
A Kingdom Catechism



T. M. Moore
The Fellowship of Ailbe

A Kingdom Catechism

T. M. Moore

A “catechism” is an ancient and venerable form of Christian instruction. Using questions and answers, concise and easy to learn and remember, a tutor is able to assist a learner to grasp a large amount of material in a way that lays a foundation for future learning and practice.

Since the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit,¹ and the Law of God is holy and righteous and good,² it seems reasonable to believe that basic instruction in the Law of God would be essential to living out the promises of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

The Law of God, moreover, is the acorn to the oak of Scripture and, thus a cornerstone document of the Old and New Testaments. We should expect what we find in the Law of God to define the shape of the rest of Scripture and of all the Kingdom documents of the Christian tradition. As the creeds of the Church help us in looking back on the Scriptures, that we might understand them aright, according to the Spirit’s guiding of the Church in the past, the Law of God teaches us how to look forward to the rest of Scripture, so that we might understand the fuller development of the Word of God in the light of this earliest and most foundational section.

This catechism, therefore, is presented to help readers gain an overview of the nature, purpose, uses, and content of the Law of God, and to guide them in fulfilling their calling, not only to keep that Law, but to teach it to others as well. Greatness in the Kingdom of God is defined by faithfulness to the Law of God and its teachings. This Catechism, therefore, has potential to chart a course toward Kingdom greatness for all who study and are mastered by it.³

And, since the Law of God is the cornerstone of all of divine revelation, we should expect that the better grounded we are in God’s Law, the better we will be able to understand and apply all the teaching of God’s Word for every aspect of our lives.

¹ Romans 14.17

² Romans 7.12

³ Matthew 5.17-19

In studying this Catechism, take a few questions and answers at a time. Read them carefully. Look up all the attending references and think about them in the light of the question and answer. Meditate on the answers and the Scriptures and think about ways this should be applied in your own life. You might try to memorize questions and answers that are especially important to you.

Read the questions and answers over several times. Meditate on them, perhaps keeping a journal as to how the questions and answers guide you in applying the Law of God to your daily life. Copy them on note cards and carry them with you throughout the day, grabbing a few moments here and there to work at memorizing the questions and answers and, if possible, at least the “addresses” of the supporting texts.

Once you have learned a question, try finding more Scripture texts to support the statements made there. Or use a section, or a few questions, as a basis for a class you might teach.

Once you have worked through the Catechism, use it as part of your daily Bible reading and meditation. The righteous person, David reminds us, meditates on the Law of God day by day. This Catechism could be a useful tool in your regimen of spiritual disciplines.

For example, there are 135 questions and answers in this Catechism. If you read and meditated on one per day, looking up the Scriptures that accompany each answer and meditating on them, you would work through this Catechism nearly three times in a year. You might also add other passages of Scripture that help to illuminate or clarify the answers to each question, including these in your daily meditation each time through. By doing this you would become increasingly familiar with the overall Kingdom teaching of the Scripture, and would better prepare your soul – heart, mind, and conscience – for seeking the Kingdom of God day by day.

A Kingdom Catechism represents an exercise in bringing our Kingdom rules and principles into sharper focus for personal growth and equipping. Our hope is that you will find it useful to help you become better grounded in those teachings and traditions that mark out the path of our journey toward the City to come and the eternal Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Kingdom Catechism

The Nature of the Law of God

Q 1: What is the Law of God?

A 1: The Law of God is God's program, which Jesus fulfilled, for bringing into being a people holy and blameless before Him in love. (Eph. 1.3, 4; Rom. 7.12; Matt. 5.17-19)

Q 2: How does the Law of God make people holy?

A 2: The Law of God does not make people holy; God declares holy those who receive redemption in Jesus Christ by grace through faith. Those thus redeemed and declared holy make progress in actual holiness by following the example of Jesus and obeying the teaching of God's Law. (Eph. 2.8, 9; Rom. 3.21-26; Rom. 3.31; 2 Cor. 7.1; 1 Jn. 2:1-6)

Q 3: How are redeemed people able to make progress in holiness through God's Law?

A 3: God makes His redeemed people holy as His Spirit, dwelling in their hearts, teaches, convicts, and makes them willing and able to obey the Law of God. (Jn. 14.15-17; Jn. 16.13; Jn. 16.8-11; Ezek. 36.26, 27; Phil. 2.12, 13)

Q 4: Of what does the Law of God consist?

A 4: The Law of God consists of commandments, statutes, precepts, rules, and testimonies revealed by God through His servant, Moses. (Deut. 4.4-5.21; Matt. 5.17-19)

Q 5: Are there specific categories of the Law of God?

A 5: The categories of God's Law are the Ten Commandments, the civil laws, and the religious or ceremonial laws. (Ex. 20.1-17; Deut. 5.6-21; Exodus-Deuteronomy)

Q 6: What is the place of the Ten Commandments in the Law of God?

A 6: The Ten Commandments are the constitutional foundation and basis of all the Law of God, and of all the rest of Scripture. (Matt. 22.34-40)

Q 7: What is the place of the civil laws in the Law of God?

A 7: The civil laws, based on the Ten Commandments, guide the redeemed of the Lord in understanding how they must love one

another and work together for justice. (Lev. 18.1-5; Deut. 16.18-20)

Q 8: Are these civil laws still valid today?

