

INTRODUCTION

The Westminster Shorter Catechism, a training manual for young Christians, was presented to the English speaking world in 1646. This training manual reflected over a hundred years of very intense and careful thinking about authentic Christian faith by Reformed English Christians. Two other major confessional documents were prepared at the same time, The Westminster Confession of Faith and The Westminster Larger Catechism, both designed especially for adults. Westminster was the name of the Abbey/Church where they were hammered out in debate and written in London, England.

This manual obviously was written in the style and language of that era. The technical words and grammatical style in the original documents require a very high capacity in English comprehension. Consequently, these documents have in recent years been rewritten into contemporary English. The rewriting of this document is computer graded at the seventh grade comprehension level. It is our hope the biblically Reformed faith witnessed to by this particular teaching instrument will better equip young Christians in the development of their faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord of their life.