

JESUS IS MY LORD AND SAVIOR

Public Profession for Covenant Youth

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Introduction

Why a separate manual for membership for the younger covenant children who wish to publicly profess faith in Jesus Christ? Are we changing the rules, dumbing down, lowering the bar? The answer is an emphatic “No.” The five questions from “The Directory for the Public Worship of God” Chapter IV.B.2 of *The Book of Church Order of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, are the standard for public profession. Genuine faith is not measured by intelligence, education, or articulateness. Each communing member must be exposed to a full view of what the church believes and teaches. But different people will understand and articulate this belief system with different degrees of depth due to age and maturity.

The Public Profession Five Questions

1. Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?
2. Do you believe in one living and true God, in whom eternally there are three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are the same in being and equal in power and glory, and that Jesus Christ is God the Son come in the flesh?
3. Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, that you repent of your sin, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?
4. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord and do you promise, in reliance on the grace of God, you will serve him with all that is in you, forsake the world, resist the devil, put to death your sinful deeds and desires, and lead a godly life?
5. Do you promise to participate faithfully in this church’s worship and service, to submit in the Lord to its government, and to heed its discipline, even in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life?

#1. GOD’S WRITTEN WORD IS MY FINAL AUTHORITY

Do you believe the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God, and its doctrine of salvation to be the perfect and only true doctrine of salvation?

Psalm 19:7–11 “The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

2 Timothy 3:14–17 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

2 Peter 1:19–21 “And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

The Shorter Catechism Q #2 “What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him? A. The word of God, which is contained in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.”

A. I Believe that the Bible Alone Is the Word of God

1. God is the Author of the Bible

- **God also speaks through His creation. Psalm 19:1** “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” teaches that all of God’s creation reveals Him. But sin blinds us to this revelation. **Romans 1:20–21** “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”
- **2 Timothy 3:16** “breathed out by God.” The Bible is God-breathed or inspired directly by God. God by His Spirit moved the writers to produce the 66 books of the Bible. Many human authors over a millennium and a half were sovereignly controlled by God to write what He wanted His people to know about Him and His way of salvation. God planned their educations, upbringing, circumstances. **2 Peter 1:21** “carried along by the Holy Spirit” means that the Spirit of God moved them like a sailboat, guiding and directing what they wrote. This is why we refer to the Bible as *his* Word.

2. The Bible is Perfect and without Error because God Inspired It

- **Psalm 19:7–11** says the Bible is perfect, pure, and true in every word and sentence.
- **The Westminster Confession of Faith 14.2** states that a Christians “believe to be true whatsoever is revealed in the word...”

3. The Bible Is Sufficient for All of Our Spiritual Needs

- **The Shorter Catechism Q #3:** “What do the Scriptures principally teach? A. The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.”
- **2 Timothy 3:16** teaches that the Bible gives us the truth, it tells us when we are doing wrong, corrects us and teaches what right living is, so we will please God.
- **2 Timothy 3:17** teaches us that the Bible makes us complete by equipping us with all we need to know and serve God.

4. Little Children Can Know the Bible

- **God blesses covenant families:** “from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings...” Look at Abraham. **Genesis 12:3** “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- **God wants you to learn His Word** so you can know Him. He wants you to love it more than anything else He has given you, except Himself. **Psalm 19:10** It is better than gold or honey.

5. How do I know the Bible is God’s Word?

- **God says so in the Bible** “Thus says the Lord” is everywhere in the Bible. **2 Timothy 3:16**
- **The Bible is Uniquely Amazing.** There is no other book like it. It tells us things about God that only He would know. **1 Corinthians 2:10–11** “these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”
- **The Spirit convinces our hearts.** **1 Corinthians 2:12** “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”

B. I Believe that the Whole Bible Is the Word Of God

1. The whole Bible is God’s Word

“All Scripture,” not just the New Testament or the words Jesus spoke on earth.

2. God wants you to read the whole Bible.

Psalm 1:2 “his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

3. To believe the Bible is God’s Word means you must obey it.

Psalm 19:11 “Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.”

4. You must have a change of heart to obey it.

Ps 19:7 “The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul...”

