

JESUS IS MY LORD AND SAVIOR

Public Profession for Covenant Youth

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 four questions from "The Directory for the Public Worship of God" Chapter V.5 of *The Book of Church Order of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, are the standard for public profession. Genuine of faith is not measured by intelligence 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 Four 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 confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, and that you trust for salvation not in yourself but in Jesus Christ alone?
3. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord and do you promise, in reliance on the grace of God, to serve him with all that is in you, to forsake the world, to mortify your old nature, and to lead a godly life?
4. Do you agree to submit in the Lord to the government of this church and, in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life, to heed its discipline?

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

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?

Psalm 19:7-11

- 7 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple;
- 8 The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes;
- 9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired *are* *they* than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

- 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,
- 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- 16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:19-21

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as *they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

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 firmament shows His handiwork. - teaches that all God's creation reveals Him. But sin blinds us to this revelation. **Romans 1:20-21** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.
- **2 Tim 3:16** "**inspiration of God**" means literally "God breathed. The Bible is God-breathed. 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 Pet 1:21** "**moved by the Holy Spirit**" means the Spirit of God moved them like a sailboat, guiding and directing what they wrote. It is **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.
- **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 Our Spiritual Needs

- **Shorter Catechism #3** Q. 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 Tim 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 Tim 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 known the Holy Scriptures**" Look at Abraham. **Genesis 12:2** 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** 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. **2 Tim 3:16** etc.
- **The Bible is Uniquely Amazing.** There is no other book like it. It tells us things about God that only He would know. **1 Cor 2:10-11** But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

- **The Spirit convinces our hearts. 1 Cor 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to 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 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

3. To believe the Bible is God's Word means you must obey it. Ps 19:11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* 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, converting 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. **Ps 19:8** The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes. **2 Tim 3:15** the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2. Salvation means to be rescued from sin and death. Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the 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 I am the way, 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 Cor 15:3-5** delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ **died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He **rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by 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 "inspired" 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 6 characteristics of God's Word from Psalm 19, together with the change they cause in you.
6. What are the 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?

#2. JESUS CHRIST IS MY SAVIOR

2. Do you confess that because of your sinfulness you abhor and humble yourself before God, 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. GOD is the One true and living God of the Bible. Shorter Catechism #5 Q. Are there more Gods than one? A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

- **He is Trinity. Shorter Catechism #6** Q. 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.

Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost... **1 Cor 13:14**

Ephesians 4:6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Acts 5:3-4 Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit ...You have not lied to men but to God.

- **He is my Holy Creator.** He made me in His image [**Genesis 1:26-28**] and so I owe Him my love, worship, thanks and service. **You were created to Glorify God** = show how wonderful He is in your whole life. **Mark 12:30** Love the Lord with all your _____?

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

- **Adam was the first to sin.** In Adam's fall we sinned all. [**Romans 5:1-12**]. Sin then none give Him the worship and thanks due to Him. **Romans 1:21, 25** they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful ... who exchanged the truth of God for the 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** There is none righteous, no, not one ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:19** all the world ...guilty before God. **Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it? **Ephesians 2:1** you *He made alive*, who 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 taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. **Matthew 25:30, 46; Mark 9:43-48**

3. 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 begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting 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.

4. God chose you before creation and sent Jesus to die for your sins. Ephesians 1:4-7

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace...

5. 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 was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. **Galatians 4:4** God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law...

6. He lived and died in my place as my 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 **Hebrews 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** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed. **The God the Judge declares us righteous – justification (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2).** His sinless life was lived in our place (**Hebrews 4:15**). His sinless suffering on the cross paid the penalty as He gave His life for our sins (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). He gave His life as a Substitute, taking our place before God's judgment (**Romans 5:6**). He is our Ransom (**Mark 10:45**), paying the price of Redemption (**Ephesians 1:7**) for our sins and Reconciling us to God (**Romans 5:10**).

B. I HAVE HUMBLLED MYSELF BEFORE GOD IN TRUE REPENTANCE

1. Your 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. 3 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 acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me" (**Psalms 51:3**). No excuses!
- **Be Sorry for your Sin.** Not the "worldly sorrow" of self-pity (**2 Corinthians 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.” (**Psalms 51:4**). The sorrow that produces repentance is God-centered not self-centered.
- **Turn from your Sin.** An 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** that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to 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 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by 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. 3 Parts of Faith.

- **Know the truth.** Faith is not blind. You must trust Jesus Christ. The only way you can know 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 15:1-5** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by 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 those who put their trust in Him" (**Psalm 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?

Luke 18:10-14

10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men -- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he 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?

#3. JESUS CHRIST IS MY MASTER

3. Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your sovereign Lord and do you promise, in reliance on the grace of God, to serve him with all that is in you, to forsake the world, to mortify your old nature, and to lead a godly life?

A. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE MASTER OF MY WHOLE LIFE

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 Timothy 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,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

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.

2. God at great cost has purchased you with the great price of Jesus death on the cross.

1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

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 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave -- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life 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. Only marriage is for a lifetime, but this lasts into eternity. **We are called to a spiritual war. “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses”** (1 Timothy 6:12, cf. Ephesians 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, the things of the Spirit. **Philippians 1:6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ. **Galatians 3:3** Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

C. I PROMISE TO REJECT THE SINFUL WAYS OF THE WORLD

Psalms 1:1 Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful...

1. We are called to live in the world. In a world of sinners. I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world (1 Corinthians 5:9-10). **In the world God created.** For everything created by God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving (1 Timothy 4:4)

2. We are called to forsake the world's sinful ways. Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

D. I PROMISE TO CONTINUALLY PUT SIN TO DEATH IN MY LIFE

Luke 9:21-23 If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?

The Spirit of the crucified and risen Lord enables us to *mortify* sin. Mortify means kill. Put sin to death. "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" (Romans 8:13, cf. Colossians 3:5, tells us the sins we are to kill). The Spirit gives us power to execute or exterminate our sin. This is what the King James Version means by *mortify*. 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 cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast 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. **John 14:15; 15:10** If you love Me, **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 Thou shalt 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 ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness" (Deuteronomy 32:17,18; 1 Corinthians 10:20). The Lord is to be the chief object of our affections. He is to be the love of our lives. It is a matter of **Loyalty**.

#2 Second Commandment: Way of worship Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven 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 the manner of 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. Psalm 135:15-20

#3 Third Commandment: Attitude of worship Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy 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. “Give unto the LORD the glory due His name” (Psalm 29:2). “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse” (Romans 12:14). Adam brought glory to God by naming the animals appropriately (Genesis 2:19). “Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together” (Psalm 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 (Genesis 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 (Matthew 28:1; John 20:1, 19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 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 Honour thy father and thy 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 which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. This will help you to respect authority in every other relationship in this world.

#6 Sixth Commandment: Sanctity of life Thou shalt not kill. This commandment protects and promotes all human life, because God made every person in His own image (Genesis 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 - “Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.” 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 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

#7 Seventh Commandment: Sanctity of marriage Thou shalt not commit adultery. This commandment promotes faithfulness in the marriage covenant and sexual purity (Proverbs 31:10-31; Ephesians 5:21-33). All sexual activity outside the bounds of marriage is forbidden. Beware of pornography, homosexuality. Dress modestly (1 Peter 3:2-4) and stay away from temptation. The Bible clearly teaches that single Christians are to seek only believers as marriage partners (Genesis 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 7:39). This means that Christian young people should be on the lookout for Biblical virtues as well as natural attraction in a potential mate. Divorce is a breaking of the marriage bond which grieves God deeply (Malachi 2:16; cf. Jeremiah 3:9-11; 5:8, 9; Hosea). There are two reasons that someone may need to get a divorce: if one partner commits adultery (**Matthew 19:9**); and if one partner abandons the other (**1 Corinthians 7:11-13**).

#8 Eighth Commandment: Sanctity of property Thou shalt 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 (Ephesians 4:28). Tithing is a primary way of putting God first in our lives (Malachi 3:8-10; 1 Corinthians 16:2). “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men” (Colossians 3:23; cf. Ecclesiastes 9:10).

#9 Ninth Commandment: Sanctity of truth Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

God is truth and wants us to be truthful, especially in a court of law, but in every relationship. The Devil is the original liar. Our first parents, Adam and Eve believed his lies and now we tend to lie (Genesis 3:1-6; John 8:44). We are to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Do not say what is in your mind if it is not kind. Gossip is sinful (Proverbs 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 Thou shalt not covet.

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 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 heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15). Rather “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). Only the Lord Jesus Christ can cure covetousness, by forgiving you and teaching you to say “Not my will, but Thy 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 (Proverbs 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, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment.³⁹ “And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang 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 Corinthians 11:1). “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children” (Ephesians 5:1). Imitate people in your life are love the Lord and obey His commands. Romans 13:14 “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lust.”

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

1. You should have a plan to read the Bible every day.

Psalm 1:2-3 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Psalm 119:9-11, 25 “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart have I sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. ... Revive me according to `

2. You should pray each day. Talk to God. Praise and thank Him. Ask Him to bless and help other, and to help you. Learn the Lord’s Prayer by heart.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, 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 minds through 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?

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

4. Do you agree to submit in the Lord to the government of this church and, in case you should be found delinquent in doctrine or life, to heed its discipline?

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 those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. ...Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

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

Hebrews 13:17 they watch out for 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 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 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 take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased 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 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

The church is a large family, so Paul says that elders must be good husbands and fathers: 1 Timothy 3:5 for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God? 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 [Galatians 6:1-2] 2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, ²⁶ and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive 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 ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable 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 of 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?