* is. I call this the verbal inspiration of the Bible – God breathed every word (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

7. Can you believe the Bible?

Yes, the Bible is the very words of God and God cannot lie. The

following phrases explain the credibility of the Bible. What does each phrase mean?

- Verbal Inspiration – every word is inspired by God
- Plenary Inspiration – the full Bible is inspired by God
- Inerrant Inspiration – the Bible contains no errors
- Infallible Inspiration – the Bible is trustworthy

8. What does the Bible provide for us?

The Bible provides for us truth to believe, correction of wrong belief, the right way to behave and correction of wrong behavior (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

9. What will keep the Bible from helping you?

Sin in my life will keep me from understanding and being helped by the Bible (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).

Theology – The Doctrine of God

We believe that God is one in essence and nature and yet composed of three persons; thus there is one and only one true God and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that they are equal and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Genesis 17:1; 2 Corinthians 3:17

1. Who is God?

God is the Creator of all that is (Genesis 1:1).

2. How many “Gods” are there?

There is only one true God.(Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10). His name is Jehovah.

3. When did God begin?

God has always existed. He has no beginning and will have no end. He exists through His own self-existence and depends on nothing or no one to give Him life.

4. How do we know God exists?

I believe by faith that God exists (Hebrews 11:6). God's Word begins with a statement that God exists and that He created all that I see in the universe (Genesis 1:1). The created universe testifies to the fact that there must be a Creator and designer for the universe (Romans 1:18-23).

5. **What is meant by the phrase *The Trinity*?**

“Trinity” means “tri-unity” and refers to the fact that there are three persons the Bible tells us about who are together one God. These three people talked with one another about the creation of man in their image (Genesis 1:26).

6. **Who are the three persons in *The Trinity*?**

God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit are three persons who are one God.

7. **What relationship exists between you and God?**

God is my Creator and thus has full rights to all I am or have (Colossians 1:16). Due to my sin, God does not have what is rightfully His. However, by saving me God brought me into a deeper relationship – now the God who owns me by creation also owns me by salvation (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Christology – The Doctrine of Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Triune God and therefore He has always been and was never created. Without giving up His deity He became man by the miracle of the virgin birth in that He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin. As the perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the cross, arose bodily and ascended into Heaven where He is our High Priest and advocate with the Father. John 1:1, 14; Matthew 1:18-25; Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Luke 24:2-8, 51; Hebrews 4:14-16

1. **Who is Jesus?**

Jesus is one of the people who together are one God. He is the one who was willing to become man and purchase salvation on the cross. He was called “Jesus” which means “Jehovah saves” because He would save people from their sins.

2. **How do we know Jesus is God?**

I know Jesus is God because:

- His name means “Jehovah saves.”
- Thomas, after the resurrection, called Jesus “My Lord and My God” (John 20:28).
- The Bible often speaks of Jesus as God (1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:4-8).

3. Is “Christ” Jesus’ last name?

No, “Christ” is a title. It means “Messiah” or “Anointed One.” In the Old Testament, God told of one who would come to bring salvation. Jesus is that Christ. That is why I refer to Him as “Jesus, the Christ” or simply “Jesus Christ.”

4. When did Jesus begin?

Jesus is one person who, with the other two people the Bible reveals, is one God. As God, Jesus has no beginning – He has always been.

5. How did God become man?

Our calendar is divided into time “Before Christ” (B.C.) and “After Christ” (A.D. – from a Latin phrase meaning *in the year of our Lord*). We divide our calendar from the event of Jesus becoming man. A virgin woman, Mary, was willing for God to place a baby in her womb. Miraculously, Jesus left heaven and became that baby. So God became man when Jesus was born from a virgin named Mary.

6. Why did God become man?

Adam, the first man, rebelled against God’s rule over his life and as a result the human race fell into sin. God said the punishment for sin would be death – every person who sins must die. To rescue man from his sin God became a man and lived a perfect life. That man was Jesus. He never sinned and so He would not have to die. Yet He offered Himself as a substitute for every person and died on the cross.

