

A close-up photograph of a child's hands playing with colorful wooden blocks. The child is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. The blocks are in various colors: red, blue, yellow, green, and natural wood. The child is stacking a red block on top of a blue block, which is on top of a yellow block. The background is blurred, showing the child's legs and the floor.

# Simply Christianity

**Basic questions answered simply from the Bible**

ESV Version

# *Simply Christianity*

This booklet answers 145 basic questions about what is taught in the Bible - about God the Father, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, and about the gospel and the Christian life. Each answer is backed with scripture references, so that you can search out and prove the answers for yourself. Acts 8:30-31; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14

There are many questions that are not dealt with here, but studying this book and the Scripture references will provide a good basis for seeking answers to other questions about the Christian faith.

May the Lord bless with understanding everyone who reads and learns these questions and answers - especially, those young children who are blessed with parents and church friends who diligently and prayerfully teach them these truths.

*<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>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.*

*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:14-17

These questions and answers are based on *A Catechism for Young Children* prepared by Joseph Patterson Engles (1793-1861) published in 1840 in USA by Presbyterian Board of Publications. The original text is still in print, and available from Great Commission Publications, USA.

Direct Scripture quotes are from:

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version

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*Q. 1. Who made you?*

God.

Genesis 1:27

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*Q. 2. What else did God make?*

God made all things.

Genesis 1; Hebrews 11:3

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*Q. 3. Why did God make you and all things ?*

For His own glory.

Revelation 4:11

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*Q. 4. How can you glorify God?*

By loving Him and doing what He commands.

Matthew 22:37-39; 1 Corinthians 10:31; John 14:15

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*Q. 5. Why should you to glorify God?*

Because He made me and takes care of me.

Matthew 6:25-33

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*Q. 6. Are there more gods than one?*

There is only one God.

Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:9

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*Q. 7. In how many persons does this one God exist?*

In three persons.

Matthew 28:19

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*Q. 8. Who are they?*

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

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*Q. 9. What is God?*

God is Spirit, and does not have a body like ours.

John 4:24; Romans 1:23; 1 Timothy 1:17

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*Q. 10. Where is God?*

God is everywhere.

1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 139:7-10

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*Q. 11. Can you see God?*

No; I cannot see God, but He always sees me.

John 1:18; 1 Peter 3:12

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*Q. 12. Does God know all things?*

Yes; nothing can be hidden from God.

Hebrews 4:13; 1 Peter 3:12

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*Q. 13. Can God do all things?*

Yes; God can do all His holy will.

Isaiah 40:10-17; Jeremiah 32:27

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*Q. 14. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?*

In the Bible alone.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

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*Q. 15. Who wrote the Bible?*

The Holy Spirit, working in and through holy men.

2 Peter 1:19-21

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*Q. 16. Who were our first parents?*

Adam and Eve.

Genesis 2:21-23; 3:20

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*Q. 17. Of what were our first parents made?*  
God made the body of Adam out of the ground, and formed Eve from the body of Adam.  
Genesis 2:7, 22

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*Q. 18. What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?*  
He gave them souls that could never die.  
1 Corinthians 15:45; Ecclesiastes 12:7

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*Q. 19. Do you have a soul as well as a body?*  
Yes; I have a soul that can never die.  
Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43; Acts 7:59

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*Q. 20. How do you know that you have a soul?*  
Because the Bible tells me so.  
Genesis 2:7; Ecclesiastes 12:7

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*Q. 21. In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?*  
He made them holy and happy.  
Ecclesiastes 7:29; Psalm 32:2; Psalm 84:12

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*Q. 22. What is a covenant?*  
An agreement between two or more persons.  
Genesis 15:18; 17:7

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*Q. 23. What covenant did God make with Adam?*  
The covenant of works.  
Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 10:5

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*Q. 24. What was Adam bound to do by the covenant of works?*  
To obey God perfectly.  
Galatians 3:10-12

