A CATECHISM

Parents,

This catechism was written for children eight years old and older. The original purpose was to prepare them for baptism. Younger children are able to memorize the questions and answers but will probably not have an understanding of the key concepts. Therefore, you may use the catechism as a teaching tool with a younger child (4 to 7) but remember it will be important to review the instrument as he or she grows older.

Please use this catechism as a tool and not an end in itself. It is presented in question and answer form but should serve as a starting point for conversation with your child rather than something that is merely to be memorized. The given answers are doctrinal and propositional in nature. Our faith is relational and it is in many ways best expressed in stories. Before entering the first grade children should have heard the major stories of the Bible and be able to recognize the major characters and events in the stories. Before a child enters the fourth grade, he or she should be able to tell the major stories of the Bible. Around the age of eight or nine a child begins to be able to understand and value the more abstract order of doctrinal teaching. The stories from which these doctrines are taken (the Bible) should remain the primary source our theology. Along with the Scriptural stories your child should know your own stories of faith in God.

For most items in the catechism Scripture verses have been given. Read them with your child. Remember that discovery is critical to learning. As a general pattern read the question then read the Bible texts and let your child find the answers in the text. Then read the given answer. Let your child put the answer in his or her own words.

Finally, this is a work in progress. The answers to questions are not divinely inspired and may be revised as we all work through this the first time or two (or more).

Pastor Jackie

**A CATECHISM**

With Notes to Parents

1. **What does it mean to be a Christian?**  (Luke 2:11; John 3:16-18; 4:42; Acts 2:36; 5:31; Ephesians 5:23; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Titus 1:4; 2 Peter 1:1, 10-11; 2:20; 3:2, 18; 1 John 4:13-16; Jude 24-25.)

Christians are persons who have believed on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Notes to Parents:

1. You may wish to talk with your child about the differences between Christian denominations, cults, and other religions. Please stress the unity of all true believers, show respect for all people regardless of their religion but emphasize there is only one way to eternal life with God -- Jesus Christ.

2. We accept as our brothers and sisters in Christ everyone who says they know him as Lord and Savior. They may choose words that are different from those with which we are accustomed (i.e., they may simply say “I am a Christian” rather than “I am a born-again Christian”). We accept their testimony until their life proves otherwise.

1. **Who is Jesus Christ?** (John 3:16;Colossians 1: 15-20; II Corinthians 4:4; Romans 8:29, 11:35-36; Ephesians 1:9-10)

Jesus Christ is the only begotten son of God. He is both God and human (fully God and fully human). As God he is equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. They are one being who eternally exists as three persons. He became a human being and was born of the Virgin Mary so that he might restore creation back to God and give us eternal life. And so he remains forever as both our creator God and our human brother.

Notes to Parents:

1. Review the story of God’s people (the Jews) and the birth of Christ as the promised Messiah.

2. Try to help your child accept the mystery of the Trinity. There are many things that are beyond our understanding. That does not make them untrue. We accept that Jesus is human (He was born a descendent of Abraham and David) and we accept that he is God (He was born of a virgin without human father). By him all things were made. Share with your child your sense of awe at this mystery and your confidence in its truth.

1. **How can I have the eternal life which Jesus came to give?** John 3:14-17; 10:10; 15:4-6; 17:1-3;

All life comes from God who is eternal. If we are joined to God through Jesus Christ (close friends with, bonded as family, He lives in us) we will have eternal life which is to share in the very life of God. This is eternal life, that we know God and Jesus Christ whom he sent into the world.

1. **How will I know that I know God and have eternal life?** 1 John 2:3-5

You will know you have been joined to God so that He lives in you and you truly know him if you love him and his Son Jesus Christ.

Notes to Parents:

1. Place a great deal of emphasis here. Talk of your love for God and Christ. Lead your child into talking about his or her love for Jesus. You might ask him/her to tell you why he/she loves Jesus.

**How will I know that I truly love them?** 1 John 2:3

You will know you love them if you obey their commandments.

**What are their commandments?** Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27

There are many teachings contained in the Scriptures but they are all embraced in two commandments. First, love God with all your mind and all your heart, and all your soul. Second, love your neighbor as yourself.

**Why are these commandments so hard to keep?**

Without God’s help, we are blinded by sin so that we cannot see clearly beyond our own selfish desires.