7. What is Jesus doing today?

Today Jesus is back at the throne of God from which God rules the universe. From His throne He hears and answers our prayers and also prays for us.

Pneumatology – The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit — We believe the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Triune God who convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgement; that He indwells and seals all who become children of God through Christ; that He empowers, teaches, sanctifies, and fills believers daily as they surrender to Him. John 16:8-11, 14:16, 17; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; Acts 1:8; John 14:26; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:18

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third person who together with God the Father and Jesus are one God.

2. **How do we know that the Holy Spirit is God?**

The Holy Spirit is called God – Acts 5:34; I Corinthians 3:16.

3. **What does the Holy Spirit do for lost people?**

The Holy Spirit draws the lost to Jesus Christ by convicting them of their sin so they will know that they cannot fix what is wrong in their life and must come to God for forgiveness and salvation.

4. **What does the Holy Spirit do for saved people?**

When a lost person is saved the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of them to help them live for God.

The Charismatic Movement — We believe the current charismatic movement is not a scriptural movement. The gifts of tongues, healing, drinking poison, and handling snakes were "sign-gifts" confirming the truth of the new revelation which the apostles were preaching. Once the new revelation was recorded in Scripture (New Testament) the confirming signs were no longer necessary and thus ended. Tongues had a deeper meaning regarding the destruction of Israel by a foreign power and ended when Israel was conquered by the Romans in 70 A.D. Mark 16:15-20; Luke 16:27-31; I Corinthians 13:8, 14:21,22

Angelology – The Doctrine of Angels

Holy Angels — We believe that God created a host of angelic beings. Their ministry to the Christian is to protect, guide, and transport to heaven at death. Psalm 148:1-5; Hebrews 1:13,14; Psalm 91:10-12; Acts 27:23, 24; Luke 16:22

Satan — We believe in the personality of Satan; that he was an exalted angel which rebelled against God; that he is now the unholy god of this age and is destined for eternal punishment in the lake of fire. 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10

Unholy Angels — We believe that Satan led 1/3 of the angels in his rebellion against God and they are now the demons which aid him in his efforts to destroy that which is godly. Revelation 12:4; Ephesians 6:12

1. **What are angels?**

God created a large number of creatures who are different than human beings. These were angels.

2. What do angels do?

These angels run errands for God and worship Him. They also help saved people when God sends them to help us.

3. Are there bad angels?

Yes, there are many bad angels that the Bible calls demons or devils.

4. Who is the leader of the bad angels?

The bad angels, or demons, are led by Satan or the Devil.

5. How did they become bad?

Satan was created as a special angel called Lucifer. He decided that he wanted to take God's place so he convinced a large number of angels to help him. They failed and now are God's enemies.

6. What do bad angels do?

Bad angels help Satan oppose God and try to hurt God's people.

Anthropology – The Doctrine of Man

Creation — We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal account of the direct creative acts of God. No evolution was employed. All of mankind are descendants of the historical Adam and Eve. Genesis 1&2; John 1:3

Fall — We believe that when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in Eden, they brought about the ruin of the entire human race causing it to fall into sin which brought spiritual, physical, and eternal death. Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:12-19

1. How did the world come into existence?

God spoke and all things immediately became reality (Genesis 1).

2. When did the world come into existence?

The world came into existence "in the beginning.." (Genesis 1:1). According to chronologies and dates contained in the Bible, it is believed that this occurred approximately 6,000 years ago.

3. How long did it take God to make the world?

God created all that is in six 24-hour days (Genesis 1).