A 8: The civil laws of Israel are still valid in principle. Under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and in the grace of the Gospel, the redeemed must labor to understand how the civil laws apply in our day. (1 Cor. 5; 1 Cor. 9.3-12; Jms. 5.1-4)

Q 9: What are the religious or ceremonial laws?

A 9: The religious or ceremonial laws guided ancient Israel in the proper ways of loving and worshiping God; these have passed away with the cessation of the Israelite priesthood and the inauguration of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ. (Heb. 7-10)

The Purpose of the Law of God

Q 10: Why did God give this Law to His people through Moses?

A 10: God gave His Law to His people so that they might love and fear Him, dwell together in the fullness of life and love, and bear witness to the nations. (Deut. 6.4-6; Lev. 18.1-5; Lev. 19.18, 19; Deut. 4.1-8)

Q 11: Were the people of Israel able to fulfill God's purpose for giving them His Law?

A 11: The people of Israel failed to realize the purpose and promise of God's Law because, in the main, they did not have a heart disposed to obey God. (Deut. 5.29; Jer. 31.31, 32; Deut. 30.6-10)

Q 12: Since we cannot obey the Law unto salvation, is the Law of no use?

A 12: Not at all; the Law is useful to show us our sin, point us to Christ, and guide us in the practice of holiness. (Rom. 3.31; Rom. 7.7; Gal. 3.19-26; Rom. 7.12)

Q 13: Which parts of the Law are useful for these purposes?

A 13: All the Law of God, being perfect, sure, right, pure, and true, is useful for God's purposes, but not in the same way. (Ps. 19.4-7; Ps. 119)

Q 14: How are the religious or ceremonial laws useful?

A 14: The religious or ceremonial laws demonstrate the holiness of God and, by foreshadowing Jesus Christ, teach us to find redemption in

Him. In addition, they encode principles of sound worship which remain instructive for us today. (Heb. 7-10)

Q 15: How are the civil laws useful?

A 15: The civil laws provide precepts, principles, cases, and examples to guide us in applying the Ten Commandments to our lives in community. (Ruth 4; 1 Cor. 5, 6, 9)

The Use of the Law of God

Q 16: Of what use are the Ten Commandments?

A 16: The Ten Commandments instruct us in the general principles for practicing love for God and for our neighbors. (Matt. 22.34-40)

Q 17: Are the Ten Commandments of any other use?

A 17: As a guide to love, the Ten Commandments provide direction in interpreting the rest of Scripture and in guiding every aspect of the life of faith. (Matt. 22.34-40; 1 Jn. 5.2, 3; 1 Cor. 7.17-19)

Q 18: How are the Ten Commandments related to Jesus, the Redeemer?

A 19: Jesus fulfilled the Ten Commandments and all the Law of God, by perfectly obeying all that God requires for salvation and eternal life, and by bearing all the wrath of God which the Law threatens those who disobey it. (Matt. 5.17-19; 1 Jn. 5.1-6; Rom. 6.23)

Q 19: What is the promise of the Law of God?

A 19: The promise of the Law of God is that all who walk in obedience to it will know life, peace, joy, and hope, and will evidence the glory of God. (Deut. 19.8-10; Ps. 19.4-7; 2 Cor. 3.12-18)

Q 20: Given the nature, purpose, and promise of the Law, how should the believer regard it?

A 20: The believer must embrace the Law with his whole heart, nurturing love for God's Law, developing understanding of the Law, and delighting in the performance of it. (Rom. 3.31; Rom. 7.12; Ps. 119.112; Ps. 119.97; Ps. 1; Ps. 40.8)

Q 21: How can believers come thus to regard the Law of God?

A 21: Believers learn rightly to regard the Law of God by reading, studying, and meditating in it, hiding the Law of God in their hearts, encouraging one another in the good works it prescribes, walking in the way of love it prescribes, and teaching the Law of

God as foundational to life in the Kingdom of God. (Ps. 1; Ps. 119.9-11; Col. 3.16; Eph. 2.8-10; Heb. 10.24; 1 Jn. 2.1-6; Matt. 5.17-19)

Q 22: Is the Law of God then for believers only?

A 22: No, God has given His Law to be a rule of holiness for all people, and He has written the works of His Law on the hearts of all men to that end. (Rom. 3.19; Rom. 2.14, 15)

Q 23 How does the Law of God benefit nonbelievers?

A 23 The Law of God benefits nonbelievers by protecting them from the harmful effects of sin, teaching them to recognize sin, and causing them to look beyond themselves for righteousness. (Ps. 66.3; Ps. 81.15; Rom. 7.7; Rom. 3.21-31)

Q 24: How do nonbelievers gain these benefits of God's Law?

A 24: Nonbelievers gain these benefits of God's Law when the redeemed of the Lord walk in obedience to the Law and proclaim the teaching of the Law by their lives and words. (Psalm 81.15; Mic. 4.1-5)

Q 25: How does the example of believers benefit nonbelievers?

A 25: Believers who sanctify Christ as Lord and walk according to His Law demonstrate hope and work for justice and righteousness in the world, and thus become a blessing to all nations. (1 Pet. 3.15; 1 Jn. 2.1-6; Mic. 4.1-5; Jer. 29.7; Deut. 16.19, 20; Gen. 12.1-3)

Q 26: How do believers work for justice and righteousness?