**What is sin?** Genesis 4:6-7, Psalm 39:1, 51:1-6, 119:11, Romans 3:19-25, 5:12-21, 6:1-23, 7:1-26,

Sin is anything that does not belong in God’s presence, any transgression against God. It is any condition or action that places a person outside of the boundaries of God's goodness. We may sin through our actions or our attitudes; by what we do and what we refuse to do. All sin is therefore opposition to God's will and his good plans for His creation. Sin is also a disease that robs us of God’s presence in our lives, and a force that tempts us to do bad things.

**What are the results of sin?**

The result of sin is death. God is without (does not) sin. In him there is nothing that is evil. Also, he cannot have any fellowship with sin. Therefore, the person who sins is cut-off from God. Since God is the source of all life being cut off from God means that person must die. Death, which has as its root meaning "separation," means the person who sins cannot know God. Separation from God leads to alienation from all that is good. Thus, sin is the source of all suffering. In time it leads to the destruction of the individual and ultimately outside of the grace of God it would destroy all of creation.

**Why has sin not destroyed the human race?**

It is the mercy of God which prevents sin from having its full impact on the world. God is gracious and desires that no one perish. He is always at work in the world preventing sin from reaching its end. He does this in a way that preserves the free will of humans and offers them the opportunity to be cleansed from their sins and return to fellowship with him. God is also always judging sin. His is to turn us over to our sins so that we are condemned by our own selves. The day is coming when God will act in final upon all sin. In that day all sinners will forever be removed from God so as to suffer the full consequence of their sins. Only those who are righteous before God will live.

**How can we who have sinned become righteous and thereby free from the curse of sin?**

The only way to be free from sin and the results of sin is through Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a sinless life and took upon himself the curse of sin. "He who knew no sin became sin" so that we might be free from sin. In his humiliation, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection he conquered once and for all sin and death. In these events he who was fully human fulfilled the righteousness of God and endured the judgment of God; he died so that we might live. There is no deliverance from sin that does not come through Jesus Christ. There is no relationship with Jesus Christ that does not result in deliverance from sin. The way to be free from sin is to be joined to Christ so that we share in his righteousness.

**What must I do to receive the love of God and be free from sin?**

Humble yourself before God for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Repent of your sins. To repent is to turn away from. You must turn away from all sin and turn toward God for deliverance from sin.

Believe on Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God who was given for our salvation.

Confess Jesus as your personal savior and as Lord over all.

**Humility**

**Why must I humble myself before God in order to have eternal life?**

We must humble ourselves because he is the Lord God who created us. He is high and lifted up. He is full of glory. There is no one who can be compared to him in majesty.

We must humble ourselves because we have all sinned and come short of his glory. We are marred by our sin, depraved in our nature and there is nothing we can do to change this situation outside of the grace of God. The first sins of Satan, Eve, and Adam were that they as created beings thought themselves worthy to be considered equal with their creator.

**What acts of humility are acceptable to God?**

There are no actions that can gain God's favor. He looks upon the heart. He offers redemption to those who know they are sinners who have nothing to offer for their own salvation. True humility is to recognize we deserve death and have nothing to offer God for our salvation. It is further to recognize that he alone is righteous and he alone is worthy to pronounce death. He has no obligation outside of his own self to have mercy on us. Humility is therefore the basis for repentance. Only when we turn away from ourselves and to God can we be saved. Our hope must be in him and him alone.

**Repentance**

**What does it mean to repent?**

To repent is to turn around, to change directions. The Greek word for "repent" means to change one's mind. However, "mind" refers to much more than thinking. It refers to all that makes us who we are as individuals. The mind is the seat of all human attitudes, opinions, and dispositions about life. To repent is thus to forsake one pattern of living in order to pursue another. It is to change directions at the very core of our nature.

**Where does repentance come from?**

Repentance is a gift from God. No one truly repents unless the Holy Spirit reveals to them their sinfulness and the futility of the pattern of their life. In humility we recognize our unworthiness to live in the presence of God. In repentance we turn to God for deliverance. Both are gifts from God. Repentance involves all that it means to be human. Remorse (sorrow) is closely associated with repentance but should not be equated with it. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." Recognition of our sinfulness should cause us sorrow which may then serve to help us make genuine changes in our lives.