C. I Believe that the Bible Teaches the Only Way of Salvation

1. The central message of the Bible is the message of salvation. The Bible is not all easy to understand, but it is absolutely clear on what we need to know to be saved. **Psalm 19:8** “the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes...” **2 Timothy 3:15** “the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

2. Salvation means to be rescued from sin and death. **Romans 6:23** “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

3. There is no other way to be saved except through Jesus Christ. **John 14:6** “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Many teach that there are many ways to God. The Bible teaches that there is only one way. We need a Savior like Jesus who is God and man. There is no other. He is unique. No other religion has God coming to rescue man and dying on a cross to pay for sin, and rising from the dead to conquer death. **1 Corinthians 15:3–5** “For I delivered to you as of first

importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

Test Questions:

1. Do you read your Bible regularly? Can you name all 66 books?
 2. Is the whole Bible God’s Word?
 3. What does “breathed out by God” mean? Does any other book have the same authority?
 4. Does any other religion teach us how to know the Lord and save us from sin and death?
 5. Name six (6) characteristics of God’s Word from Psalm 19, together with the change they cause in you.
 6. What are the four (4) practical uses of the Bible according to 2 Timothy 3:16?
 7. What does “salvation” mean?
 8. How do you know the Bible is God’s Word?
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#2. GOD IS TRINITY AND HIS SON IS GOD INCARNATE

Do you believe in one living and true God, in whom eternally there are three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—who are the same in being and equal in power and glory, and that Jesus Christ is God the Son come in the flesh?

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

Jeremiah 10:10 “But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.”

1 Thessalonians 1:9 “For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God...”

John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

1 Timothy 2:5–6 “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.”

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Romans 9:5 “Christ who is God over all, blessed forever.”

Colossians 2:9 “in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...”

The Shorter Catechism Q #5 “Are there more Gods than one? A. There is but one only, the living and true God.”

The Shorter Catechism Q #6 “How many persons are there in the Godhead? A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.”

The Shorter Catechism Q #21 “Who is the Redeemer of God's elect? A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.”

A. I Believe that God is One God in Three Persons

1. The Doctrine of the Trinity Is a Great Mystery.

But we should expect that the God who created the universe, the earth, and us, would be mysterious.

2. Each of the Three Persons is Fully God.

“the same in being and equal in power and glory...”

3. He is My Holy Creator Who Deserves my Worship and Service.

He made me in His image [**Genesis 1:26–28**] and so I owe Him my love, worship, thanks and service. **The Shorter Catechism Q #10** “How did God create man? A. God created man male and female, after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, with dominion over the creatures.”

4. I was created to Glorify God, to show how wonderful He is in my whole life.

Mark 12:30 “Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength?” **The Shorter Catechism Q #1** “What is the chief end of man? A. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”

B. I Believe that Jesus Christ Is Both God and Man

1. Here is another great mystery.

The eternal Son, who is fully God became man. But he did not stop being God. He took on a complete human nature.

2. He was God and Man in order to save us from sin, death, and the devil.

The Son of God had to come from heaven as a man so that he could be our representative to pass the test for us that Adam failed to pass in the garden of Eden.

3. Jesus was in every way just like us, except without sin.

So, he makes a perfect Savior and Helper in our struggles. “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (**Heb. 4:15**)

Test Questions:

1. Do you understand the Trinity?
2. How many persons are there in the Godhead?
3. Why did God create you?
4. How did the eternal Son of God become man?
5. Was Jesus a human being just like you?
6. What is the one big difference between you and Jesus?

7. Why did the eternal Son of God become man?

#3. JESUS CHRIST IS MY SAVIOR

3. Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, that you repent of your sin, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?

A. I Believe that in God's Eyes I am a Sinner

1. I am a rebel who was born in sin and am guilty before God. Ps 51:5 "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceived me."

- **Adam was the first to sin.**

In Adam's fall we sinned all. [Romans 5:1–12]. Sin then is not giving Him the worship and thanks due to Him. **Romans 1:21, 25** "they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him ...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

- **Now everyone is a sinner in God's eyes and guilty.**

Romans 3:10, 23 "none is righteous, no, not one ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." **Romans 3:19** "the whole world ...held accountable to God." **Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and **desperately sick**; who can understand it?" **Ephesians 2:1** "you were **dead in trespasses and sins...**"

- **Now every sinner is deserving of death and hell.**

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9 "when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might..."
(**Matt. 25:30, 46; Mark 9:43–48**)

2. Jesus is a uniquely amazing person. God has graciously sent His only Son to be our Savior. He did not leave the world lost in sin. **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Shorter Catechism #20 Q. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? A. God having, out of his mere good pleasure, from all eternity, elected some to everlasting life, did enter into a covenant of grace, to deliver them out of the estate of sin and misery, and bring them into an estate of salvation by a Redeemer.

