

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
_____.

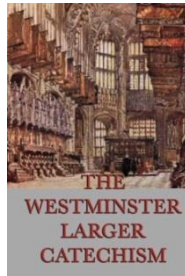
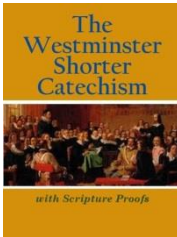
Question: What would be some of the advantages?

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.*

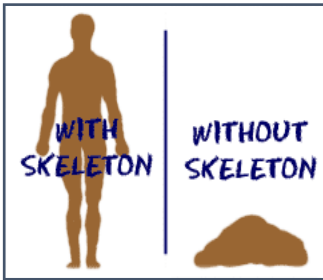


(Quot: C. H. Spurgeon introduced his catechism saying, *I am persuaded that the use of a good Catechism in all our families will be a great safeguard against the increasing errors of the times, and therefore I have compiled this little manual from the Westminster Assembly's and Baptist Catechisms, for 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.*¹⁾

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.*ⁱⁱ⁾)

Why catechize?

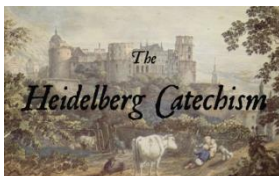


(**Exp:** In the human body there are billions of cells, thousands of tendons, over 900 ligaments (which hold bones together), and 640 muscles. But there are only 206 bones. What's the unique function of these relatively few bones? To _____ all those other body parts and to keep them in their proper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

Questions 3-11

Questions 12-85

Questions 86-129

Introductory

Man's Misery

Man's Deliverance

Man's Response



Questions 1-11	God
Questions 12-19	Humanity
Questions 20-38	Redemption
Questions 39-84	Law
Questions 85-87	Faith alone
Questions 88-107	Means of grace

3. *Catechizing defines or explains the bones individually/_____.*



4. *Catechizing contributes to our fulfilling the _____.*

(Quot: John Boyes entitled his early 17th 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.*ⁱⁱⁱ⁾)

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.*^{iv})

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

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

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

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