**What is the fruit of repentance?**

Because repentance involves the total human being, it will produce a change in behavior, but repentance is not merely a change in behavior. It must be rooted in a desire to change one's very nature. Repentance is not an emotional experience although it may include many emotional experiences. Repentance is an ongoing process of change in who we are and in the way we live. It results in a growing dislike for sin and a growing love for God. Therefore, the person who truly repents will stop sinning. This does not mean they can not nor will not sin. It does mean that they will become far more aware of their sins and they will stop repeating those things which they know to be sin. The person who has truly repented will always be trying to put God first in his or her life. This is the fruit of repentance: we will hate sin and love God.

Belief

What must I believe in order to be saved?

We must believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes on him might be saved (John 3:16). Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God left his throne in heaven, emptied himself of his glory, became fully human while remaining fully God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, taught the righteousness of God in word and deed, proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God, and called all to repentance. He was rejected, suffered, and died at the hands of his kinsmen in Israel and the hands of Pontius Pilot with his associates. He was buried but rose again on the third day. He ascended to heaven where he is seated with the heavenly Father. He will come again to rule and reign over all of creation.

Confession

What must I confess in order to be saved?

We must confess what we have come to know. Confession must always be rooted in a personal relationship with the resurrected Lord. We confess our personal testimony of the grace of God. However, our knowledge of him must conform to his self revelation to the church. Therefore, in order for the church to recognize a testimony as genuine it must be in harmony with the Scriptures and the historic teachings of the church. The most basic teachings of Christianity are contained in an ancient statement now known as "The Apostles Creed." This creed says,

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, conceived by the holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.\* The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, He sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting.

\*In its final form the creed included the words "He descended into hell." This was the last statement added to the creed and it is not accepted by everyone.

It is not the creed that saves us from our sins. Memorization of the creed is of no profit to us unless we truly believe the good news it contains.

How will I change if I humble myself, repent from sin, believe on Jesus, and confess him as Lord and Savior?

In some ways nothing at all will change. You will have the same parents, the same history, and the same personal characteristics that make you who you are. You will continue to be the very special person that you have always been. But in a very real sense everything in your life will change. You will be born again. You will have a new nature, a new identity and a new purpose in life.

What does it mean to be "born again?"

Jesus said "You must be born again" (John 3:1-21). By this he meant we must have a new spiritual beginning in our lives. We must learn to relate to our heavenly Father the way a new born baby relates to her or his mother. It is not enough to simply change the way we live. We must have a change in our character. We must begin to desire spiritual food and learn how to eat the things that come from God. The only way we can gain these hunger pains is if God gives us a new nature. When we trust in Jesus he has promised to send his Spirit to live in us and give to us that new nature so that we can grow in our knowledge of God.

What is our new identity?

When we trust in Jesus we continue to be who we are. We will always be children of our parents. But we add to our identity the fact that we are now also children of God. We come to know a great mystery; God is the center of all that is. We were created by him and for him. We belong to him. He gives us life and all that is good in life. He gave us our families because he wants us to know him as our heavenly Father and as our elder brother. Each of us has a special place in his family so that we can be close to him. All of us now have special identities as persons who belong with God. We are:

Saints (Holy Ones, Close to God) - Members of God's Household -

Priests (Those who stand in the presence of God) - Ministers unto the Lord -

Disciples (Those who are attached to Christ to learn of him) - Followers of Jesus

Ambassadors (Those who are sent out to represent God) - Witnesses in behalf of God

Stewards (Those who oversee a work of God) - Servants of others in the Name of the Lord

Warriors (Those who are engaged in spiritual warfare for the kingdom of God) - Intercessors in prayer.

What are the Christian disciplines?

These are disciplines taught in Scripture and uplifted throughout Church history as beneficial for helping the individual walk in fellowship with God. They are not means of grace. They do not earn God's blessing for the individual. Their effect is on the believer, not God. They are intended to help the individual maintain communion with God. In essence the Christian disciplines help believers bring their desires into harmony with the expressed will of God. Through the disciplines we learn to find pleasure in the things that please God.

