



THE 1689
BAPTIST CONFESSION OF FAITH
IN MODERN ENGLISH



GOD AND THE HOLY TRINITY

2:1 The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God.¹ He is self-existent² and infinite in being and perfection. His essence cannot be understood by anyone but Him.³ He is a perfectly pure spirit.⁴ He is invisible and has no body, parts, or passions.^a He alone has immortality, dwelling in light that no one can approach.⁵ He is unchangeable,⁶ immense,^{b,7} eternal,⁸ incomprehensible, almighty,⁹ in every way infinite, absolutely holy,¹⁰ perfectly wise, wholly free, completely absolute. He works all things according to the counsel of His own unchangeable and completely righteous will¹¹ for His own glory.¹² He is most loving, gracious, merciful, and patient. He overflows with goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. He rewards those who seek Him diligently.¹³ At the same time, He is perfectly just and terrifying in His judgments.¹⁴ He hates all sin¹⁵ and will certainly not clear the guilty.¹⁶

^a emotions arising from external causes

^b transcends all space

¹ Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4, 6

² Isaiah 48:12; Jeremiah 10:10

³ Exodus 3:14

⁴ John 4:24

⁵ Deuteronomy 4:15–16; 1 Timothy 1:17

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⁶ Malachi 3:6

⁷ 1 Kings 8:27; Jeremiah 23:23

⁸ Psalm 90:2

⁹ Genesis 17:1

¹⁰ Isaiah 6:3

¹¹ Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 46:10

¹² Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36

¹³ Exodus 34:6–7; Hebrews 11:6

¹⁴ Nehemiah 9:32–33

¹⁵ Psalm 5:5–6

¹⁶ Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1:2–3

2:2 God has all life,¹⁷ glory,¹⁸ goodness,¹⁹ and blessedness in and of Himself; He alone is all-sufficient in Himself. He does not need any creature He has made nor does He derive any glory from them.²⁰ Instead, He demonstrates His own glory in them, by them, to them, and upon them. He alone is the source of all being, and everything is from Him, through Him, and to Him.²¹ He has absolute sovereign rule over all creatures, to act through them, for them, or upon them as He pleases.²² In His sight everything is open and visible.²³ His knowledge is infinite and infallible. It does not depend upon any creature, so for Him nothing is contingent or uncertain.²⁴ He is absolutely holy in all His plans, in all His works,²⁵ and in all His commands. Angels and men owe to Him all the worship,²⁶ service, or obedience that creatures owe to the Creator and whatever else He is pleased to require of them.

¹⁷ John 5:26

¹⁸ Psalm 148:13

¹⁹ Psalm 119:68



God and the Holy Trinity

²⁰ Job 22:2–3

²¹ Romans 11:34–36

²² Daniel 4:25, 34–35

²³ Hebrews 4:13

²⁴ Ezekiel 11:5; Acts 15:18

²⁵ Psalm 145:17

²⁶ Revelation 5:12–14

2:3 This divine and infinite Being consists of three persons,^c the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit.²⁷ These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided.²⁸ The Father is not derived from anyone, neither begotten nor proceeding. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father.²⁹ The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.³⁰ All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations. This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on Him.

^c *subsistences*

²⁷ Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7

²⁸ Exodus 3:14; John 14:11; 1 Corinthians 8:6

²⁹ John 1:14, 18

³⁰ John 15:26; Galatians 4:6





THE BAPTIST CATECHISM

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Q. 1. Who is the first and chiefest being?

A. God is the first and chiefest being.¹

¹ Isaiah 44:6; 48:12

Q. 2. Ought everyone to believe there is a God?

A. Everyone ought to believe there is a God;¹ and it is their great sin and folly who do not.²

¹ Hebrews 11:6

² Psalm 14:1

Q. 3. How may we know there is a God?

A. The light of nature in man and the works of God plainly declare there is a God;¹ but His Word and Spirit only do it fully and effectually for the salvation of sinners.²

¹ Psalm 19:1–3; Acts 17:24; Romans 1:19–20

² 1 Corinthians 2:10; 2 Timothy 3:15–16

Q. 4. What is the Word of God?

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience.¹

¹ Ephesians 2:20; 2 Timothy 3:16

Scripture references marked with an asterisk are not in the 1695.