- 4. What did God create on the first day?**
God created the earth, space, time & light (Genesis 1:1-5).
- 5. What did God create on the second day?**
God created the atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8).
- 6. What did God create on the third day?**
God created the dry land & plants (Genesis 1:9-13).
- 7. What did God create on the fourth day?**
God created the sun, moon & stars (Genesis 1:14-19).
- 8. What did God create on the fifth day?**
God created the sea & flying creatures (Genesis 1:20-23).
- 9. What did God create on the sixth day?**
God created the land animals & man (Genesis 1:24-31).
- 10. What did God do on the seventh day?**
On the seventh day God rested (Genesis 2:1-3).
- 11. Who were the first man and woman?**
Adam and Eve were the first man and woman (Genesis 1-2).
- 12. Where did Adam come from?**
God created Adam from the dirt (Genesis 2:7).
- 13. Where did Eve come from?**
God created Eve from one of Adam's ribs, from near his heart (Genesis 2:20-23).
- 14. Where did Cain get his Wife?**
Cain married one of his sisters, or perhaps a niece, and then moved to the land of Nod, started a family and built a city (Genesis 5:4-5; 4:16-17). Marrying a near relative, when the human family was young and had perfect genes, was not a problem. Later defective genes in the human family made marrying a near relative a problem – offspring were more likely to have birth defects. Finally God told man not to marry near relatives any longer (in the law God gave to Moses around 2,500 years after Adam).

15. When did the dinosaurs live? (When did God create them?)

God created the dinosaurs on day six.

16. Did dinosaurs and man live at the same time?

Yes. We have fossil evidence that man lived at the same time as dinosaurs. We also have primitive dinosaur paintings on rock walls. Obviously the painter saw a dinosaur to be able to paint it.

17. Where did all the fossils come from?

Fossils are preserved dead things (plants & animals). They were suddenly buried during the flood of the world in Noah's day. This catastrophic event laid down a layer of millions of dead things in rock layers all over the earth.

18. How did Noah get all the animals on the ark?

The ark, as measured in the Bible, was so large that it would easily hold all the land animals that God instructed Noah to take on the ark. They also had plenty of room left over to store food.

19. Were the dinosaurs on the ark?

Yes, the dinosaurs were on the ark and would have easily fit. No doubt, Noah took young dinosaurs rather than full-grown adults.

20. Is “evolution” a scientific explanation of origins and “creation” a religious explanation?

No. Neither evolution nor creation employs lab science (or, operational science) which is a science which employs repeatable, observable experimentation to learn how things work. Both evolution and creation employ forensic science which is the science of observing clues left by something that is not repeatable to come to understand what happened. Both evolution and creation are faith-systems since no human alive today observed what happened.

21. What happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree God had forbidden them to eat from?

Adam sinned and brought upon himself, and all his children, the consequences of sin. Those consequences are death – spiritual death that separates me from God now, physical death that will end my life on earth and eternal death, also called the second death, which is separation from God for all eternity in the place the Bible calls hell.

Destination — We believe that man's destination is hell; that this comes as a result of his rebellion against God and alignment with Satan. Romans 6:23a; 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9; Revelation 20, 21:8

Family — We believe that the family is the basic unit of society. God gives children to families with the responsibility to rear them. Such responsibility includes their education. Genesis 2; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127 & 128; Ephesians 6:1-4. We believe that the family is a man and a woman covenanted together for life and that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

Abortion — We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, without excuse taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

Civil Government — We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, and obeyed (except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ); that the church and state are to be separate (no state established church), each having definite and distinct spheres of responsibility. Neither the church nor the state has the right to infringe upon the God-ordained responsibilities of the other. Romans 13:1-7; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21, 22; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29, 4:19, 20; Daniel 3:17, 18

Harmartiology – The Doctrine of Sin

Nature of Sin — We believe that sin is the transgression of the law, will and desire of God; that sin is disobedience, lawlessness, “a missing the mark” of God's revealed will; that man was created in innocence and that by voluntary choice man transgressed God's law, and all men sinned in him, therefore all men are totally depraved being sinners by nature and by conduct. Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19, 5:12, 19; I John 3:4

Penalty of Sin — We believe that the penalty of sin is death — spiritual death, physical death and eternal death in hell. Genesis 2:17; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15

1. What is sin?

Sin is any thought, feeling or action that is outside of what God wants you to think, feel or do.

