

A Pastoral Catechism in 2012
(Assuming the Westminster Standards)
Bob Drake 12/30/12

1. Q. **What is the basic theme of the Bible?**
A. The basic theme of the Bible is creation, fall, and redemption. (cf. Genesis 1—3)

2. Q. **What is God's relationship to you?**
A. God is my creator: I come from him, belong to him, am to be like him, and therefore am responsible to him. God is my judge: he will hold me responsible. God is my redeemer: In grace he will bear that responsibility for me. (cf. Hebrews 12:22-24)

3. Q. **Who are you?**
A. I am image of God with great dignity. I am a sinner against my God and my own created dignity. But God has made me a new creation by uniting me to the death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. In that union my fixed status as justified by faith in the sight of God (which includes forgiveness) is inseparable from my progressive sanctification into conformity to the likeness of Christ, a conformity which will be complete when I enter into his presence at death or at his second coming. (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

4. Q. **What does Christ call you to do every day?**
A. Christ calls me daily to deny myself in order to find my self, pray, encourage others, and avoid anxiety about tomorrow. It is his call which enables me to respond. (cf. Luke 9:23-24; Matthew 6:9-13, 34; Hebrews 3:13; Matthew 14:28)

5. Q. **What do you want out of life?**
A. My expectation and hope for this life is that Christ will be glorified in my body whether by life or by death, for to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (cf. Philippians 1:18-21)

6. Q. **Why does God continue to give you life?**
A. God continues to give me life that I might be for the progress and the joy of the faith of others. (cf. Philippians 1:25)

7. Q. **Why has God established the church?**
A. God's establishment of the church of Jesus Christ necessarily results from more than one person being united with Christ, because a person's union with Christ also unites that person to others in union with him as members of one body. This church is needful for me because of my sin, weakness, and misunderstandings, and it is needful for others for the same reasons. (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Hebrews 10:23-25)

8. Q. **What is fellowship?**
A. Fellowship is my sharing Christ in common with others, and because of sharing

Christ also sharing in common suffering, righteousness, gospel ministry, and material possessions. (cf. 1 John 1:3, 6-7; Philippians 1:7; 4:15)

9. Q. **What is love?**

A. Love is giving without the expectation or need for receiving. My love, in imitation of God, imputes to others right standing with me and then works on improving our relationships. (cf. 1 Corinthians 13)