Q. 5. May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?

A. All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted to read, hear, and understand the Holy Scriptures.¹

¹ Deuteronomy 17:18–19; John 5:39; Acts 8:30; Revelation 1:3

Q. 6. What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?

A. The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.¹

¹ 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:15–16

Q. 7. What is God?

A. God is a spirit,¹ infinite,² eternal,³ and unchangeable⁴ in His being,⁵ wisdom,⁶ power,⁷ holiness,⁸ justice, goodness, and truth.⁹

¹ John 4:24

² Job 11:7–9

³ Psalm 90:2

⁴ James 1:17

⁵ Exodus 3:14

⁶ Psalm 147:5

⁷ Revelation 4:8

⁸ Revelation 15:4

⁹ Exodus 34:6–7

Q. 8. Are there more gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.¹

¹ Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10

Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.¹

¹ Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7

Q. 10. What are the decrees of God?

A. The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsel of His will, whereby, for His own glory, He has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.¹

¹ *Isaiah 46:10; Lamentations 3:37; Romans 9:22–23; Ephesians 1:4, 11

Q. 11. How does God execute His decrees?

A. God executes His decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Q. 12. What is the work of creation?

A. The work of creation is God's making all things of nothing, by the word of His power, in the space of six days, and all very good.¹

¹ Genesis 1 throughout; Hebrews 11:3

Q. 13. 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.¹

¹ Genesis 1:26–28; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10



AN ORTHODOX CATECHISM
IN MODERN ENGLISH

A CATECHISM CONTAINING THE SUM OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION



Q. 1. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That both in soul and body,¹ whether I live or die,² I am not my own, but belong entirely to my most faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.³ By His most precious blood making full satisfaction for all my sins,⁴ He has delivered me from all the power of the devil,⁵ and so preserves me⁶ that outside the will of my heavenly Father, not so much as a hair may fall from my head;⁷ yes, all things must serve for my safety.⁸ By His Spirit also, He assures me of everlasting life,⁹ and makes me ready and prepared¹⁰ so that from now on I may live to Him.

¹ 1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:10

² Romans 14:8

³ 1 Corinthians 3:23

⁴ 1 Peter 1:18–19; 1 John 1:7; 2:2

⁵ Hebrews 2:14–15; 1 John 3:8

⁶ John 6:39

⁷ Matthew 10:30; Luke 21:18

⁸ Romans 8:28

⁹ 2 Corinthians 1:12; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13–14

¹⁰ Romans 8:24–25

Scripture references marked with an asterisk are not in the 1695.

Q. 2. What must you know in order to enjoy this comfort and live and die happily?

A. Three things. First, the greatness of my sin and misery.¹ Second, how I am delivered from all sin and misery.² Third, the thanks I owe to God for this delivery.³

¹ Luke 24:47; Romans 3

² John 4:41; Romans 8:15; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:3–8

³ Matthew 5:16; Romans 6:11–13; Ephesians 5:10; Titus 2:11–12;
1 Peter 2:9; 3:10–12

THE FIRST PART

Of Man's Misery

Q. 3. How do you know about your misery?

A. From the law of God.¹

¹ Romans 3:20; 5:20; 7:5, 13

Q. 4. What does the law of God require of us?

A. God's law requires of us what Christ summarizes in His teaching to us 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.^a 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."

^a Luke 10:27 includes "*and all your strength.*"

Q. 5. Are you able to keep all these things perfectly?

A. No.¹ By nature I am prone to hate God and my neighbors.²

¹ Romans 3:10, 23; 1 John 1:8

² Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:3; Titus 3:3

Q. 6. Did God, then, make man so wicked and perverse?

A. No,¹ He made man good and in His own image,² that is, in true righteousness and holiness,³ so that we might rightly know God our Creator, love Him with all our hearts, live with Him in eternal happiness, and praise and magnify Him.⁴

¹ Genesis 1:31

² Genesis 1:26–27

³ Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10

⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:18

Q. 7. Where does man's wicked nature come from?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve.¹ For this reason our nature is so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.²

¹ Romans 5:12, 18–19

² Genesis 5:3; Psalm 51:5

Q. 8. Are we so corrupt that we are completely unable to do any good and are prone to all kinds of evil?

A. Yes, we are corrupt and prone to evil unless we are born again by the Holy Spirit.¹

¹ Genesis 6:5; Job 14:4; 15:16; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:5

Q. 9. Doesn't God, then, do man an injustice by requiring in the law what we are not able to perform?

A. No, God made man able to keep the law.¹ But man, at the instigation of the devil² and by his own