2. Where did God reveal what He wants you to think, feel or do?

- Throughout the Bible God reveals to me what He wants me to think, feel and do (2 Timothy 3:16).
- God's law is given concisely in "The Ten Commandments" (Exodus 20:18)
- God's law is summarized in "The Great Commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40).

3. What are "The Great Commandments"?

"The Great Commandments" are to love God supremely and love my fellow man as myself.

4. What is the first of "The Ten Commandments"?

The first commandment is to honor no man-made god above the only true and living God (Exodus 20:3)

5. What is the second of "The Ten Commandments"?

The second commandment is to not make an image of God or a man-made god to bow down to and worship (Exodus 20:4-6).

6. What is the third of "The Ten Commandments"?

The third commandment is to never use God's name in an inappropriate way (Exodus 20:7).

7. What is the fourth of "The Ten Commandments"?

The fourth commandment is to keep the Sabbath day holy (Exodus 20:8-11).

8. What is the fifth of "The Ten Commandments"?

The fifth commandment is to honor my father and mother (Exodus 20:12).

9. What is the sixth of “The Ten Commandments”?

The sixth commandment is to never murder a person (Exodus 20:13; 20:12-15). Jesus instructed that this includes hating a person without a cause (Matthew 5:21-26).

10. What is the seventh of “The Ten Commandments”?

The seventh commandment is to never commit adultery (Exodus 20:14). Jesus instructed that this includes looking at a person to lust for them (Matthew 5:27-30).

11. What is the eighth of “The Ten Commandments”?

The eighth commandment is to never steal (Exodus 20:15).

12. What is the ninth of “The Ten Commandments”?

The ninth commandment is to never lie (Exodus 20:16).

13. What is the tenth of “The Ten Commandments”?

The tenth commandment is to never covet things you don't have (Exodus 20:17).

14. Have you sinned?

Yes, I sinned when I.... (name what you have thought, felt or done).

15. Why have you sinned?

I have sinned because I am a sinner. As early as I can remember I have found it easy to sin but hard to do good.

16. What is the result of sin?

The result of sin is death – spiritual death that separates me from God now, physical death that will end my life on earth and eternal death, also called the second death, which is separation from God for all eternity in the place the Bible calls hell.

Soteriology – The Doctrine of Salvation

Meaning of Salvation — We believe that the doctrine of salvation deals with God rescuing (saving) man from the results of sin. God rescues man from the power of sin, enabling a rescued man to live a holy life; from the penalty of sin, giving a rescued man a release from hell; and from the presence of sin one day when taken to heaven. Luke 15; Romans 6; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:24-27

Death of Jesus Christ — We believe Jesus' death made a full and vicarious (in our place) payment for our sin; that His death consisted not in merely setting an example for us as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree. Romans 3:24, 25; Hebrews 2:14, 9:22; Isaiah 53; I Peter 1:18-21, 2:24 There could be NO salvation without His death through the shedding of His blood.

Salvation By Grace — We believe that our salvation is a free gift from God, not merited in any way, therefore is wholly by grace. Salvation is received by the placing of one's faith (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:8, 9

Repentance — We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose from sin toward God; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin that separates man from God, and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith. Acts 20:21

Remission — We believe that remission (forgiveness) of sins is only received through and because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 9:22; I John 1:7

New Birth — We believe that salvation is a spiritual birth whereby one enters the family of God and becomes partaker of God's nature. John 3:1-8, 1:12, 13; I John 2:29, 3:9, 4:7, 5:1, 4, 18; 2 Peter 1:4

Atonement — We believe that salvation involves atonement ("to cover over") which deals with the covering and removal of our sin. Lev. 6:1, 2, 6, 7; Psalm 103:10-12; Micah 7:19b