Personal Disciplines

Prayer

Bible Reading

Bible Study

Fasting

Self Restraint

Simplicity

Solitude

Giving

Corporate Disciplines

Worship

Fellowship

Communication

Submission

Confession

Repentance

Hospitality

Tithing

Public Disciplines

Witnessing

Showing mercy

Social Action/Intervention

There is no deliverance from sin that does not come through Jesus Christ. There is no relationship with Jesus Christ that does not result in deliverance from sin. The bonds of sin represented in the "works of the flesh" must be broken before the church can accept a person's testimony of salvation and receive them in the covenant of church membership. The sincere must be encouraged to continue to seek God until these sins are broken. Those not bearing the fruit of repentance must be rejected from the benefits of the fellowship of the church. We must love them and continue to present the Gospel to them, but we must not confuse them by implying they can receive salvation through mere association with the church.

Name: Date: .

Examination

on

THE CATECHISM

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Why are these commandments so hard to keep?

We are blinded by so that we can not see clearly beyond our own selfish desires.

What is sin?

Sin is any against God. It is any condition or action that places a person outside of the boundaries of God's goodness. We may sin through our or our ; by what we do and what we refuse to do. All sin is therefore opposition to God's will and his good graces.

What are the results of sin?

The result of sin is . God is without sin. In him there is nothing that is evil. Also, he can not have any with sin. Therefore, the person who sins is cut-off from God. Since God is the source of all that person must die. Death, which has as its root meaning " ," means the person who sins can not God. Separation from God leads to from all that is good. Thus, sin is the source of all . In time it leads to the of the individual and ultimately outside of the grace of God it would destroy all of creation.

Why has sin not destroyed the human race?

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(Holy Ones, Close to God) - Members of God's Household -

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**A Catechism**

**For Preparation for Baptism**

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The only way to be free from sin and the results of sin is through Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a sinless life and took upon himself the curse of sin. "He who knew no sin became sin" so that we might be free from sin. In his humiliation, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection he conquered once and for all sin and death. In these events he who was fully human fulfilled the righteousness of God and endured the judgement of God; he died so that we might live. There is no deliverance from sin that does not come through Jesus Christ. There is no relationship with Jesus Christ that does not result in deliverance from sin. The way to be free from sin is to be joined to Christ so that we share in his righteousness.

**What must I do to receive the love of God and be free from sin?**

Humble yourself before God for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Repent of your sins. To repent is to turn away from. You must turn away from all sin and turn toward God for deliverance from sin.

Believe on Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God who was given for our salvation.

Confess Jesus as your personal savior and as Lord over all.

**Humility**

**Why must I humble myself before God in order to have eternal life?**

We must humble ourselves because he is the Lord God who created us. He is high and lifted up. He is full of glory. There is no one who can be compared to him in majesty.

We must humble ourselves because we have all sinned and come short of his glory. We are marred by our sin, depraved in our nature and there is nothing we can do to change this situation outside of the grace of God. The first sins of Satan, Eve, and Adam were that they as created beings thought themselves worthy to be considered equal with their creator.

**What acts of humility are acceptable to God?**

There are no actions that can gain God's favor. He looks upon the heart. He offers redemption to those who know they are sinners who have nothing to offer for their own salvation. True humility is to recognize we deserve death and have nothing to offer God for our salvation. It is further to recognize that he alone is righteous and he alone is worthy to pronounce death. He has no obligation outside of his own self to have mercy on us. Humility is therefore the basis for repentance. Only when we turn away from ourselves and to God can we be saved. Our hope must be in him and him alone.

**Repentance**

**What does it mean to repent?**

To repent is to turn around, to change directions. The Greek word for "repent" means to change one's mind. However, "mind" refers to much more than thinking. It refers to all that makes us who we are as individuals. The mind is the seat of all human attitudes, opinions, and dispositions about life. To repent is thus to forsake one pattern of living in order to pursue another. It is to change directions at the very core of our nature.

**Where does repentance come from?**

Repentance is a gift from God. No one truly repents unless the Holy Spirit reveals to them their sinfulness and the futility of the pattern of their life. In humility we recognize our unworthiness to live in the presence of God. In repentance we turn to God for deliverance. Both are gifts from God. Repentance involves all that it means to be human. Remorse (sorrow) is closely associated with repentance but should not be equated with it. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance." Recognition of our sinfulness should cause us sorrow which may then serve to help us make genuine changes in our lives.