3. God chose you before creation and sent Jesus to die for your sins.

Ephesians 1:4–7 "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace..."

4. God's Son is now both God and Man. Shorter Catechism #21 Who is the Redeemer of God's elect? A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever. **John 1:14** "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." **Galatians 4:4** "God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law..."

5. He lived and died in your place as your High Priest [e.g. Aaron on the Day of Atonement]

- **He represents us before God like a lawyer. He is our Advocate (1 John 2:1).** He continues to be our lawyer (**Heb. 7:25**).
- **He died as a substitute for His people to satisfy God's justice.** Jesus death on the cross paid for our sins. **1 Peter 2:24** “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” **God the Judge declares us righteous—justification (Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2).** His sinless life was lived in our place (**Heb. 4:15**). His sinless suffering on the cross paid the penalty as He gave His life for our sins (**2 Cor. 5:21**). He gave His life as a Substitute, taking our place before God's judgment (**Rom. 5:6**). He is our Ransom (**Mark 10:45**), paying the price of Redemption (**Eph. 1:7**) for our sins and Reconciling us to God (**Rom. 5:10**).

B. I Have Humbled Myself before God in True Repentance

1. You Must Repent. “**abhor and humble yourself before God**” = **Repentance = turning** from your sin and trusting Jesus. **Luke 13:5** “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”

2. The Three Parts of Repentance:

- **Admit your Sin.**
Accept what God thinks of your sin. He has a perfect standard of holiness. Repenting means you admit you do not meet that standard, like David we confess, “For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.” (**Ps. 51:3**). No excuses!
- **Be Sorry for your Sin.**
Not the “worldly grief” of self-pity (**2 Cor. 7:10**). Like being sorry because the spanking hurt. Godly sorrow comes with a deep sense that our sin is chiefly an offense against God Himself “Against you, you only, have I sinned.” (**Ps. 51:4**). The sorrow that produces repentance is God-centered not self-centered.
- **Turn from your Sin.**
A 180° about face. As we see what sin is, we hate it, we turn from it and walk in a new direction. You want to live a life pleasing to God. **Ephesians 4:22–24** “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

C. I TRUST JESUS CHRIST ALONE TO SAVE ME FROM MY SIN

1. You are righteous in God's eyes because He gave you Jesus righteousness. Philippians 3:8–9 “Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—”

2. Faith is trusting God by depending on Jesus' work on the cross for forgiveness. This means “you trust for salvation not in yourself.” Only Jesus' righteousness pleases God.

3. The Three Parts of Faith:

- **Know the truth.**

Faith is not blind. You must trust Jesus Christ. The only way you can know who he is is by what God tells you in his Word, the Bible. Faith must know the truth about God and Jesus Christ or it is not Biblical faith. **1 Corinthians 15:3–5** “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.”

- **Believe it is true.**

It is not like a fairy tale. Thomas confronted with the truth of Jesus' resurrection was called on by our Lord to believe it as the truth. Thomas confessed, “My Lord and my God!” (**John 20:27–28**).

- **Trust in the One revealed by the truth.**

You must trust God and Jesus. “Blessed are all who take refuge in Him” (**Ps. 2:12**). When a child knows his father is trustworthy he must still put his hand in his father's when crossing the street. Anything less would not be real trust.

4. Repenting & Believing is a Life-long activity – You must continue repenting and believing for the rest of your life. Have you repented and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ? Is He *your* Lord and Savior?

Here is a story about true repentance and faith. Luke 18:10–14 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Question #2 is asking you not to be like the Pharisee who believed that he was good enough to be accepted by God. BUT be like the Tax Collector “**God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**”

Test Questions:

1. What does “abhor and humble yourself” mean?
 2. Do you deserve to be saved?
 3. Do you think your baptism saves you?
 4. Are you good enough to please God?
 5. Are you aware of any sins you have committed?
 6. Have you ever asked God to forgive you?
 7. Just how sinful are you in God’s sight?
 8. How can God accept you if you are a sinner?
 9. What does “repentance” mean?
 10. What is “faith”?
 11. Have you trusted in Jesus Christ?
 12. Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
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#4. JESUS CHRIST IS MY MASTER

4. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord and do you promise, in reliance on the grace of God, you will serve him with all that is in you, forsake the world, resist the devil, put to death your sinful deeds and desires, and lead a godly life?

