



FIRST **CATECHISM**

**Beginning Discipleship
in the Christian Faith**

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PREFACE

First Catechism is a primer on the Christian faith. This adaptation is based on a catechism published by Joseph P. Engels in 1840. It introduces and simplifies the concepts of the Shorter Catechism, one part of the Westminster Standards. Changes in vocabulary, grammar, and the sequence of questions make the catechism clearer and more accessible.

Catechizing—systematic instruction using simple questions and answers—is a tried and effective tool for spiritual nurture. *First Catechism* introduces learners to a vocabulary of faith and the doctrines of grace. It should be regarded as a steppingstone for later study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

FIRST CATECHISM

- 1** Q. **Who made you?**
A. God.
- 2** Q. **What else did God make?**
A. God made all things.
- 3** Q. **Why did God make you and all things?**
A. For his own glory.
- 4** Q. **How can you glorify God?**
A. By loving him and doing what he commands.
- 5** Q. **Why are you to glorify God?**
A. Because he made me and takes care of me.
- 6** Q. **Is there more than one true God?**
A. No. There is only one true God.

FIRST CATECHISM

- 7** Q. **In how many Persons does this one God exist?**
A. In three Persons.
- 8** Q. **Name these three Persons.**
A. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 9** Q. **What is God?**
A. God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.
- 10** Q. **Where is God?**
A. God is everywhere.
- 11** Q. **Can you see God?**
A. No. I cannot see God, but he always sees me.
- 12** Q. **Does God know all things?**
A. Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.

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“The catechism is a time-proven way of getting Bible truth into our hearts, so that we think, know, trust, and desire according to God’s Word. I go back to this catechism, which has been my companion for more than fifty years, again and again, to help me remember ‘the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.’”

— **J. Ligon Duncan III**

Chancellor/CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary

“Join *First Catechism* with a basic introductory Bible study, and you will give people both the message of the Bible and an encyclopedia to understand it. What a superb, inexpensive tool for outreach!”

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