Propitiation — We believe that salvation involves the satisfying of God's holy wrath against sin. I John 4:10; Romans 3:24-26

Reconciliation — We believe that salvation involves our being restored to God's fellowship. Romans 5:9, 10; Colossians 1:21-23

Redemption — We believe that salvation involves our being purchased from the slave market of sin by the blood of Jesus Christ and being set free from the power of sin. I Peter 1:18, 19; Titus 2:13, 14; I Corinthians 6:19, 20

Justification — We believe salvation involves the judicial act of God by which He declares the believing sinner to be righteous and acceptable before Him because Christ has borne the sinner's sin on the cross, and has been made unto him righteousness. Romans 3:24, 28, 5:1; Galatians 2:16; I Corinthians 1:30

Sanctification — We believe that salvation involves the act of setting apart a sinner unto God, the process of daily becoming more set apart unto God, and the future event of being completely set apart unto God. Sanctification has to do with holiness or separation from sin unto God. I Corinthians 6:11, 15:51-54; Hebrews 10:10-14; 2 Peter 3:18; I John 3:2

Righteous and Wicked — We believe only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ are righteous in the sight of God. Those who continue in unbelief are, in God's sight, wicked and under the curse of the law and face everlasting conscious suffering. Malachi 3:18; Romans 6:17, 18; Proverbs 14:32; Galatians 3:10

Security of the Saints — We believe that those who are truly saved are kept by the power of God, and sealed by the spirit of God, therefore making it impossible to be lost once saved. I Peter 1:5; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:13

Priesthood of the Believers — We believe that through Jesus Christ every believer has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that every believer has the right and responsibility to study the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:15; I Peter 2:9

Separation — We believe those who have been saved, as God's children, should live holy lives and thus separate themselves from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy unto God. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; 2 John 1:9-11; 1 Jn. 2:15-17

1. What is salvation?

Salvation is God rescuing me from my sin and from the ultimate penalty of my sin which is to die forever in hell.

2. What enables God to be able to save a person?

Jesus died on the cross in my place. Jesus suffered the judgement of God that I deserve. Since the penalty of my sin has been paid by Jesus, God can now forgive me and save me.

3. Can I be a good enough person to be saved?

No, even if I try real hard I still sin and must be judged by God. Since I cannot be good enough, Jesus died in my place so I could be saved.

4. How can I come to be saved?

- I must hear what God says in His Word (Romans 10:14-17).
- I must think about God's law and whether I have kept it
(Matthew 19:16-19; Luke 10:25-37).

- I must repent of my sin (Luke 13:5).
- I must seek God with all my heart to know Him and be saved (Isaiah 1:18; Jeremiah 29:12-14; Deuteronomy 4:29).
- I must ask Him to save me (Romans 10:13).

5. **Once God saves me, what must I do?**

I must continue in my faith (Colossians 1:21-23) and keep believing the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:2).

6. **Once God saves me, can I lose my salvation and go to hell?**

No, God will keep me saved so that I will never lose my salvation (1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24).

7. **How does God keep me saved?**

God keeps me saved by actively working in my life. He accomplishes my security through the:

- Intercessory work of Jesus – John 17:11; Romans 5:8-10; Heb 7:25
- Father-child relationship – 1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:6
- Word of God working in my life – Psalm 119:33

Ecclesiology – The Doctrine of the Church

The Church — We believe that a church is an organized assembly of saved, baptized believers meeting for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, to practice the ordinances, and to carry out the Great Commission; that this assembly is independent and free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference; that this assembly is accountable directly to its Head (Jesus Christ). Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Acts 2:41, 42; Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 15; Colossians 1:18