A 26: Believers work for justice and righteousness when they walk in obedience to God's Law and strive to realize the standards of God's Law in civil society. (1 Jn. 2.1-6; Dan. 4.27; Matt. 14.1-4)

Q 27: How should believers proclaim the Law of God to nonbelievers?

A 27: Believers proclaim the Law of God as a prelude or precondition for the proclamation of the Gospel. (Matt. 19.16-22; Rom. 3.19-31)

Q 28: Should civil governments then seek to follow the Law of God?

A 28: Because the Law of God brings life and peace, civil governments do well to follow the Law of God. (Dan. 4.27; Matt. 14.1-4; Lev. 18.1-5)

- Q 29: How do civil governments follow the Law of God?
A 29: Civil governments follow the Law of God when they seek the wisdom of God's Law to guide their proceedings and enactments. (Ps. 33.10-12)
- Q 30: Does the obedience of civil governments to God's Law result in salvation?
A 30: Salvation is not by obedience to the Law, but only through Jesus Christ; nevertheless, it is of great benefit to the governed when civil governments follow the counsel of God's Law. (Rom. 3.19-23; Rom. 6.23; Acts 10.1-22; Lk. 7.1-5)
- Q 31: Who is charged with preaching God's Law to nonbelievers?
A 31: All those who have been redeemed are called to be witnesses for Christ and to proclaim His Law to the nations by word and deed. (Acts 1.8; Matt. 28.18-20; Matt. 5.13-19; Mic. 4.1-5)
- Q 32: Is the Law then part of the Gospel?
A 32: The Law is part of the Gospel in that people must acknowledge their sin unto repentance before they can believe the Gospel, and by the Law is the knowledge of sin. (Acts 2.29-38; Rom. 7.7)
- Q 33: How are nonbelievers convicted of sin under the preaching of the Law?
A 33: The Spirit of God convicts those He has chosen to save, so that they recognize and turn from their sins and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord (Jn. 16.8-11; Jn. 1.12)
- Q 34: Does the Law then serve only to convict nonbelievers of their sin?
A 34: The Law convicts nonbelievers of their sin but then it guides them in the path of holiness, righteousness, and goodness. (Rom. 3.31; Rom. 7.12)
- Q 35: How does the Law relate to the salvation of the Lord?
A 35: Through obedience to the Law believers work out their salvation, and all its benefits, by walking in love as Jesus walked (Phil. 2.12, 13; 1 Jn. 2.1-6; 1 Jn. 5.1-3)
- Q 36: How do we as believers learn to work out our salvation in this way?
A 36: As believers we work out their salvation by meditating in God's Law, hiding it – and all God's Word – in our hearts, and living in obedience to its teaching. (Ps. 1; Ps. 119.9-11; Matt. 22.34-40)

Teaching the Law of God

Q 37: Whose duty is it to teach the Law of God?

A 37: The responsibility for teaching the Law of God falls to parents, pastors, and all believers. (Deut. 6. 4-9; Ps. 78.1-8; Col. 3.16; Heb. 10.24)

Q 38: How are parents and pastors to teach the Law of God?

A 38: Parents and pastors teach the Law of God by living according to its precepts, instructing the people of God faithfully and solemnly, and exercising discipline to encourage obedience to the Law and all the Word of God. (Deut. 6.4-9; Psa. 78.1-8; 1 Cor. 5)

Q 39: How do believers teach the Law of God to one another?

A 39: Believers teach the Law of God, and all God's Word, to one another as they hide the Word in their own hearts and teach and admonish one another, stimulating one another by word and deed to love and good works (Col. 3.16; Heb. 10.24)

Q 40: How may believers have confidence that they can learn to walk in God's Law?

A 40: Believers may have confidence in their ability to learn and walk in God's Law because the Spirit of God is at work within them, making them willing and able to obey the Law. (Ezek. 36.26, 27; Phil. 2.12, 13; Eph. 3.20)

Q 41: How does the Spirit teach us to obey God's Law?

A 41: As we read and meditate in God's Law, and listen to faithful teaching, the Spirit of God compares Scripture with Scripture to bring us into the glory of God, where we are convicted, instructed, and empowered to walk in obedience to God's Law. (1 Cor. 2.12, 13; 2 Cor. 3.12-18)

Q 42: How does it become apparent that the Spirit is teaching us the Law of God?

A 42: It becomes apparent that we are learning from God's Spirit as we lay aside old ways of living, and, by the work of God's Spirit, evidence the fruit, gifts, holiness, and power for witness that the Spirit is working to bring forth in us. (Eph. 4.17-24; Gal. 5.22, 23; 1 Cor. 12.7-11; 2 Cor. 7.1; Acts 1.8)

Q 43: What does the Law of God principally teach?

A 43: The Law of God principally teaches men how they must love God and love their neighbors. (Matt. 22.34-30; 1 Jn. 5.1-3)

Q 44: Which parts of the Law of God teach us to love God?

A 44: While all the Law teaches love for God, the first four commandments, together with their precepts, statutes, and rules, most especially teach us how we must love Him. (Ex. 20.1-11; Deut. 5.6-15)

Q 45: Which parts of the Law of God teach us to love our neighbors?

A 45: While all the Law teaches love for our neighbors, the last six commandments, together with their precepts, statutes, and rules, most especially teach us how we must love them (Ex. 20.12-17; Deut. 5.16-21)

The First Commandment

Q 46: What is the first commandment of the Law of God?