**What is the fruit of repentance?**

Because repentance involves the total human being, it will produce a change in behavior, but repentance is not merely a change in behavior. It must be rooted in a desire to change one's very nature. Repentance is not an emotional experience although it may include many emotional experiences. Repentance is an ongoing process of change in who we are and in the way we live. It results in a growing dislike for sin and a growing love for God. Therefore, the person who truly repents will stop sinning. This does not mean they can not nor will not sin. It does mean that they will become far more aware of their sins and they will stop repeating those things which they know to be sin. The person who has truly repented will always be trying to put God first in his or her life. This is the fruit of repentance: we will hate sin and love God.

Belief

What must I believe in order to be saved?

We must believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes on him might be saved (John 3:16). Jesus Christ the eternal Son of God left his throne in heaven, emptied himself of his glory, became fully human while remaining fully God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, taught the righteousness of God in word and deed, proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God, and called all to repentance. He was rejected, suffered, and died at the hands of his kinsmen in Israel and the hands of Pontius Pilot with his associates. He was buried but rose again on the third day. He ascended to heaven where he is seated with the heavenly Father. He will come again to rule and reign over all of creation.

Confession

What must I confess in order to be saved?

We must confess what we have come to know. Confession must always be rooted in a personal relationship with the resurrected Lord. We confess our personal testimony of the grace of God. However, our knowledge of him must conform to his self revelation to the church. Therefore, in order for the church to recognize a testimony as genuine it must be in harmony with the Scriptures and the historic teachings of the church. The most basic teachings of Christianity are contained in an ancient statement now known as "The Apostles Creed." This creed says,

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, conceived by the holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.\* The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, He sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, the life everlasting.

\*In its final form the creed included the words "He descended into hell." This was the last statement added to the creed and it is not accepted by everyone.

It is not the creed that saves us from our sins. Memorization of the creed is of no profit to us unless we truly believe the good news it contains.

How will I change if I humble myself, repent from sin, believe on Jesus, and confess him as Lord and Savior?

In some ways nothing at all will change. You will have the same parents, the same history, and the same personal characteristics that make you who you are. You will continue to be the very special person that you have always been. But in a very real sense everything in your life will change. You will be born again. You will have a new nature, a new identity and a new purpose in life.

What does it mean to be "born again?"

Jesus said "You must be born again" (John 3:1-21). By this he meant we must have a new spiritual beginning in our lives. We must learn to relate to our heavenly Father the way a new born baby relates to her or his mother. It is not enough to simply change the way we live. We must have a change in our character. We must begin to desire spiritual food and learn how to eat the things that come from God. The only way we can gain these hunger pains is if God gives us a new nature. When we trust in Jesus he has promised to send his Spirit to live in us and give to us that new nature so that we can grow in our knowledge of God.

What is our new identity?

When we trust in Jesus we continue to be who we are. We will always be children of our parents. But we add to our identity the fact that we are now also children of God. We come to know a great mystery; God is the center of all that is. We were created by him and for him. We belong to him. He gives us life and all that is good in life. He gave us our families because he wants us to know him as our heavenly Father and as our elder brother. Each of us has a special place in his family so that we can be close to him. All of us now have special identities as persons who belong with God. We are:

Saints (Holy Ones, Close to God) - Members of God's Household -

Priests (Those who stand in the presence of God) - Ministers unto the Lord -

Disciples (Those who are attached to Christ to learn of him) - Followers of Jesus

Ambassadors (Those who are sent out to represent God) - Witnesses in behalf of God

Stewards (Those who oversee a work of God) - Servants of others in the Name of the Lord

Warriors (Those who are engaged in spiritual warfare for the kingdom of God) - Intercessors in prayer.

What are the Christian disciplines?

These are disciplines taught in Scripture and uplifted throughout Church history as beneficial for helping the individual walk in fellowship with God. They are not means of grace. They do not earn God's blessing for the individual. Their effect is on the believer, not God. They are intended to help the individual maintain communion with God. In essence the Christian disciplines help believers bring their desires into harmony with the expressed will of God. Through the disciplines we learn to find pleasure in the things that please God.