Bishops and Deacons — We believe that God established the offices of the church to minister to it and enable it to carry out its function effectively. The office of bishop (terms bishop, elder, pastor are used interchangeably) designates the overseer who provides leadership to the church. The office of deacon designates men who are yielded to serving the church in ways that enable the pastor to be more effective in the ministry of the Word of God through preaching, teaching and praying. Philippians 1:1; Acts 20:17, 28; Titus 1:5-7; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Acts 6; 1 Timothy 3

Baptism and Lord's Supper — We believe that only two ordinances were given to the church — baptism and the Lord's Supper; that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water under the authority of a New

Testament church, portraying the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that Christian baptism is the door into church membership. We believe that the Lord's supper is a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ observed by the church and should be preceded by solemn self-examination. Matthew 28:19, 20; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; Acts 2:41, 42; Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-34

New Testament Church — We believe that God established one kind of church and that through sin, division and different doctrinal belief many different kinds of churches have been established. We believe that the distinctive beliefs of the Baptists are those of the New Testament church and that we have a historic and doctrinal continuity which stretches back to Jesus Christ, a heritage stained with the blood of our Baptist forefathers. Matthew 3:1, 2, 13, 16:18; Acts 20:28-30; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; History

1. After I am saved, what does God plan to do with my life?

God will enable me to grow into the image of Jesus (Romans 8:29-30; 2 Peter 1; Colossians 3:1-3). God wants me to become like Jesus in the way I think about things. God has a wonderful plan for my life called His will for me (Romans 12:1-2).

2. How will God communicate His will to me?

- God will speak to me through His Word which I must read and meditate on regularly (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 2 Timothy 3:16).
- God will listen to me as I pray to Him (Psalm 62:8).

3. How am I to understand His Word?

I am able to understand His Word as I study it (2 Timothy 2:15) and the Holy Spirit explains it to me (1 John 2:20-29).

4. How am I to understand prayer?

I am able to understand prayer as Jesus teaches me how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus gave me a list of topics to talk to God about (Luke 11:2-4) and an encouragement to consistently and persistently talk to God about them (Luke 11:5-13).

5. What topics should I talk to God about?

I should talk to God about (Luke 15:2-4):

- **Praise** to Him – “Hallowed be thy name.” I am to praise God for His holiness, for everything about Him that I know and am amazed by.
- **Program** He Has – “Thy kingdom come.” I am to talk to God about His program of bringing His kingdom to earth. This involves the work of the church, worldwide missions, and my efforts to witness.

- **Provision** for my needs and those of my friends – “Give us day by day our daily bread.”
- **Pardon** for my sins and those of my friends – “Forgive us our sins.”
- **Protection** from sin for me and my friends – “Deliver us from evil.”

6. **Where will I learn about God’s will for my life?**

God will place me into a body of His children where I will be taught His Word and grow to maturity (Acts 2:41-42). This body of God’s children is called a *church* (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 1:22-23).

7. **How do I become a member of one of Jesus’ churches?**

After God saves me I should be baptized. This will make me a member of that church (Acts 2:41-42, 47; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

8. **What does baptism mean?**

Baptism is a picture of my salvation. When baptized I am laid on my back, placed under water, then lifted back out of the water. This pictures that I have died, been buried and have risen from the dead as a new person. This death of my sinful self is pictured as happening with Jesus when He died on the cross, was buried and then rose from the dead. Now I can live a new life as a child of God (Romans 6:3-11).

9. **What is the other church ordinance and what does it mean?**

Jesus instructed His churches to come together and remember His death by eating some broken bread and drinking some grape juice. This is to remind me that Jesus’ body was broken for me and His blood was shed for me. By remembering this I never forget how much Jesus loves me. I call this the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-34).

10. **What is God’s purpose for His churches?**

Jesus, before going back to heaven, gave His churches their *marching orders* – they were to preach the gospel in every part of God’s world, baptize those who believed the gospel, and then train them so they would become like Jesus and continue preaching His gospel to others (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-49; Acts 1:8).