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*Q. 25. What did God promise in the covenant of works?*  
To reward Adam with life if he obeyed Him.  
Proverbs 7:2

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*Q. 26. What did God threaten in the covenant of works?*  
To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed.  
Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:10-12

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*Q. 27. Did Adam keep the covenant of works?*  
No; he sinned against God.  
Genesis 3:6

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*Q. 28. What is Sin?*  
Sin is not doing what God commands, or doing what  
God's law forbids.  
1 John 3:4

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*Q. 29. Must we always do what God commands?*  
Yes, we must keep all His law.  
Jeremiah 38:20

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*Q. 30. May we ever do what God forbids?*  
No, we must never disobey God  
Colossians 3:6.

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*Q. 31. What was the sin of our first parents?*  
Eating the forbidden fruit.  
Genesis 3:11-12

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*Q. 32. Who tempted them to this sin?*  
The devil tempted Eve, and she gave the fruit to Adam.  
Genesis 3:1-6, 13

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*Q. 33. What happened to our first parents when they had sinned?*

Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable.

Genesis 3:14-24; Lamentations 3:39

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*Q. 34. Did Adam act for himself alone in the covenant of works?*

No; he represented all mankind.

Romans 5:12-19

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*Q. 35. What effect did the sin of Adam have on all mankind?*

All mankind are born in a state of sin and misery.

Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:22

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*Q. 36. What is that sinful nature which we inherit from Adam called?*

Original sin.

Ecclesiastes 7:29; Jeremiah 17:9

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*Q. 37. What does every sin deserve?*

The wrath and curse of God.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 5:6

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*Q. 38. Can anyone go to heaven with this sinful nature?*

No; our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven.

Ephesians 2:1-5; Revelation 21:27

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*Q. 39. What is a change of heart called?*

Regeneration.

Titus 3:5

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*Q. 40. Who can change a sinner's heart?*

The Holy Spirit alone.

John 3:1-7; Titus 3:5

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*Q. 41. Will any one be saved through the covenant of works?*

No-one will be saved through the covenant of works.

Galatians 2:20

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*Q. 42. Why can no-one be saved through the covenant of works?*

Because all have broken it, and are condemned by it.

Matthew 15:19; Psalm 51:5

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*Q. 43. With whom did God the Father make the covenant of grace (sometimes called 'the new testament')?*

With Christ, His eternal Son.

2 Timothy 1:9

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*Q. 44. Who did Christ represent in the covenant of grace?*

His elect people.

John 10:11; 8:32-33

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*Q. 45. What did Christ undertake in the covenant of grace?*

To keep the whole law for His people, and to suffer the punishment due to their sins.

Isaiah 53:5; Hebrews 10:12

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*Q. 46. Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever commit the least sin?*

No; He was holy, innocent, and unstained.

Hebrews 7:26

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*Q. 47. How could the Son of God suffer?*

Christ, the Son of God, became man that He might obey and suffer in our nature.

Galatians 4:4; Philippians 2:6-8

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*Q. 48. What is meant by the Atonement?*

Christ's satisfying divine justice, by His sufferings and death, in the place of sinners.

Romans 5:11; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 3:18

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*Q. 49. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace?*

To justify, sanctify, and glorify those for whom Christ should die.

Romans 8:29-30

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*Q. 50. What is justification?*

It is God's forgiving sinners, and treating them as if they had never sinned.

Romans 3:20-28

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*Q. 51. What is sanctification?*

It is God's working in sinners, making them holy in heart and conduct.

1 Corinthians 6:11; 1 Timothy 2:21

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*Q. 52. For whom did Christ obey and suffer?*

For those whom the Father had given Him.

John 6:37; 17:2, 9-11

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*Q. 53. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?*

A life of humble obedience to His Father's will.