A 46: The first commandment is, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." (Ex. 20.2, 3; Deut. 5.6, 7)

Q 47: What is the basis for the first commandment?

A 47: The basis for the first commandment is God's work of redeeming us by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2.8-10; 1 Jn. 3.1-3; 1 Jn. 2.4-6)

Q 48: What is the substance of the first commandment?

A 48: The substance of the first commandment is that we who are possessed by God must possess Him exclusively and unreservedly in love. (Deut. 6.4, 5; Jn. 20.15-19)

Q 49: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the first commandment?

A 49: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the first commandment by pursuing holiness, renouncing all other gods, and exercising faithful stewardship unto the Lord. (Deut. 10.12-22; 2 Cor. 7:1; Deut. 6.13-15; Jn. 14.6; Lev. 25.23, 24; Ps. 24.1; 1 Cor. 4.1-7)

Q 50: How do the redeemed of the Lord pursue holiness?

A 50: The redeemed pursue holiness by fearing the Lord, obeying all His commandments, and serving Him only in all their ways. (Deut. 10.12, 13; Deut. 11.1)

Q 51: How do the redeemed of the Lord renounce all other gods?

A 51: The redeemed renounce all other gods by clinging to Jesus Christ only for their salvation, seeking the glory of God alone in all they do, and doing all things as unto the Lord always. (Jn. 14.6; 1 Cor. 10.31; Col. 3.23, 24)

Q 52: How do the redeemed of the Lord practice faithful stewardship?

A 52: The redeemed practice faithful stewardship by receiving every good gift from God with gratitude, and working diligently with their time, talents, and treasure to return glory to God in all things. (Jms. 1.17; 1 Thess. 5.18; Ps. 90.12; Eph. 5.15-17; 1 Pet. 4.10, 11; Matt. 25.14-30)

Q 53: What promise does God hold out to the redeemed of the Lord in the first commandment?

A 53: In exchange for their obedience to the first commandment the Lord promises to bless His people with good, increase their ranks, bring them to righteousness, and lead them in full and abundant life. (Deut. 10.13; Deut. 6.3, 25; Lev. 18.1-5)

Q 54: What sanction does the Lord threaten for disobeying the first commandment?

A 54: By disobeying the first commandment the redeemed bring upon themselves the displeasure of God, the withholding of blessings, and the threat of divine judgment. (Lev. 20.22-26; Deut. 6.13-15; Deut. 17.2-7; Heb. 10.26, 27)

The Second Commandment

Q 55: What is the second commandment of the Law of God?

A 55: The second commandment is, “You shall not make for yourself a carved image.” (Ex. 20.4; Deut. 5.8)

Q 56: What is the basis for the second commandment?

A 56: The basis for the second commandment is the Lord alone being God, it is an abomination and profaning of His Name to acknowledge other gods in any way; moreover, the Lord is extremely jealous for the love of His people. (1 Cor. 8.4; Deut. 18.9-12; Lev. 20.1-5; Ex. 20.5; Deut. 5.9)

- Q 57: What is the substance of the second commandment?
A 57: The substance of the second commandment is that the redeemed must worship God according to His Word, and keep themselves from all objects of pagan devotion and every pagan practice. (Deut. 12.29-31; Lev. 19.4; Deut. 18.9-13)
- Q 58: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the second commandment?
A 58: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the second commandment by worshipping God according to all His Word and following Him in all His ways. (Deut. 12.29-31; Deut. 13.1-4)
- Q 59: How shall the redeemed of the Lord worship Him?
A 59: The redeemed worship the Lord when they honor and adore Him in love, according to all His precepts and statutes, and free of every unbelieving practice or any practice not specifically taught in God's Word. (Deut. 13.1-3; Deut. 12.29-31; Deut. 18.9-13)
- Q 60: How do the redeemed of the Lord keep themselves from pagan devotions?
A 60: The redeemed keep themselves from pagan devotions by refusing to incorporate in their worship anything not explicitly taught in the Word of God and by maintaining their worship pure of all pagan influences. (Deut. 12.29-31; Deut. 12.2-4; Ex. 23.24; Deut. 18.9-13)
- Q 61: How do the redeemed of the Lord follow Him in all His ways?
A 61: The redeemed follow the Lord in all His ways by laying aside every pagan practice, maintaining vigilance over their souls, and obeying all the will of God according to His Word. (Deut. 12.2-4; Deut. 12.29-31; Eph. 4.17-24; Deut. 12.29, 30; Deut. 13.12-15; Eph. 5.15-17; Deut. 13.1-4)
- Q 62: What promise does God hold out for His people in the second commandment?
A 62: In exchange for their obedience to the second commandment God promises to show His steadfast love to His people, to account them blameless before Him, and to keep them and their communities free of abominable wickedness. (Ex. 20.6; Deut. 5.10; Deut. 18.9-13; Deut. 13.11)

- Q 63: What sanction does the Lord threaten for disobeying the second commandment?
- A 63: By disobeying the second commandment the redeemed bring upon themselves the displeasure of the Lord, His judgment against their sins, and the threat of their being cut off from fellowship from Him and His Body. (Lev. 20.1-5; Ex. 20.5; Deut. 5.9; 2.7-11; Deut. 13.6-11; Lev. 20.1-5; Deut. 18.9-13)

