

Catechism Exam (Winter, 2015)

For the purpose of a study guide this exam retains the original question numbers so that you may refer to the context in the original Baltimore Catechism found on our website.

1. Why did God make us?

Answer: God made us to show forth His goodness & to share with us everlasting happiness in Heaven.

9. What is a spirit?

Answer: A spirit is a being that has understanding & free will, but **no** body, and will never die.

17. If God is everywhere, why do we not see Him?

Answer: Although God is everywhere, we do not see Him because **He is spirit** & cannot be seen with our eyes.

22. Can we know by our natural human reason that there is a God?

Answer: We can know by our natural reason that there is a God, for natural reason tells us that the world we see about us could have been made only by a self-existing Being, all-wise & almighty.

23c. What do we mean when we say that the entire Bible is inspired?

Answer: When we say that the entire Bible is inspired we mean that its principal author is God, though it was written by men whom God enlightened and moved to write all those things, and only those things, that He wished to be written.

23f. How can we know the true meaning of the Bible?

Answer: We can know the true meaning of the Bible from the teaching authority of the Catholic Church, which has received from Jesus Christ the right & the duty to teach and explain all that God has revealed.

23i. What is Divine Tradition?

Answer: Divine Tradition is the unwritten word of God - that is, truths revealed by God, though not written in the Bible, and given to the Church through word of mouth by Jesus Christ or by the apostles under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

23k. Has Divine Tradition the same force as the Bible?

Answer: **Yes**; Divine Tradition has the same force as the Bible, since it too contains God's revelation to men.

34. What is a supernatural mystery?

Answer: A supernatural mystery is a truth which we **cannot** fully understand, but which we **firmly believe** because we have God's word for it.

36. Which are the chief creatures of God?

Answer: The chief creatures of God are **angels & men**.

37. What are angels?

Answer: Angels are created spirits, without bodies, having understanding & free will.

48. What is man?

Answer: Man is a creature composed of body & soul, and made to the image & likeness of God.

49. Is this likeness to God in the body or in the soul?

Answer: This likeness to God is chiefly in the soul.

50. How is the soul like God?

Answer: The soul is like God because it is a spirit having understanding & free will, and is destined to live forever.

60. What are the chief punishments of Adam which we inherit through original sin?

Answer: The chief punishments of Adam which we inherit through original sin are: **death, suffering, ignorance, and a strong inclination to sin**.

65. How many kinds of actual sin are there?

Answer: There are two kinds of actual sin: mortal sin & venial sin.

69. What three things are necessary to make a sin mortal?

Answer: To make a sin mortal these three things are needed:

1. The thought, desire, word, action, or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong;
2. The sinner, must be mindful of the serious wrong;
3. The sinner must fully consent to it.

73. How can we keep from committing sin?

Answer: We can keep from committing sin:

1. by praying and by **receiving** the sacraments;
2. by **recalling** that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit;
3. by **keeping occupied** with work or play;
4. by promptly **resisting** the sources of sin within us;
5. by **avoiding** near occasions of sin.

95. What do we mean when we say in the Apostles' Creed that Christ descended into hell?

Answer: When we say that Christ descended into hell we mean that, after he died, **the soul** of Christ descended into a place or state of rest, called limbo (waiting place), where the souls of the just (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc.) were waiting for Him.

(N.B. We do not believe that Jesus descended into hell, the home of Satan).

100. Will all men rise from the dead?

Answer: All men will rise from the dead, but **only** those who have been faithful to Christ will share in the glory of Heaven.

102. Why did Christ remain on earth 40 days after His Resurrection?

Answer: Christ remained on earth 40 days after His Resurrection **to prove** that He had indeed truly risen from the dead and **to complete** the instruction of His apostles.