Luke 22:42; Philippians 2:7-8

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*Q. 54. What kind of death did Christ die?*  
The painful and shameful death of the cross.  
Matthew 15:22-37; Mark 15:20-38; John 19:17-30

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*Q. 55. Who will be saved?*  
Only those who repent of sin, believe in Christ, and lead holy lives.  
Mark 1:15; Acts 4:12; 17:30-31

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*Q. 56. What is it to repent?*  
To be sorry for sin, and to hate and forsake it because it is displeasing to God.  
2 Corinthians 7:10

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*Q. 57. What is it to believe or have faith in Christ?*  
To trust in Christ alone for salvation.  
Acts 16:31

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*Q. 58. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?*  
No; I can do nothing good without the help of God's Holy Spirit.  
John 6:44; 15:1-6

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*Q. 59. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?*  
God has told us that we must pray to Him for the Holy Spirit.  
James 1:5-7

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*Q. 60. How long ago is it since Christ died?*  
Nearly two thousand years.  
Luke 3:1; Acts 4:27-28

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*Q. 61. How were God's people saved before the coming of Christ?*

By believing in a Saviour to come.

Hebrews 11:1-40

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*Q. 62. How did they show their faith?*

By offering sacrifices on God's altar.

James 2:21

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*Q. 63. What did these sacrifices represent?*

Christ, the Lamb of God, who was to die for sinners.

John 1:29, 36; 1 Peter 1:19

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*Q. 64. How many offices does Christ have?*

Christ has three offices.

Hebrews 1:1; 4:14; Revelation 17:4

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*Q. 65. What are they?*

The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king.

Hebrews 1:1; 5:5-6; Revelation 17:4

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*Q. 66. How is Christ a prophet?*

Because He teaches us the will of God.

Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 1:1

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*Q. 67. How is Christ a priest?*

Because He died for our sins and pleads with God for us.

Hebrews 7:25; 10:10

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*Q. 68. How is Christ a king?*

Because He rules over us and defends us.

Revelation 19:6

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*Q. 69. Why do you need Christ as a prophet?*  
Because I am ignorant of things I need to know.  
Psalm 25:4

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*Q. 70. Why do you need Christ as a priest?*  
Because I am guilty.  
Hebrews 2:17; 9:11-12

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*Q. 71. Why do you need Christ as a king?*  
Because I am weak and helpless.  
John 15:5

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*Q. 72. How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?*  
Ten commandments.  
Exodus 20:3-17

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*Q. 73. What does the introduction to the ten commandments teach us?*  
That the commandments come from God, Who cares for His people and provides for them.  
Exodus 20:2

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*Q. 74. What do the first four commandments teach?*  
Our duty to God.  
Exodus 20:3-11

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*Q. 75. What do the last six commandments teach?*  
Our duty to our fellow men.  
Exodus 20:12-17

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*Q. 76. What is the sum of the ten commandments?*  
To love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength; and my neighbour as myself.  
Mark 12:30-31

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*Q. 77. Who is your neighbour?*

All my fellow men are my neighbours.

Luke 10:29-37

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*Q. 78. Is God pleased with those who love and obey him?*

Yes; He says, "I love those who love Me."

Proverbs 8:17; John 14:21

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*Q. 79. Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey him?*

Yes; God is a righteous judge, Who will by no means clear the guilty.

Psalm 7:11; Exodus 34:7

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*Q. 80. What is the first commandment?*

The first commandment is: You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exodus 20:3

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*Q. 81. What does the first commandment teach us?*

To worship God alone.

Deuteronomy 6:13; Matthew 4:10

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*Q. 82. What is the second commandment?*

The second commandment is: You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:4-6

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*Q. 83. What does the second commandment teach us?*  
To worship God in a proper manner, and to avoid idolatry.

John 4:24

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*Q. 84. What is the third commandment?*  
The third commandment is: You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Exodus 20:7

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*Q. 85. What does the third commandment teach us?*  
To reverence God's name, word, and works.