The Third Commandment

- Q 64: What is the third commandment of the Law of God?
- A 64: The third commandment is, "You shall not take the Name of the LORD your God in vain." (Ex. 20.7; Deut. 5.11)
- Q 65: What is the basis for the third commandment?
- A 65: The basis for the third commandment is God's having bound Himself to His people in a covenant of grace and promise, setting His Name upon them and making them His own. (Ex. 20.1; Jer. 31.31-34; 2 Cor. 1:20; Eph. 3.14-19; Acts 11.26)
- Q 66: What is the substance of the third commandment?
- A 66: The substance of third commandment is that, God having placed His Name upon them, His people must take care to bear that Name according to God's purposes and will. (Deut. 10.12-22; Lev. 18.1-5)
- Q 67: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the third commandment?
- A 67: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the third commandment by walking in all the ways of God, taking care not to profane His Name, and fulfilling all their vows. (Lev. 24.15, 16; Num. 30.1, 2; Eccl. 5.1-7)
- Q 68: How do the redeemed of the Lord walk in all the ways of the Lord?
- A 68: The redeemed of the Lord walk in all His ways by laying aside every sinful practice and putting on the righteousness of the Lord by obedience to all His Word. (Lev. 18.1-5; Eph. 4.17-24)
- Q 69: How do the redeemed of the Lord take care not to profane His Name?
- A 69: The redeemed of the Lord take care not to profane His Name by refusing to swear falsely, maintaining a careful self-watch in all their ways, resisting the devil and all temptation, and turning their feet

to the Word of the Lord. (Lev. 19.12; Prov. 4.20-27; Jms. 4.7; 1 Cor. 10.13; Ps. 119.59, 60)

Q 70: How do the redeemed of the Lord fulfill all their vows?

A 70: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill their vows by vowing only what they intend to fulfill and exercising diligence in carrying out all that they have sworn. (Eccl. 5.1-7; Matt. 5.33-37)

Q 71: What promise does the Lord hold out to the redeemed in the third commandment?

A 71: In exchange for their obedience to the third commandment the Lord promises to hold His people guiltless and thus to continue with them in all their ways. (Ex. 20.7; Deut. 5.11; Matt. 28.18-20; Heb. 13.5)

Q 72: What sanction does the Lord threaten for disobeying the third commandment?

A 72: The Lord threatens that He will continue to hold guilty, and thus subject to discipline, all those who take His Name in vain. (Ex. 20.7; Deut. 5.11; Ps. 66.18; Heb. 12.3-11)

The Fourth Commandment

Q 73: What is the fourth commandment?

A 73: The fourth commandment is, “You shall keep and observe the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy.” (Ex. 2.8; Deut. 5.12)

Q 74: What is the basis for the fourth commandment?

A 74: The basis for the fourth commandment is God’s having rested on the seventh day, and His having redeemed His people from slavery in sin. (Ex. 2.8; Deut. 5.12)

Q 75: What is the substance of the fourth commandment?

A 75: The substance of the fourth commandment is that God’s people are to preserve special days and seasons of rest and worship before Him. (Ex. 31.12-14; Acts 20.7; Rev. 1.10)

Q 76: How do the redeemed of the Lord fulfill the fourth commandment?

A 76: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the fourth commandment by resting from their weekly occupations, observing holy convocations, and celebrating seasons of commemoration to the Lord. (Is. 58.13, 14; Lev. 23.3; Lev.23.4-6, 14-17)

Q 77: How do the redeemed of the Lord rest from their weekly occupations?

A 77: The redeemed of the Lord rest from their weekly occupations by ceasing from their normal work and pleasures so that they may the better delight in the Lord on His appointed day. (Is. 58.13, 14; Ex. 20.9, 10; Deut. 5.12, 14)

Q 78: How do the redeemed of the Lord observe holy convocations?

A 78: The redeemed of the Lord observe holy convocations by gathering on the first day of the week, according to the instruction of the Lord, to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. (Acts 20.7; Ps. 50.1-15; Jn. 4.24)

Q 79: How do the redeemed of the Lord celebrate seasons of commemoration unto Him?

A 79: The redeemed of the Lord celebrate seasons of commemoration unto Him when, by agreement to the call of their leaders, they unite in special activities to remember the redemption and goodness of the Lord. (Lev. 23.4-6, 14-17; Est. 9.20-32; Acts 20.16, 21.17-26)

Q 80: What promise does the Lord hold out in the fourth commandment?

A 80: In exchange for obedience to the fourth commandment, the Lord promises to bless and sanctify His people to Him forever. (Ex. 20.8-11; Deut. 5.12-15)

Q 81: What sanction does the Lord threaten for disobeying the fourth commandment?

A 81: The Lord threatens that He will cut off from His people any who violate the fourth commandment. (Ex. 31.14)

The Fifth Commandment

Q 82: What is the fifth commandment?

A 82: The fifth commandment is, "Honor your father and your mother." (Ex. 20.12; Deut. 5.16)

Q 83: What is the basis for the fifth commandment?

A 83: The basis for the fifth commandment is that the family is the first institution of human social order, parents being responsible to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Gen. 2.18-25; Deut. 6.4-7; Eph. 6.1-4).

