

# Summer Bible Study 2016 – Luther’s Small Catechism

## LESSON 8 - August 14, 2016

PART 7 – Preparation Questions for Lord’s Supper.

*Christian Questions.*

For those preparing to receive the Lord’s Supper.

**1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?**

Yes, I believe that I am a sinner

**2. How do you know this?**

I know this from the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

(God tells me in His Word – The Holy Bible – That I am sinful from the moment I was conceived. Psalm 51:5)

**3. Are you sorry for your sins?**

Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

**4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?**

I deserve His wrath and displeasure, temporal death and eternal death.

**5. Are you convinced that you are saved?**

Yes, such is my confidence.

**6. In Whom then, do you trust?**

I trust in my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

**7. Who is Jesus Christ?**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, True God and True Man.

**8. How many Gods are there?**

There is only One God; but there are three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?**

He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

**10. Did the Father also die for you?**

He did not; for the Father is God only, the Holy Spirit likewise. But the Son is True God and True Man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

**11. How do you know this?**

I know this from the holy gospel and from the words of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**12 Which are those words?**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, ‘Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’

Then He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.

**13. Do you believe then that the True Body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?**

Yes, I believe it.

**14. What moves you to believe this?**

I am moved to believe this by the words of Christ, ‘Take and eat; this IS My body. .... Drink from it, all of you; this IS My blood of the new covenant.

**15. What does Christ want you to do when you eat His body and drink His blood in the Lord’s Supper?**

Christ wants me to remember and proclaim His death and the pouring out of His blood as He taught me; ‘Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of Me.’

**16. Why does Christ want you to remember and proclaim His death?**

He wants me to do this so that (1) I learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for my sins, but only Christ, Who is True God and True Man, could and did do that; (2) I learn to look with terror upon my sins and regard them as great indeed; (3) I find joy and comfort in Christ alone and believe that I have salvation through faith in Him.

**17. What moved Him to die and make a complete payment for your sins?**

He was moved to do this by His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as the Scriptures teach:

**John 14:31** – but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

**Romans 5:8** – But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Galatians 2:20** – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Ephesians 5:2** – and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**18. Finally, why do you desire to receive Holy Communion?**

I desire to do this so that I learn to believe that Christ, out of great love died for my sins and that I also learn of Him to love God and my neighbor.

**19. What admonished and moves you to receive Holy Communion frequently?**

The command and the promise of Christ my Lord admonished and moves me. Also, the burden of sin that lies heavy upon me causes me to feel a hunger and thirst for Holy Communion.

## **20. But what can a person do if he is not aware of the burden of sin and does not feel hunger and thirst for Holy Communion?**

To such a person no better advice can be given than that, in the first place, he put his hand into his bosom and feel whether he still has flesh and blood, and that he by all means believes what the Scriptures say about this:

**Galatians 5:17, 19-21** – Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. .... Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**Isaiah 64:6** – All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

**Romans 7:18** – I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say:

**John 15:18-25** – If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> He who hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’

**Matthew 24:9-13** – Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, <sup>13</sup> but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

**Acts 14:22** – strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.

Thirdly, that person will certainly have the devil also about him. With his lying and murdering, day and night, the devil will let him have not peace. So the Scriptures picture the devil:

**John 8:44** – you belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**I Peter 5:8** – Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

**Ephesians 6:10-12** – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

**II Timothy 2:26** – and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

## **21. What can you do if you are sick and are unable to come to Holy Communion?**

Then I can send for my pastor to pray with me and to give me Holy Communion privately.

## **22. When is the proper time to do this?**

The time to do this is not only when death is at hand, but earlier before all physical and mental power is gone.

## **23. Why would you want to do this?**

I would want to do this to receive the assurance through Holy Communion that my sins are forgiven and that salvation is mine.