


1760

45: Catechism "composed and written" by William Dunbar, 1760s

William Dunbar

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Doverland

God's nature - Attributes - and Creation.

1 Q. What is the Bible?

A. The Bible is God's book.

2 Q. What's in the Bible?

A. All that God wants us to know.

3 Q. What does the Bible say about God?

A. It says that God is a Spirit.

4 Q. Can you see God?

A. No. We can't see a Spirit. But God can see us.

5 Q. What else does the Bible say about God?

A. That he knows all things, and can do all things.

6 Q. Where is God?

A. In Heaven.

7 Q. Where else is God?

A. He is every where. He is in this room.

8 Q. Can God see in dark night?

A. Yes, just as well as in day light.

9 Q. Can you hide any thing from God?

A. No: and he knows what I am think-
-ing about.

10 Q. Who made you?

A. God.

11 Q. Out of what?

A. Out of dust.

12 Q. What else did God make?

A. The whole world - & the Sun - moon & stars.

13 Q. Did God make every ^{thing} that is alive,
and every thing that grows?

A. Yes; He made every body; and all the
herbs, & cattle, & eggs, & birds, & fish,
and creeping things; and all the trees,
& plants, & grass, & corn, & every thing else.

14 Q. Do you love to eat, & drink, and
sleep and play?

A. Yes. —

15 Q. And who made ^{you} so that you can
take pleasure in all these things?

A. God.

16 Q. Who keeps you alive every day, and
every night?

A. God; if He did not take care of
me every minute, I sh^d. die directly.

17 Q. What ought ^{you} to do for all God's
goodness to you?

A. I ought to thank him & love him ev-
ery day, & try to please him in every way.

18 Q.

The Law.

18 Q. How can you please God?

A. By obeying his commands.

19 Q. What does the Bible say about keep-
ing God's commandments.

A. If we love God, we will keep his com-
mandments.

20 Q. What does God command you to do?

A. To do my duty to God & man. —

21 Q. What do you mean by your duty?

A. Any thing I ought to do.

22 Q. What is your duty to God?

A. To love him with all my heart, to keep holy the Sab. day, & never
to take his name in vain.

23 Q. How can you show that you love God?

A. By keeping his commandments.

24 Q. What do you mean by keeping holy the Sab. day?

A. To do no work on that day, unless we can't help it,
to think about God - to learn Catechism, & to go to
Church if we can.

25 Q. What do people go to Church for?

A. To learn what God wants us to do - to pray to him
to forgive our sins - & to sing to his praise.

26 Q. What do you mean by never taking God's name in vain?

A. Never to talk about God in a trifling way
and never to swear by His name.

27 Q. Does God allow people to swear by any
thing else?

A. No; we must never swear by God's name
nor any thing else. We must always just
say yes & no.

28 Q. What is your duty to man?

A. To obey my parents & my superiors, & to
love all my neighbors as well as I
do myself. —

29 Q. Who are your neighbors?

A. Every body.

30 Q. How must you love them as well as yourself?

A. I must be kind to 'em all - never be angry with them - nor steal from them - nor tell lies on them - nor count any thing that belongs to them.

Heaven & Hell.

31 Q. What does the Bible call the people who try to obey God's commands?

A. The righteous - or good people - or the Children of God.

32 Q. What does it call the people who don't try to obey them?

A. The wicked - or bad people, or the Children of the Devil.

33 Q. Where will the good people go, when they die?

A. To Heaven.

34 Q. Where will the bad people go?

A. To Hell.

35 Q. What sort of place is Heaven?

A. A happy place, where the righteous have pleasure forever & ever.

36 Q. What sort of place is Hell?

A. A bad place, where the wicked burn forever & ever. -

37 Q. What must you do, if you want to go to Heaven, & keep out of Hell?

A. I must obey God's commands.

Salvation - J. Christ

38 Q. Don't haven't you sinned against God already?

A. Yes; I have often sinned against God?

39 Q. What do you mean by sinning against God?

A. To sin against God, is to do any thing he forbids me, or not to do any thing he commands me.

40 Q. Does the Bible you can be saved ^{say} - for you have sinned against God?

A. Yes; It says that Jesus Christ can save me; He is the Saviour of Sinners.

41 Q. What does this show you?

A. The mercy & goodness of God.

42 Q. Who is Jesus Christ?

A. He is God's own Son.

43 Q. What did he do to save sinners?

A. He pleased God, by obeying his laws, in our place.

44 Q. What did he suffer to save sinners?

A. He suffered a cruel death, to satisfy God for our sins. -

45 Q. Where is Christ's throne?

A. He is above heaven, & goes to heaven to receive a place for all that love God, & love his Son Jesus.

46 Q. What do you mean by evening 6:00?

A. Meaning to stay his commandments - leaving to spend time - & praising him for his great-ness & goodness.

47 Q. Might you to love Christ?

A. Strength mind, for all the day long & depend on me.

Repentance

48 Q. How Christ love you, if you are not sorry for your sins?

A. No, if I want to be saved, I must be sorry for my sins, & pray God to forgive me, every day, for Christ's sake.

49 Q. What do you mean by Christ's sake?

A. For the sake of what he has done & suffered.

50 Q. What shall we do & suffer?

A. We should be kind & obedient unto.

51 Q. How can you show sorry body that you are sorry for your sins?

A. By giving a better Christ than your neighbors.

Holy Spirit

52 Q. Can you receive the Holy Spirit without Christ's death?

4. No, but God will send the Holy Spirit into my soul to make me worthy, if I love him.

53 Q. What is your soul?

A. The part within me that never dies.

54 Q. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. God's own spirit.

55 Q. Can you see the Holy Spirit?

A. No, we can't see a spirit.

56 Q. How then can the Holy Spirit make you wiser to know & love God & Christ?

A. He comes into my soul, & makes me love God, thoughts & desires.

57 Q. Who makes you wiser to love God's commands?

A. The Holy Spirit.

58 Q. Who makes you hear to God's word?

A. The Holy Spirit.

59 Q. Who makes you sorry for your sins?

A. The Holy Spirit.

60 Q. Who makes you love Christ for his sake?

A. The Holy Spirit.

61 Q. Who makes you love to go to church?

A. The Holy Spirit, & come your Father, Son & Spirit.

62 Q. How can you do work the Holy Spirit?

A. I will do every body, for without

Him, I could have no good thoughts and feelings towards God.

62 Q. Ought you to love the Holy Spirit?

A. Yes; for doing me so much good.

63 Q. What ought you to ask him?

A. To come into my heart every day & make me ^a good child.

Day of Judgment

64 Q. Will Jesus ever come again?

A. Yes; He will come again, & all the world will see him, & stand around his Judgment Seat.

65 Q. Don't you expect to die before ^{the} Judgment day?

A. Yes; my body will die; but my soul can never die.

66 Q. Will your body come to life again?

A. Yes; my body ^{as well as my} soul, will ~~be~~ be alive on the day of Judgment.

67 Q. What will Jesus C. do on the day of Judgment?

A. He will reward the righteous, and punish the wicked.

68 Q. What must become of you, if you are wicked?

A. I shall be sent down to Hell, & be miserable forever.

69 Q. But where shall you go, if you have feared God, & tried to please him?

A. I shall be taken up to Heaven, & shall live there, with God & Christ, forever.