Leviticus 22:32

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*Q. 86. What is the fourth commandment?*  
The fourth commandment is: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:8-11

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*Q. 87. What does the fourth commandment teach us?*  
To keep the Sabbath holy.

Isaiah 58:13-14

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*Q. 88. What day of the week is the Christian Sabbath?*  
The first day of the week, called the Lord's day.  
Revelation 1:10

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*Q. 89. Why is it called the Lord's day?*  
Because on that day Christ rose from the dead.  
Mark 16:2-6

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*Q. 90. How should the Sabbath be spent?*  
In prayer and praise, in hearing and reading God's  
Word, in resting, and in doing good to our fellow men.  
Isaiah 58:13

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*Q. 91. What is the fifth commandment?*  
The fifth commandment is: Honour your father and your  
mother, that your days may be long in the land that the  
LORD your God is giving you.  
Exodus 20:12

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*Q. 92. What does the fifth commandment teach me?*  
To love and obey our parents and teachers.  
Ephesians 6:2; Romans 13:1-7

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*Q. 93. What is the sixth commandment?*  
The sixth commandment is: You shall not murder.  
Exodus 20:13

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*Q. 94. What does the sixth commandment teach us?*  
To avoid angry thoughts and actions.  
Matthew 5:21-24; Ephesians 4:26-27; 1 Peter 2:17-18

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*Q. 95. What is the seventh commandment?*

The seventh commandment is: You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14

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*Q. 96. What does the seventh commandment teach us?*

To be pure in heart, language, and conduct.

Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Corinthians 6:18

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*Q. 97. What is the eighth commandment?*

The eighth commandment is: You shall not steal.

Exodus 20:15

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*Q. 98. What does the eighth commandment teach us?*

To be honest and industrious.

Romans 12:11; Ephesians 4:28

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*Q. 99. What is the ninth commandment?*

The ninth commandment is: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

Exodus 20:16

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*Q. 100. What does the ninth commandment teach us?*

To tell the truth.

Zechariah 8:16; Ephesians 4:15

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*Q. 101. What is the tenth commandment?*

The tenth commandment is: You shall not covet your neighbour's house, you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour's.

Exodus 20:17

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*Q. 102. What does the tenth commandment teach us?*

To be content with what we are and what we have.

Hebrews 13:5

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*Q. 103. Can anyone keep these ten commandments perfectly?*

No mere man, since the fall of Adam, ever did or can keep the ten commandments perfectly.

Romans 7:18

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*Q. 104. Of what use are the ten commandments to us?*

They teach us our duty, and show our need of a Saviour.

Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:24

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*Q. 105. What is prayer?*

Prayer is talking to God.

Daniel 9:3-4

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*Q. 106. In whose name should we pray?*

Only in the name of Christ.

John 14:13; 16:26

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*Q. 107. What has Christ given us to teach us how to pray?*

The Lord's Prayer.

Matthew 6:9-13

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*Q. 108. Repeat the Lord's Prayer.*

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

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*Q. 109. How many petitions are there in The Lord's Prayer?*  
There are six petitions in the Lord's Prayer.

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*Q. 110. What is the first petition?*  
"Hallowed be Your name."  
Matthew 6:9; Luke 11:2

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*Q. 111. What do we pray for in the first petition?*  
That God's name may be honoured by us and all people.  
Romans 14:11

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*Q. 112. What is the second petition?*  
"Your kingdom come."  
Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2

---

*Q. 113. What do we pray for in the second petition?*  
That the gospel may be preached in all the world, and  
believed and obeyed by us and all people.  
Mark 16:15; Philippians 2:10-11

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*Q. 114. What is the third petition?*  
"Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."  
Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2

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*Q. 115. What do we pray for in the third petition?*  
That people on earth may serve God as the angels do in  
heaven.  
Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8-11

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*Q. 116. What is the fourth petition?*  
"Give us this day our daily bread."  
Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3

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*Q. 117. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?*

That God would give us all that we need for our bodies and souls.