Personal Disciplines

Prayer

Bible Reading

Bible Study

Fasting

Self Restraint

Simplicity

Solitude

Giving

Corporate Disciplines

Worship

Fellowship

Communication

Submission

Confession

Repentance

Hospitality

Tithing

Public Disciplines

Witnessing

Showing mercy

Social Action/Intervention

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, and Christ also is the head of the church, (being) himself the saviour of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so (let) the wives also (be) to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; 26 that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, 27 that he might present the church to himself a glorious (church), not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Philippeans 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, (that it may be) conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself. 4:1 Wherefore, my brethren beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my beloved.

1 Timothy 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Saviour, and Christ Jesus our hope; 2 unto Timothy, my true child in faith: Grace, mercy, peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:8 Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, not of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God; 9 who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before times eternal, 10 but hath now been manifested by the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 whereunto I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before times eternal; 3 but in his own seasons manifested his word in the message, wherewith I was intrusted according to the commandment of God our Saviour; 4 to Titus, my true child after a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained a like precious faith with us in the righteousness of our God and (the) Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; 4 whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in that world by lust.

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never stumble: 11 for thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state is become worse with them than the first. 21 For it were better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him (be) the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Jude 24 Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy, 25 to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, (be) glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore. Amen.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.2The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not.

6 There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but (came) that he might bear witness of the light. 9 There was the true light, (even the light) which lighteth every man, coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not. 11He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, (even) to them that believe on his name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. 15 John beareth witness of him, and crieth, saying, This was he of whom I said, He that cometh after me is become before me: for he was before me. 16 For of his fulness we all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared (him).

19 And this is the witness of John, when the Jews sent unto him from Jerusalem priests and Levites to ask him, Who art thou? 20 And he confessed, and denied not; and he confessed, I am not the Christ. 21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elijah? And he saith, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No! 22 They said therefore unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? 23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said Isaiah the prophet. 24 And they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why then baptizest thou, if thou art not the Christ, neither Elijah, neither the prophet? 26 John answered them, saying, I baptize in water: in the midst of you standeth one whom ye know not, 27 (even) he that cometh after me, the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to unloose. 28 These things were done in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man who is become before me: for he was before me. 31 And I knew him not; but that he should be made manifest to Israel, for this cause came I baptizing in water.

32 And John bare witness, saying, I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven; and it abode upon him. 33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize in water, he said unto me, Upon whomsoever thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and abiding upon him, the same is he that baptizeth in the Holy Spirit. 34 And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God. 35 Again on the morrow John was standing, and two of his disciples; 36 and he looked upon Jesus as he walked, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. 38 And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? And they said unto him, Rabbi (which is to say, being interpreted, Teacher), where abideth thou? 39 He saith unto them, Come, and ye shall see. They came therefore and saw where he abode; and they abode with him that day: it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two that heard John (speak), and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He findeth first his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah (which is, being interpreted, Christ). 42 He brought him unto Jesus. Jesus looked upon him, and said, Thou art Simon the son of John: thou shalt be called Cephas (which is by interpretation, Peter).

43 On the morrow he was minded to go forth into Galilee, and he findeth Philip: and Jesus saith unto him, Follow me. 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathanael said unto him, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.47Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! 48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. 49 Nathanael answered him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art King of Israel. 50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee underneath the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. 51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye shall see the heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

John 3:13 And no one hath ascended into heaven, but he that descended out of heaven, (even) the Son of man, who is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; 15 that whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life. 16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him. 18 He that believeth on him is not judged: he that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the , that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God.

John 17:1 These things spake Jesus; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that the son may glorify thee: 2 even as thou gavest him authority over all flesh, that to all whom thou hast given him, he should give eternal life. 3 And this is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, (even) Jesus Christ. 4 I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any likeness (of any thing) that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them, for I Jehovah thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me, 6 and showing lovingkindness unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people; but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am Jehovah.

Matthew 5:40 And if any man would go to law with thee, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. 41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. 43 Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: 44 but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you; 45 that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust. 46 For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more (than others?) do not even the Gentiles the same? 48 Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 22:35 And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, trying him: 36 Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 And he said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second like (unto it) is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40 On these two commandments the whole law hangeth, and the prophets.