A. I Believe that Jesus Christ Is the Master of My Whole Life

Shorter Catechism #26 Q. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Isaiah 33:22 For the LORD *is* our judge, the LORD *is* our lawgiver, the LORD *is* our king; he will save us.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Philippians 2:9–11

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. Jesus is Lord, MY Lord, my SOVEREIGN Lord. “Sovereign” means greatest, the one in authority. **He is the boss, in charge of my life, my King** He has defeated Satan through the work of the cross (**Col. 2:15; Eph. 4:7–10**). He subdues His people through conquering their hearts (**Eph. 2:6**). He rules and defends us. All authority in heaven and on earth is His (**Matt. 28:18**). He is “King of kings and Lord of lords” (**1 Tim. 6:15**). You cannot have Jesus as Savior without serving Him as your Lord. **Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

2. God at great cost has purchased you with the great price of Jesus death on the cross.
1 Corinthians 6:20 “you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

B. I Promise to Serve the Lord by His Grace with All My Might

1. Jesus served You by dying on the cross. He calls you to be His SERVANT.

Matthew 20:26–28 “It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” In **John 13:15** Jesus washed the disciples’ feet as an example to us.

2. Serving Him is an all-out effort for a lifetime.

Marriage is for a lifetime, but this lasts into eternity. **We are called to a spiritual war.** “**Fight the good fight of faith.** Take hold of eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses” (**1 Tim. 6:12**, cf. **Eph. 6:10–20**).

3. Service is only possible with Grace and God’s Spirit.

God Provides all you need to follow Him faithfully, just like a government provides for the soldiers it sends to war.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **Romans 8:5** “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.” **Philippians 1:6** “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” **Galatians 3:3** “Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

C. I Promise to Reject the Sinful Ways of the World

Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers...”

1. We are called to live in the world.

In a world of sinners. “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.” (**1 Cor. 5:9–10**). **In the world God created.** “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...” (**1 Tim. 4:4**)

2. We are called to forsake the world’s sinful ways.

Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

D. I Promise to Continually Put Sin to Death in My Life

- **Take up your cross.**

Luke 9:21–23 “And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, ‘The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.’ And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’ ”

- **Put sin to death. The Spirit of the crucified and risen Lord enables us to kill sin.**

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (**Rom. 8:13**, cf. **Col. 3:5**, tells us the sins we are to kill). The Spirit gives us power to execute or exterminate our sin. The cross which we take up daily is not Christ’s cross, it is ours. It is an instrument of execution or death by which we imitate our Savior’s self-denial. Putting sin to death daily means the power to say “No!” to the passions and practice of sin. **Matthew 5:30** “And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

E. I Promise to Lead a Godly Life

1. By obeying the Lord’s Commandments.

The 10 Commandments are a perfect summary of God’s law. Helps us organize God’s law in our minds like drawers in your bedroom. **Exodus 20 & Deuteronomy 5** We must obey ALL the commandments in His Word, the Bible. **The preface to the ten commandments tells us that God gives these commandments to the people he has saved from the slavery of Egypt. Now in the New covenant Jesus asks us to obey his commandments. John**

14:15; 15:10 “If you love me, you will **keep my commandments**. If you **keep my commandments**, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.”

#1 First Commandment: Object of worship “You shall have no other gods before me.”

The first commandment teaches us that we are to put God first in our lives—**Matthew 6:33** “Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (**Deut. 32:17–18; 1 Cor. 10:20**).

The Lord wants to be number one in our lives. He is to be the love of our lives. It is a matter of **Loyalty**.

#2 Second Commandment: Way of worship “You shall not make for yourself a carved image” This commandment teaches us the right way to worship God, so we will not be idolaters, who make God after our own image. He has clearly told us how he wants us to worship in His Word. God’s way of worship is designed to show us who He truly is. We must not make up ways to worship Him, but worship Him the way He tells us to in the Bible (known as the “Regulative Principle”). Just like a letter from a friend. You would not want someone to change it before you read it. **Psalms 135:15–20**

