

# CATECHIZING

Mark Minnick (Whetstone Conference, 2018)

## What is catechizing?

1. *The derivation of catechize is the verb, **katecheo** (κατηχέω).*

Luke 1:4 . . . so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been **taught** (catechized).

Acts 18:25 This man had been **instructed** (catechized) in the way of the Lord.

Romans 2:18 . . . and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being **instructed** (catechized) out of the Law.

2. *The instruction of catechizing is chiefly \_\_\_\_\_.*
  1. A catechist \_\_\_\_\_ the instruction, not just \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  2. A catechumen \_\_\_\_\_ the instruction, not just \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  3. And the catechumen \_\_\_\_\_ the instruction \_\_\_\_\_, rather than in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. *The contents of catechizing are the \_\_\_\_\_ of Bible belief and behavior.*
4. *The form of catechizing became “\_\_\_\_\_.”*

### **CATECHIZING**

Teaching the \_\_\_\_\_ of theology  
through the \_\_\_\_\_ interchange of  
\_\_\_\_\_.

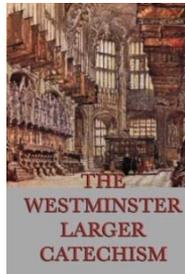
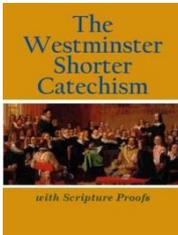
**Question:** What would be some of the advantages?

**Advantages:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## *Who has catechized?*

1. *The early church after the completion of the New Testament.*
2. *The \_\_\_\_\_.*
3. *Reformed churches (German, Dutch, and others).*
4. *The \_\_\_\_\_ (largely Presbyterians & Congregationalists).*



5. *The Baptists.*

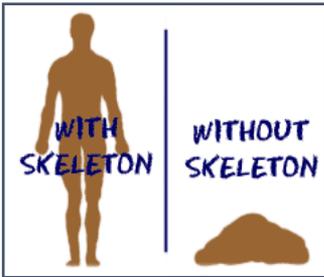


**(Quot:** C. H. Spurgeon introduced his catechism saying, *I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times, and therefore I have compiled this little manual from the Westminster Assembly's and Baptist Catechisms, for the use of my own church and congregation. Those who use it in their families or classes must labour to explain the sense; but the words should be carefully learned by heart, for they will be understood better as years pass.*<sup>1)</sup>

## 6. *The Methodists*

(**Quot:** John Wesley published a revision of the *Shorter Catechism*. He described his own approach to catechizing in a letter to another minister. *Our general method of catechising, is this; a young gentleman who came with me, teaches between thirty and forty children, to read, write and last [sic] accounts. Before school in the morning, and after school in the afternoon, he catechises the lowest class, and endeavors to fix something of what was said in their understandings, as well as in their memories. In the evening he instructs the larger children; On Saturday in the afternoon I catechise them all. The same I do on Sunday before the evening service: and in the church immediately after the second lesson, a select number of them having repeated the catechism, and been examined in some part of it, I endeavor to explain at large, and enforce that part, both on them and the congregation.*<sup>ii)</sup>)

### *Why catechize?*

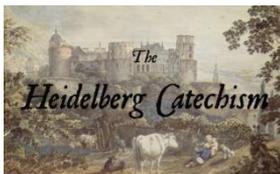


(**Exp:** In the human body there are billions of cells, thousands of tendons, over 900 ligaments (which hold bones together), and 640 muscles. But there are only 206 bones. What's the unique function of these relatively few bones? To \_\_\_\_\_ all those other body parts and to keep them in their proper \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.)

### 1. *Catechizing introduces the Bible's basic theology in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.*

(**Illus:** The Bible contains 66 books, with 1189 chapters and 31,102 verses. The *Heidelberg Catechism* introduces its basic theology with just 129 "bones." The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* with just 107.)

### 2. *Catechizing progresses through that skeleton \_\_\_\_\_.*



Questions 1-2	Introductory
Questions 3-11	Man's Misery
Questions 12-85	Man's Deliverance
Questions 86-129	Man's Response



Questions 1-11  
 Questions 12-19  
 Questions 20-38  
 Questions 39-84  
 Questions 85-87  
 Questions 88-107

God  
 Humanity  
 Redemption  
 Law  
 Faith alone  
 Means of grace

3. *Catechizing defines or explains the bones individually/\_\_\_\_\_.*



4. *Catechizing contributes to our fulfilling the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**(Quot:** John Boyes entitled his early 17<sup>th</sup> century catechism, *The Christian's hornbook or ABC. In forty questions and answers, containing principles necessary to be known for holy hearing, blessed believing, powerful praying, right receiving, well doing and dying, and life everlasting.*<sup>iii)</sup>)

5. *Catechizing drills these things into our \_\_\_\_\_.*

\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you (II Timothy 1:13).

6. *Catechizing prepares us to defend the Faith (I Pet. 3:15).*

... always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you . . . (I Peter 3:15).

7. *Catechizing equips parents to teach in orderly theological arrangement.*

a. \_\_\_\_\_ conversation.



b. Planned, \_\_\_\_\_ instruction.



8. *Catechizing provides parents and children a natural opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_.*

9. *Catechizing can ground an entire church relatively \_\_\_\_\_.*

10. *Catechizing wonderfully assists \_\_\_\_\_.*

***... so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been catechized (Luke 1:4).***



**(Quot:** Matthew Henry encouraged the young people of another pastor's congregation, that by learning a catechism *you will become better able to understand the word preached and more capable of profiting from it. . . Catechising does to the preaching of the word the same good office that John [the] Baptist did to our Savior; it prepares the way and makes its paths straight.*<sup>iv</sup>)

<sup>i</sup> As quoted by Tom Nettles. See his annotated bibliography of historic Baptist catechisms, at <http://www.reformedreader.org/cc/bcat.htm>.

<sup>ii</sup> As quoted by John Whitehead, *The Life of the Rev. John Wesley* (London: Stephen Couchman, 1793), 302.

<sup>iii</sup> Quoted by Ian Green, *The Christian's ABC: Catechisms and Catechizing in England c. 1530-1740* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), title page.

<sup>iv</sup> "A Sermon Concerning the Catechising of Youth," *The Complete Works of Matthew Henry* (1855, rpt. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997), vol. 2, 163.