

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q/A 1 - 3

Q. 1: *What is the chief end of man?*

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q. 2: *What rule has 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.

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.

Key Scriptural Proofs:

Q/A 1: 1 Corinthians 10:31: So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Romans 11:36: For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Psalms 73:25-28: Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but go in the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of your works.

Q/A 2: 2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...

Ephesians 2:20: ...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...

1 John 1:3-4: ...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Q/A 3: 2 Timothy 1:13: Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Key Words & Phrases:

Chief End	Primary purpose; goal; destination. According to the Larger catechism, man's "chief and highest" end.
Glory	The Greek word for glory is <i>dóxa</i> , which denotes "divine and heavenly radiance" or the "loftiness and majesty" of God. The divine glory is the revelation of the divine perfections in the works of creation, providence, and redemption.
To glorify God	To glorify God is to know what he is (Calvin). Man's chief end is to finish the work God gave him to do and to finish it <i>God's</i> way.
Joy/Enjoy	We are to have pure, deep, and satisfying delight in God.
Forever	Never-ending, eternal, everlasting.
Word of God	This can be used of Christ, but normally it refers to the 66 canonical books of the Bible.
The scriptures	A technical term used in the Bible for the Old and New Testament authoritative, canonical books.
Old Testament	The 39 books that sometimes are called the Older Covenant.
New Testament	The 27 books that comprise the Newer Covenant.
Canon	From the Greek language meaning a "rule."
Hermeneutics	The science of interpretation.
Principally	Denotes the primary intention of the scriptures.
Faith (<i>credenda</i>)	Includes both <i>sure knowledge</i> and a <i>firm confidence</i> that I am God's child.
Behavior (<i>agenda</i>)	This is our ethics; what we do. Theology without ethics is empty; Ethics without theology is blind.

Workbook Section:

1. There are many people today who want to tell us who we are and how we are to live. How do you know which ones are correct and which ones are in error?

2. As Christians, how are we to live?

3. Is this something you believe in both your head and heart?

4. Write out a brief explanation of your conversion to the Christian faith.

5. How can sinners glorify God?

6. Look up John 8:36 and write out a summary of what you learn from that text.

7. Now look up Galatians 5:1 and 5:13. Write out a summary of what you learn from comparing these texts.

8. Someone once wrote: "Man's chief end is to finish the work God has given him/her to do."
Agree or disagree? Why?

9. What does it mean "to enjoy God"? What are some spiritual exercises that you can do to enjoy God and his goodness toward you?

10. Give a specific example of how you have enjoyed God lately.

11. Why is the Bible called the Word of God?

12. Does the Old Testament still apply to us today?

13. Are some things in the Old Testament no longer applicable? Name a couple.

14. Name a couple of things that have been modified from the Old Testament into the New.

15. Is the rest of the Old Testament still applicable to us?

16. How do you know what is right and wrong, good and evil, pleasing and displeasing to God?

17. How do you know what God is really like?

18. How can you know what God wants you to do?

19. What steps do you take when making an important decision?

20. Respond to this statement: "An orthodox faith and an obedient life is the whole duty of man."

21. What, according to these verses, is the Christian's chief duty:

Rom. 8:4 _____

Rom. 8:14 _____

22. Write out a brief description of what you learn from Gal. 5:22-23.