#3 Third Commandment: Attitude of worship “You shalt not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.” Using God’s name in vain is any foolish or empty use of His name. Such talk misrepresents who God is, and lacks the respect that His name deserves. All foolish and unclean talk, flattery, lying and gossip are using the Lord’s name in vain. God gave us our tongues to bring Him glory and to be a blessing to our fellowman. “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name” (**Ps. 29:2**). “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse” (**Rom. 12:14**). Adam brought glory to God by naming the animals appropriately (**Gen. 2:19**). “Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together” (**Ps. 34:3**)

#4 Fourth Commandment: Day of worship “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” God created us to rest and worship Him every seventh day (**Gen. 2:1–3**). In the Old Covenant the Sabbath was the seventh day. Now we worship on the first day because Jesus Christ is raised from the dead on the first day of the week. The early disciples established the worship pattern centered around the Lord’s post resurrection appearances on the first day (**Matt. 28:1; John 20:1, 19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10**). We should set regular activities aside so we can worship the Lord. He wants us to delight in the Lord’s Day and enjoy His blessing. He strengthens us to live for Him the rest of the week.

#5 Fifth Commandment: God’s authority structure “Honor your father and your mother.” All authority in church, school, workplace and state is based on the family authority structure. When you honor your mother and father from the heart and obey them in practice the Lord promises you happiness and health. **Ephesians 6:2–3** “this is the first commandment with a promise.” This will help you to respect authority in every other relationship in this world.

#6 Sixth Commandment: Sanctity of life “You shall not murder.”

This commandment protects and promotes all human life, because God made every person in His own image (**Gen. 9:6**). Those who commit murder should be punished with death. Abortion is prohibited. Jesus says that hatred in our hearts is the root of murder. **Matthew 5:22** “everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.” This means we should love our neighbor and seek to bless them. We should also

take care of our bodies by eating properly, exercising and getting enough sleep. Our Bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ (**1 Cor. 6:19–20**).

#7 Seventh Commandment: Sanctity of marriage “You shall not commit adultery.”

This commandment promotes faithfulness in the marriage covenant and sexual purity (**Prov. 31:10–31; Eph. 5:21–33**). All sexual activity outside the bounds of marriage is forbidden. Beware of pornography, homosexuality. Dress modestly (**1 Pet. 3:2–4**) and stay away from temptation. The Bible clearly teaches that single Christians are to seek only believers as marriage partners (**Gen. 6:1–8; 1 Cor. 7:39**). This means that Christian young people should be on the lookout for biblical faith, and virtues, as well as natural attraction in a potential mate. Divorce is a breaking of the marriage bond which grieves God deeply (**Mal. 2:16; cf. Jer. 3:9–11; 5:8–9; Hosea**). There are two reasons that someone may need to get a divorce: if one partner commits adultery (**Matt. 19:9**); and if one partner abandons the other (**1 Cor. 7:11–13**).

#8 Eighth Commandment: Sanctity of property “You shall not steal.”

We must respect the property of others and use what God has given us to take care of for His purposes. Stealing and gambling are forbidden. We should work hard at whatever the Lord gifts us and calls us to do. We should be generous with what we have (**Eph. 4:28**). Tithing is a primary way of putting God first in our lives (**Mal 3:8.10; 1 Cor. 16:2**). “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (**Col. 3:23; cf. Eccl. 9:10**).

#9 Ninth Commandment: Sanctity of truth “You shalt not bear false witness against your neighbor.” God is truth and wants us to be truthful, especially in a court of law, but also in every relationship. The devil is the original liar. Our first parents, Adam and Eve believed his lies, so now we tend to lie (**Gen. 3:1–6; John 8:44**). We are to “speak the truth in love” (**Eph. 4:15**). Do not say what is in your mind if it is not kind. Gossip is sinful (**Prov. 6:16–18; 10:18**). You do not need to speak with everyone who asks, especially strangers, or people who seek to hurt you.

#10 Tenth Commandment: Sanctity of the heart “You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor’s.” The Lord wants your heart. Coveting is wanting what we should not want and living a selfish life. The covetous person views everything and everybody in terms of his or her own benefit. Covetousness is the root of every sin. It demands the neighbor’s wife, his home, his job. It steals, murders and lies. It withholds the tithe and uses the Sabbath for its own gain. Jesus warns us: “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (**Luke 12:15**). Rather “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (**Matt. 6:33**). Only the Lord Jesus Christ can cure covetousness, by forgiving you and teaching you to say “Not my will, but your will be done.” Follow the motto of John Calvin: “My heart, O Lord, I give thee, promptly and sincerely”. The Bible tells us to guard our hearts diligently (**Prov. 4:23**).