Mark 11:28 And one of the scribes came, and heard them questioning together, and knowing that he had answered them well, asked him, What commandment is the first of all? 29 Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one: 30 and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

Mark 12:31 The second is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. 32 And the scribe said unto him, Of a truth, Teacher, thou hast well said that he is one; and there is none other but he: 33 and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is much more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices. 34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Luke 10:25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and made trial of him, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 And he said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. 28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor? 30 Jesus made answer and said, A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance a certain priest was going down that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 And in like manner a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion, 34 and came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on (them) oil and wine; and he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 And on the morrow he took out two shillings, and gave them to the host, and said, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, I, when I come back again, will repay thee. 36Which of these three, thinkest thou, proved neighbor unto him that fell among the robbers? 37and he said, He that showed mercy on him. And Jesus said unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be in subjection to the higher powers: for there is no power but of God; and the (powers) that be are ordained of God. 2 Therefore he that resisteth the power, withstandeth the ordinance of God: and they that withstand shall receive to themselves . 3 For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. And wouldest thou have no fear of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise from the same: 4 for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is a minister of God, an avenger for wrath to him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore (ye) must needs be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. 6 For this cause ye pay tribute also; for they are ministers of God's service, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute (is due); custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. 8 Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law. 9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not covet, and if there be any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: love therefore is the fulfilment of the law. 11 And this, knowing the season, that already it is time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we (first) believed. 12 The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Galatians 5:13 Let us walk becomingly, as in the day; not in revelling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to (fulfil) the lusts (thereof). 13 For ye, brethren, were called for freedom; only (use) not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through love be servants one to another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, (even) in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

James 2: 8 Howbeit if ye fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: 9 but if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors.

Matthew 19:16 And behold, one came to him and said, Teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why askest thou me concerning that which is good? One there is who is good: but if thou wouldest enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? And Jesus said, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honor thy father and mother; and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

John 14:15 If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever, 17 (even) the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you desolate: I come unto you. 19 Yet a little while, and the world beholdeth me no more; but ye behold me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20 In that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; and (so) shall ye be my disciples. 9 Even as the Father hath loved me, I also have loved you: abide ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may be in you, and (that) your joy may be made full. 12 This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father, I have made known unto you. 16Ye did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and (that) your fruit should abide: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. 17 These things I command you, that ye may love one another. 18 If the world hateth you, ye know that it hath hated me before (it hated) you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, A servant is not greater than his lord. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. 21But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. 3 And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him: 6 he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.7 Beloved, no new commandment write I unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning: the old commandment is the word which ye heard. 8 Again, a new commandment write I unto you, which thing is true in him and in you; because the darkness is passing away, and the true light already shineth. 9 He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother, is in the darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in the darkness, and walketh in the darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because the darkness hath blinded his eyes. 12 I write unto you, (my) little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. 13 I write unto you, fathers, because ye know him who is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the evil one. I have written unto you, little children, because ye know the Father. 14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye know him who is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one.

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and (such) we are. For this cause the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. 3 And every one that hath this hope (set) on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 4every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither knoweth him. 7 (My) little children, let no man lead you astray: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous: 8 he that doeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is begotten of God doeth no sin, because his seed abideth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is begotten of God. 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message which ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another: 12 not as Cain was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, brethren, if the world hateth you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 16 Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? 18 (My) Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth. 19 Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him: 20 because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, we have boldness toward God; 22 and whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, even as he gave us commandment. 24 And he that keepeth his commandments abideth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he gave us.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 and every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God: and this is the spirit) of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and now it is in the world already. 4 Ye are of God, (my) little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. 5They are of the world: therefore speak they (as) of the world, and the world heareth them. 6We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. 10Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son (to be) the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us: 13 hereby we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son (to be) the Saviour of the world. 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God. 16 And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us. God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him. 17 Herein is love made perfect with us, that we may have boldness in the day of ; because as he is, even so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment; and he that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love, because he first loved us. 20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. 21And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

1 John 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God: and whosoever loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is begotten of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that hath overcome the world, (even) our faith. 5 And who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is he that came by water and blood, (even) Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. 7 And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is the truth. 8 For there are three who bear witness, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and the three agree in one. 9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for the witness of God is this, that he hath borne witness concerning his Son. 10He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in him: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he hath not believed in the witness that God hath borne concerning his Son. 11 And the witness is this, that God gave unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.12He that hath the life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not the life. 13 These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, (even) unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.