Luke 12:22-31

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*Q. 118. What is the fifth petition?*

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4

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*Q. 119. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?*

That God would pardon our sins for Christ's sake, and enable us to forgive those who have injured us.

Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-22

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*Q. 120. What is the sixth petition?*

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Matthew 6:13; Luke 11:4

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*Q. 121. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?*

That God would keep us from sin.

John 17:15; 2 Thessalonians 3:3

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*Q. 122. How many sacraments are there?*

There are two sacraments.

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*Q. 123. What are the two sacraments?*

Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-27

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*Q. 124. Who appointed the sacraments?*

The Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20

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*Q. 125. Why did Christ appoint the sacraments?*

To distinguish His disciples from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.

Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 10:21

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*Q. 126. What sign is used in baptism?*

The washing with water.

Acts 8:36

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*Q. 127. What does this signify?*

That we are cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ.

1 John 1:7-9; 1 Peter 3:21

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*Q. 128. In whose name are we baptized?*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

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*Q. 129. Who are to be baptized?*

Believers and their children.

Acts 2:38-39; 16:15

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*Q. 130. Why should the children of believers be baptized?*

Because the promise of the gospel is especially made to them.

Acts 2:39

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*Q. 131. Does Christ care for little children?*

Yes; for He says, "Let the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them: for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14

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*Q. 132. To what does your baptism bind you?*

To be a true follower of Christ.

Romans 6:4-6

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*Q. 133. What is the Lord's Supper?*

The eating of bread and drinking from the cup in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:26

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*Q. 134. What does the bread represent?*

The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24

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*Q. 135. What does the cup represent?*

The blood of Christ, shed for our salvation.

Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25

---

*Q. 136. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?*

Only those who repent of their sins, believe in Christ for salvation, and love their fellow men.

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

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*Q. 137. Did Christ remain in the tomb after His crucifixion?*

No; He rose from the tomb on the third day after His death.

Matthew 28:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:4

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*Q. 138. Where is Christ now?*

In heaven, interceding for sinners.

Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25

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*Q. 139. Will He come again?*

Yes; at the last day Christ will come to judge the world.

Matthew 24:30-31; Acts 1:11; Jude 1:14-15

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*Q. 140. What becomes of people at death?*

The body returns to dust, and the soul goes either to heaven or hell.

Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 16:22-23

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*Q. 141. Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?*

Yes: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ will be raised.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

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*Q. 142. What will become of the wicked in the day of judgment?*

They shall be cast into hell.

Psalm 9:17; Revelation 20:15

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*Q. 143. What is hell?*

A place of dreadful and endless torment.

Luke 13:28; 16:19-31; Revelation 20:15

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*Q. 144. What will become of the righteous?*

They shall be taken to heaven.

Revelation 19:1-9

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*Q. 145. What is heaven?*

A glorious and happy place, where the righteous shall be forever with the Lord.

Revelation 22:1-5

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Some useful reading material on Family Worship:

Modern Writers:

Beeke, Joel *Family Worship*

Reformation Heritage Books (Second edition, 2009)

Carr, Francois *Lead Your Family in Worship*

Day One (2008)

Johnson, Terry L. *The Family Worship Book*

Christian Focus Publications (1998)

Classic writers:

Alexander, J.W. *Thoughts on Family Worship*

Soli Deo Gloria Publications (1990 – reprint of 1847 original)

Ezzo, Gary (Editor) *The Godly Family*

*Essays on the duties of parents and children by Samuel Davies, George Whitfield, Philip Dodderidge, Henry Venn and others*

Soli Deo Gloria Publications (1993)

Hamond, George *The Case for Family Worship*

Soli Deo Gloria Publications (2005 – language updated from the 1694 original)

Henry, Matthew *A Church in the House*

*A sermon concerning Family Religion*

The Vision Forum (2007 – Edited/Updated from the original of 1704 by Scott T. Brown)

# Simply Christianity

**Basic questions answered simply from the Bible**

**Covenanter Press**

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