Jesus summed up the ten commandments in two commandments to love in Matthew 22:37–40 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

2. By imitating the Lord Jesus and God

We are called to imitate both Christ and God, as well as one another. Imitation flows out of our communion with God. “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children” (Eph. 5:1). Imitate people in your life are love the Lord and obey His commands. **Romans 13:14** “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

3. By spending time in God’s Word and Prayer

- **You should have a plan to read the Bible every day.**
- **Psalm 1:2–3** “his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.”
- **Psalm 119:9–11, 25** “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. ...My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!”
- **You should pray each day.** Talk to God. Praise and thank Him. Ask Him to bless and help others, and to help you. Learn the Lord’s Prayer by heart.
- **Philippians 4:6–7** “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Test Questions:

1. What does “sovereign” mean?
2. Will Jesus save you if you ask Him to forgive you but do not follow Him?
3. Why does the Lord call you His servant? List some ways you serve Him.
4. What are some of the world’s sinful ways you must reject?
5. What does “mortify” mean?
6. How do you know what pleases God and what doesn’t please Him?
7. Can you name all 10 commandments?
8. Are there other important commandments in the Bible?
9. Why do you need God’s Spirit?
10. What does it mean to rely on God’s grace?
11. How often do you read your Bible?
12. Recite the Lord’s Prayer. What did you pray about today?

#5. THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS MY SPIRITUAL HOME

Do you promise to participate faithfully in this church’s worship and service, to submit in the Lord to its government, and to heed its discipline, even in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life?

A. I Promise to Submit to the Leaders of Christ’s Church

1. Spiritual Authority is Real and Given by God to the leaders of the church.

Hebrews 13:7, 17 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.

Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ...Obey your leaders and

submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”

2. Spiritual Authority is Limited to “Doctrine & Life” as described in the Bible.

Hebrews 13:17 “they are keeping watch over your souls” They ask you to obey the commandments of God in the Bible, not man-made rules. God gave them to help you grow as a Christian.

3. Submit first to the Ministry of the Word. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 “And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.” This means you should be faithful in attending all the regular services of the church, especially on the **Lord’s Day**.

4. Be totally committed to the church. Do not ask what the church can do for you, but what you can do for the church. Use the gifts and abilities God gave you to be a blessing to those around you. If you have a problem with the way something is done, go to the person in charge, which may be the elders. Never leave the church unless it stops being a true church [stops preaching the whole Bible, baptizing and serving the Lord’s Supper, and exercising church discipline]. The church is not a human organization, but the body of Jesus Christ: **Acts 20:28** “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

B. I Promise to Heed their Correction in Doctrine and Life

1. Scripture requires Church Discipline, just as it does parental discipline of children.

1 Corinthians 5:4–5 “When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.”

The church is a large family, so Paul says that elders must be good husbands and fathers: **1 Timothy 3:5** “for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?” Discipline is an important part of God being our heavenly Father.

2. Church Discipline is not harsh but helpful.

Godly discipline, when done God’s way, gently in love (**Gal. 6:1–2**) **2 Timothy 2:24–26** “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.”

3. Church Discipline is a blessing to the church. Do not reject it or you will be like an orphan. **Hebrews 12:6–11** “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For

the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Purposes of Church Discipline [Westminster Confession of Faith 30:3] #1. Restore the sinning person #2. Warn other members #3. Purify the church #4. Defend the reputation of Jesus Christ #5. Prevent God’s anger.

4. Follow God’s way of correcting others. When necessary, if the sin or error of someone else is a problem for us we must follow God’s way of dealing with our brother or sister. **Matthew 5:23–24; 18:15–20.** Go in love and with humility to the person who has sinned or believed false doctrine. Go to help not hurt. Do not meddle in other people’s business or gossip about what they have done wrong. Never go to others first unless it is a crime. You may want to ask your parents if it is a very serious sin. Then if the person will not listen go to your parents, who will go to the elders.

Test Questions:

1. What kind of authority do the leaders of the church have?
2. Who gave them this authority? Give a Bible verse.
3. Is their authority the same as that of a policeman? Is it limited?
4. Why should you obey them? Give examples of how you do?
5. Is your commitment to the church important? Why?
6. Why is church discipline important?
7. What are some of the blessings and benefits of church discipline?