- Q 84: What is the substance of the fifth commandment?
- A 84: The substance of the fifth commandment is that the redeemed of the Lord must give all proper deference, honor, and obedience to all men and creatures, according to the order of the Lord. (Gen. 1.26-28; Ps. 8; Ps. 115.16; Rom. 13.1-5)
- Q 85: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the fifth commandment?
- A 85: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the fifth commandment by honoring their parents and all proper authorities, giving others the respect which is their due, and exercising stewardship over the creation. (Lev. 19.3, Deut. 18.15-20; Ex. 22.28; Ps. 8)
- Q 86: How do the redeemed of the Lord honor their parents and all proper authorities?
- A 86: The redeemed of the Lord honor their parents and all proper authorities by revering, respecting, and obeying them according to the all the teaching of God's Word. (Lev. 20.9; Deut. 18.15; Deut. 17.8-11; Deut. 17.18-20)
- Q 87: How do the redeemed of the Lord give others the respect which is their due?
- A 87: The redeemed of the Lord give others the respect which is their due by seeking justice in all matters, honoring the integrity of all men, and loving their neighbors as themselves. (Deut. 16.20; Deut. 24.10-13; Matt. 22.34-40)
- Q 88: How do the redeemed of the Lord exercise stewardship over the creation?
- A 88: The redeemed of the Lord exercise stewardship over the creation by conserving and developing all the gifts of God and using all things for His glory in building the Church. (Ps. 24.1; Ps. 8; Deut. 22.6, 7; Ps. 119.89-91; 1 Cor. 10.31; Eph. 1.22, 23)
- Q 89: What promise does the Lord hold out to the redeemed in the fifth commandment?
- A 89: In exchange for their obedience to the fifth commandment the Lord promises that their days will be long and that it will go well with them according to the promises of the Lord in Jesus Christ. (Deut. 5.16; Gen. 12.1-3; 2 Cor. 1.20; Phil. 4.19)

Q 90: What sanction does the Lord threaten in the fifth commandment?

A 90: The Lord threatens that those who disobey the fifth commandment shall come under the judgment of God, even to the point of being separated from the community of the redeemed. (Deut. 18.19; Deut. 17.10-13).

The Sixth Commandment

Q 91: What is the sixth commandment?

A 91: The sixth commandment is, "You shall not murder." (Ex. 20.13; Deut. 5.17)

Q 92: What is the basis for the sixth commandment?

A 92: The basis for the sixth commandment is that men are the image-bearers of God, and God alone is the Lord of life. (Gen. 9.6; Ps. 104.29, 30)

Q 93: What is the substance of the sixth commandment?

A 93: The substance of the sixth commandment is that men must neither hate nor harm their neighbors but rather do everything in their power to uphold their wellbeing. (Lev. 19.17, 18; Ex. 21.20, 21; Deut. 22.8)

Q 94: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the sixth commandment?

A 94: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the sixth commandment by refraining from hatred and grudges, enforcing justice against all murderers, and protecting and caring for their neighbors. (Lev. 19.17, 18; Lev. 24.17; Ex. 21.28-31; Deut. 24.6)

Q 95: How do the redeemed of the Lord refrain from hatred and grudges?

A 95: The redeemed of the Lord refrain from hatred and grudges by giving thanks and rejoicing in the midst of all trials and turning the other cheek against those who offend. (1 Thess. 5.18; Jms. 1.2-4; Matt. 5.38-45)

Q 96: How do the redeemed of the Lord enforce justice against all murderers?

A 96: The redeemed of the Lord enforce justice against all murderers by exposing and confronting all violations of the sixth commandment and calling upon ecclesiastical and civil authorities to judge

righteous judgment according to their particular spheres. (2 Sam. 12.1-15; Matt. 18.15-20; Rom. 13.1-4; 1 Cor. 5)

Q 97: How do the redeemed of the Lord protect and care for their neighbors?

A 97: The redeemed of the Lord protect and care for their neighbors by carefully considering their interests and concerns, guarding against any actions which might bring them undue harm, and going beyond what may be required to love their neighbors as themselves. (Deut. 19.1-10; Deut. 24.6; Deut. 22.8; Matt. 5.38-42)

Q 98: What does the Lord promise in the sixth commandment?

A 98: In exchange for obedience to the fifth commandment the Lord promises that it will be well with His people and they shall be like their Father, Who is in heaven. (Deut. 19.11-13; Matt. 5.43-48)

Q 99: What sanction does the Lord threaten in the sixth commandment?

A 99: The Lord threatens that those who disobey the sixth commandment shall come under His wrath and be liable to judgment from ecclesiastical and civil authorities. (Deut. 19.11-13; Rom. 13.1-4; 1 Cor. 5)

The Seventh Commandment

Q 100: What is the seventh commandment?

A 100: The seventh commandment is, "You shall not commit adultery." (Ex. 20.14; Deut. 5.18)

Q 101: What is the basis for the seventh commandment?

A 101: The basis for the seventh commandment is that the marriage relationship alone is the proper context for human sexual relations. (Gen. 2.24, 25; Heb. 13.4)

Q 102: What is the substance of the seventh commandment?

A 102: The substance of the seventh commandment is that men must refrain from all illicit sexual relations and activities. (Lev. 18.6-18; Lev. 18.20; Ex. 22.16, 17; Lev. 20.13; Lev. 18.23)

Q 103: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the seventh commandment?