11. **Who is in charge of Jesus’ churches?**

Jesus and Jesus alone is the head of each of His churches (Ephesians 1:22-23; John 21:15b, 16b, 17b). We must operate the church according to Jesus’ instructions in the Bible.

12. Who does Jesus use to lead His churches?

Jesus' churches were led by a bishop (or bishops) who was also called an elder or pastor (shepherd). Jesus' churches were to follow the leadership of their bishop/elder/pastor (Hebrews 13:7, 17).

13. Why are there three names or titles for this leader?

The three names or titles emphasize three truths about them:

- Bishop speaks of the office they hold – the office of oversight.
- Elder speaks of the spiritual maturity of the man (men) who are in the office of bishop.
- Shepard (pastor) speaks of the responsibilities of the man or men who are in the office of bishop – they guide, graze and guard the flock.

14. Are these three names or titles used of the same people in the Bible?

Yes, in Acts 20:17 the Apostle Paul calls the elders of the church in Ephesus to meet with him. In Acts 20:28 Paul told these elders that God had made them the bishops (overseers) of the church and that they are to pastor (feed) the church. See also 1 Peter 5:1-4.

15. What other office does the church have?

Jesus' churches ordain deacons (Acts 6:1-6).

16. What do deacons do?

The word *deacon* means *servant*. Deacons serve the church family by taking care of things so the pastor (pastors) can concentrate on his responsibilities (Acts 6:1-6).

17. Who are the deacons at CBC and what do they do?

- Two deacons are treasurers – Keith Calhoun & John Colantoni.
- One deacon serves with church ordinances and records – Richard Manual.
- One deacon serves with the widows and seniors – Bill Johnson.

18. What should you do as a member of Jesus' church?

I should use my spiritual gifts and abilities to help the church fulfill its purpose of preaching the gospel all over the world.

Eschatology – The Doctrine of Future Things

Rapture — We believe in the imminent, pretribulational catching away of the saints, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be caught up to meet the Lord

in the air. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-54; Philippians 3:20, 21; Revelation 3:10

Tribulation and Millennium — We believe that the Tribulation Period, which follows the Rapture of the saints, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish a literal millennial reign. Daniel 9:25-27; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 9:6, 7, 11:1-9; Acts 2:29, 30; Revelation 20:1-4, 6

Final Events — We believe that following a 1000 year reign on earth Satan will be loosed, a final battle fought, the earth renovated by fire, the Great White Throne Judgement held and the New Paradise entered by the saints of the ages! Revelation 20:7-22:5

Heaven and Hell — We believe that the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgement Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept in fiery punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into Hell, the place of final and everlasting fiery punishment. John 14:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; I Peter 3:22; Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:42-48; Revelation 20:11-15

1. How will God end the present world system of man operating earth?

- God will take all His children to heaven – we call this the rapture.
- God will visit the earth with seven years of judgements.
- Jesus will come back to earth and set up His kingdom on earth.
- During the time of Jesus' kingdom on earth Satan will not be permitted to operate on earth.
- Jesus will rule His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years.
- Satan will be granted a short time to operate on earth. He will lead a rebellion against Jesus. Jesus will put down Satan's rebellion.
- Jesus will destroy the earth and remake it into a new heavens and a new earth.

2. When will all those who were not saved be judged by God?

At the end of the 1,000 year reign of Jesus all the unsaved of the ages will stand before God at the "Great White Throne Judgement" where they will be judged (Revelation 20:11-15).

- 3. What will happen to all those who were not saved?**
They will be sent to the lake of fire for all eternity (Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:11-15).
- 4. When will all those who were saved be judged by God?**
After the rapture all saved people will give an account to God for how we lived as His children. We will be rewarded for our service to Him or we will suffer the loss of rewards (2 Corinthians 5:9-11; 2 Timothy 4:8; Romans 14:10-12).
- 5. What will happen to all those who were saved?**
All the saved will live with God and serve Him forever (Revelation 20-21).