A 103: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the seventh commandment by guarding against all lust and voyeurism, keeping the marriage bed holy, and enforcing God's justice against all adultery. (Matt. 5.27,

28; Lev. 18.6-18; Lev. 20.10; Ex. 22.16, 17; Lev. 20.13; Lev. 18.23; 1 Cor. 5)

Q 104: How do the redeemed of the Lord guard against all lust and voyeurism?

A 104: The redeemed of the Lord guard against all lust and voyeurism by refusing to look on others in an unlawful manner, or to look on unclean things, and by concentrating their thoughts only on what is honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise, especially the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 101.2, 3; Phil. 4.8; Ps. 27.4)

Q 105: How do the redeemed of the Lord keep the marriage bed holy?

A 105: The redeemed of the Lord keep the marriage bed holy by each partner in the marriage fulfilling his or her marital obligations and by concentrating all their sexual affections on their marriage partner. (1 Cor. 7.1-5; Prov. 5.7-19)

Q 106: How do the redeemed of the Lord enforce God's justice against all adultery?

A 106: The redeemed of the Lord enforce God's justice against adultery by practicing modesty and chastity, reserving sexual relations for marriage, disciplining all sexual offenses, and regulating divorce according to the teaching of God's Word. (Lev. 18.6-18; Heb.13.4; 1 Cor. 5; Matt. 19.1-9; 1 Cor. 7.12-15)

Q 107: What promise does the Lord hold out for the redeemed in the seventh commandment?

A 107: In exchange for their obedience to the seventh commandment the Lord promises to protect His people from evil and all depravity and abomination. (Deut. 22.22; Lev. 20.14; Lev. 19.29; Lev. 18.22; Lev. 20.13; Deut. 24.1-4)

Q 108: What sanction does the Lord threaten in the seventh commandment?

A 108: The Lord threatens that those who disobey the seventh commandment shall come under the judgment of God, even to the point of being separated from the believing community. (Lev. 20.19, 21; 1 Cor. 5)

The Eighth Commandment

Q 109: What is the eighth commandment?

A 109: The eighth commandment is, “You shall not steal.”(Ex. 20.15; Deut. 5.19)

Q 110: What is the basis for the eighth commandment?

A 110: The basis for the eighth commandment is that the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, and men are called to be stewards unto the Lord over all that has been entrusted to them. (Ps. 24.1; Matt. 25.14-30)

Q 111: What is the substance of the eighth commandment?

A 111: The substance of the eighth commandment is that men must respect the property of others as such, in order to allow their neighbors to fulfill their stewardship obligations before the Lord. (Ex. 22.5, 6; Deut. 22.1-4; Deut. 24.14, 15; Ex. 22.10-13; Deut. 15.7, 8)

Q 112: How do they who have been redeemed fulfill the eighth commandment?

A 112: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the eighth commandment by honoring all men’s persons and property as their proper stewardship from the Lord, providing generously for those in need, and waging just war against enemies. (Ex. 22.5, 6; Deut. 22.1-4; Num. 27.8-11; Ex. 21.18, 19; Deut. 24.14, 15; Ex. 21.6; Deut. 15.11; Deut. 20.1-9)

Q 113: How do the redeemed of the Lord honor all men’s persons and property?

A 113: The redeemed of the Lord honor the persons and property of men by taking care not to harm or otherwise act unjustly toward them or their possessions. (Lev. 19.14; Deut. 22.1-4; Ex. 21.35, 36; Ex. 21.18, 19; Ex. 21.16)

Q 114: How do the redeemed of the Lord provide generously for those in need?

A 114: The redeemed of the Lord provide generously for those in need by giving of their resources, providing opportunities for work, and not charging interest on loans between members of the community of faith. (Deut. 15.11; Lev. 19.33, 34; Lev. 19.9, 10; Deut. 23.19, 20)

Q 115: How do the redeemed of the Lord wage just war against enemies?

A 115: The redeemed of the Lord wage just war against enemies by employing all spiritual weapons against the enemies of our soul and

supporting the state as it bears the sword against evildoers. (Eph. 6.10-20; 2 Cor. 10.3-5; Rom. 13.1-4; Deut. 20.1-18)

Q 116: What does the Lord promise in the eighth commandment?

A 116: In exchange for obedience to the eighth commandment the Lord promises to maintain justice, righteousness, peace, and the blessings of His covenant among those who obey His Law. (Deut. 24.7; Deut. 24.17, 18; Deut. 15.9, 10; Deut. 20.1-18)

Q 117: What sanction does the Lord threaten in the eighth commandment?

A 117: The Lord threatens that those who disobey the eighth commandment shall be liable for restitution, restoration, retribution, and other judgments at the hands of those whom the Lord appoints. (Ex. 22.5-13, 21-24)

The Ninth Commandment

Q 118: What is the ninth commandment?

A 118: The ninth commandment is, “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Ex. 20.16; Deut. 5.20)

Q 119: What is the basis for the ninth commandment?

A 119: The basis for the ninth commandment is, God being Truth, and Truth being that which sets men free from the bondage of sin, we must ever live and speak the Truth in love to all men. (Jn. 14.6; Jn. 8.32; Eph. 4.15)

Q 120: What is the substance of the ninth commandment?

A 120: The substance of the ninth commandment is that we must ever live and speak truthfully to God and to our neighbors, always seeking to be faithful and just in all matters. (Deut. 6.16-19; Lev. 19.11; Lev. 19.15, 16)

Q 121: How do the redeemed of the Lord fulfill the ninth commandment?

A 121: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the ninth commandment by diligently guarding our words and ways with God and our neighbors, and by doing justice at law. (Deut. 6.16-19; Lev. 19.11; Lev. 19.15, 16)

Q 122: How do the redeemed of the Lord guard their words and ways with God?

A 122: The redeemed of the Lord guard their words and ways with God by keeping all His Word, turning away from all contrary ways, and fulfilling their vows to the Lord. (Lev. 18.24-30; Deut. 23.21-23; Eccl. 5.4, 6)

Q 123: How do the redeemed of the Lord guard their words and ways with their neighbors?

A 123: The redeemed of the Lord guard their words and ways with their neighbors by eschewing all dishonesty, deceit, and lying, fulfilling all lawful agreements, and refusing to be a party to spreading lies. (Deut. 25.13-16; Lev. 6.1-5; Lev. 19.11; Ex. 23.1)

Q 124: How do the redeemed of the Lord do justice at law?

A 124: The redeemed of the Lord do justice at law by honoring and obeying lawful authorities, applying fair and impartial standards of judgment, and serving truthfully when required to give testimony or stand in judgment. (Lev. 19.15, 16; Lev. 19.35, 36; Deut. 19.15-21; Lev. 5.1)

Q 125: What does the Lord promise in the ninth commandment?

A 125: In exchange for obedience to the ninth commandment the Lord promises to dwell in the midst of His people, restrain evil among them, and grant them to know the full measure of His covenant blessings. (Num. 35.30-34; Deut. 19.15-21; Deut. 6.16-19)

Q 126: What sanction does the Lord threaten in the ninth commandment?

A 126: The Lord threatens that those who disobey the ninth commandment shall bring uncleanness and impurity on their community and thus become an abomination in the sight of the Lord. (Lev. 18.24-30; Deut. 25.13-16)

The Tenth Commandment

Q 127: What is the tenth commandment?

A 127: The tenth commandment is, “You shall not covet.” (Ex. 20.17; Deut. 5.21)

Q 128: What is the basis for the tenth commandment?

A 128: The basis for the tenth commandment is that God is Lord over all created things, and dispenses them according to His good pleasure, and that He alone is sufficient for all our needs. (Ps. 24.1; Eph. 1.11; Matt. 6.32; Phil. 4.19)

Q 129: What is the substance of the tenth commandment?

A 129: The substance of the tenth commandment is that we must receive with thanksgiving and contentment whatever it pleases God to distribute to us or bestow upon us. (1 Tim. 6.6-8; Eccl. 7.14; Eccl. 2.24, 25; Phil. 4.6, 7, 11, 12)

Q 130: How do the redeemed of the Lord fulfill the tenth commandment?

A 130: The redeemed of the Lord fulfill the tenth commandment by guarding against all covetousness, being content in all things, and finding all their sufficiency from the Lord. (Lk. 12.15; 1 Tim. 6.6-8; Ps. 16.1, 2; Ps. 73.25)

Q 131: How do the redeemed of the Lord guard against all covetousness?

A 131: The redeemed of the Lord guard against all covetousness by understanding the teaching of God's Word concerning coveting, learning from the examples of their forebears, submitting to the searching of God's Spirit, and encouraging one another in contentedness. (Rom. 7.7; Rom. 15.4; Ps. 139.23, 24; Jn. 116.8-11; Heb. 13.5)

Q 132: How do the redeemed of the Lord learn to be content in all things?

A 132: The redeemed of the Lord learn to be content by receiving everything from God with thanksgiving, rejoicing even in their trials, and seeking above all else to find their sufficiency in the Lord Jesus. (Phil. 4.6, 7; 1 Thess. 5.18; Jms. 1.2-4; Ps. 27.4; Phil. 4.19)

Q 133: How do the redeemed of the Lord find all their sufficiency from the Lord?

A 133: The redeemed of the Lord find all their sufficiency from the Lord by seeking Him early and earnestly, walking in all His ways, and looking to Him only to meet their every need. (Ps. 63.1; Ps. 105.4; Deut. 10.12, 13; Phil. 4.19; Jms. 1.17)

Q 134: What does the Lord promise in the tenth commandment?

A 134: In exchange for obedience to the tenth commandment the Lord promises to grant His peace, to accomplish all His good purposes, and to satisfy His people with Himself. (Phil. 4.6, 7; Deut. 10.12, 13; Phil. 4.19)

Q 135: What sanction does the Lord threaten in the tenth commandment?

A 135: The Lord threatens that those who disobey the tenth commandment will be guilty of all transgression, will forfeit the good blessings of the Lord, and will expose themselves to all evil. (Jms. 2.10; Deut. 10,12, 13; 1 Tim. 6.6-8)

The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Fellowship of Ailbe is a spiritual fellowship in the Celtic Christian tradition. Our goal is to promote revival, renewal, and awakening, following the teaching of Scripture and the example and heritage of our forebears in the faith.

The Fellowship of Ailbe offers many opportunities for training, prayer, personal growth, and ministry. Visit our website at www.ailbe.org to learn more.

We hope you found this resource helpful. If so, please consider making a gift to The Fellowship. You can contribute to our ministry by using the contribute button at the website, or by sending your gift to The Fellowship of Ailbe, 360 Zephyr Road, Williston, VT 05495.

Thank you.