# Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism study guide

## Syllabus

## By James Richardson

Session Introduction

towards man in the estate wherein

1	<ul> <li>Scope of course</li> <li>Historical analysis of the creeds from Apostles creed to the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF)</li> <li>A historical Comparison of the Westminster Confession of Faith to other Confessions</li> <li>Apologetics Correlation to Confessions</li> <li>The Origin of the "Catechism."</li> <li>The Westminster Confession of Faith compared to the Apostles Creed</li> <li>Evangelism and modern Christianity</li> </ul>		
	THE SHORTER CATECHISM	THE LARGER CATECHISM	WCF
Session 2	Q. 1. What is the chief end of man? Q. 2. What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him? Q. 3. What do the Scriptures principally teach?	Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man? (WSC Q.1) Q. 2. How doth it appear that there is a God? Q. 3. What is the Word of God? (WSC Q.2) Q. 4. How doth it appear that the Scriptures are the Word of God? Q. 5. What do the Scriptures principally teach? (WSC Q.3) Q. 6. What do the Scriptures make known of God?	Chapter 1 Of the Holy Scripture (1)
Session 3	Q. 4. What is God? Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one? Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?	Q. 7. What is God? (WSC Q.4) Q. 8. Are there more Gods than one? (WSC Q.5) Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead? (WSC Q.6) Q. 10. What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead? Q. 11. How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God equal with the Father?	Chapter 2 Of God, and of the Holy Trinity  * Chapter (9) Of the Holy Spirit
Session 4	Q. 7. What are the decrees of God? Q. 8. How doth God execute his decrees? Q. 9. What is the work of creation? Q. 10. How did God create man? Q. 11. What are God's works of providence? Q. 12. What special act of providence did God exercise	Q. 12. What are the decrees of God? (WSC Q.7) Q. 13. What hath God especially decreed concerning angels and men? Q. 14. How doth God execute his decrees? (WSC Q.8) Q. 15. What is the work of creation? (WSC Q.9) Q. 16. How did God create angels? Q. 17. How did God create man? (WSC Q.10) Q. 18. What are God's works of	Chapter 3 Of God's Eternal Decree Chapter 4 Of Creation Chapter 5 Of Providence

providence? (WSC Q.11)

	he was created?	<ul><li>Q. 19. What is God's providence towards the angels?</li><li>Q. 20. What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created? (WSC Q.12)</li></ul>	
Session 5	Q. 13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created? Q. 14. What is sin? Q. 15. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created? Q. 16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression? Q. 17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? Q. 18. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell? Q. 19. What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?	Q. 21. Did man continue in that estate wherein God at first created him? (WSC Q.13) Q. 22. Did all mankind fall in that first transgression? (WSC Q.16) Q. 23. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? (WSC Q.15) Q. 24. What is sin? (WSC Q.14) Q. 25. Wherein consisteth the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell? (WSC Q.18) Q. 26. How is original sin conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity? (WSC Q.17) Q. 27. What misery did the fall bring upon mankind? (WSC Q.19) Q. 28. What are the punishments of sin in this world? Q. 29. What are the punishments of sin in the world to come?	Chapter 6 Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof
Session 6	Q. 20. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? Q. 21. Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?	<ul> <li>Q. 30. Doth God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery? (WSC Q.20)</li> <li>Q. 31. With whom was the covenant of grace made?</li> <li>Q. 32. How is the grace of God manifested in the second covenant?</li> <li>Q. 33. Was the covenant of grace always administered after one and the same manner?</li> <li>Q. 34. How was the covenant of grace administered under the old testament?</li> <li>Q. 35. How is the covenant of grace administered under the new testament?</li> <li>Q. 36. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace? (WSC Q.21)</li> </ul>	Chapter 7 Of God's Covenant with Man (1)(2)
Session 7	Q. 22. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man? † Q. 23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer? Q. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? Q. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest? Q. 26. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? Q. 27. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist? Q. 28. Wherein consisteth Christ's	Q. 37. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man? (WSC Q.22) Q. 38. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God? Q. 39. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be man? Q. 40. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be God and man in one person? Q. 41. Why was our Mediator called Jesus? Q. 42. Why was our Mediator called Christ? Q. 43. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? (WSC Q.24) Q. 44. How doth Christ execute the office of a	Chapter 8 Of Christ the Mediator

	exaltation?	priest? (WSC Q.25) Q. 45. How doth Christ execute the office of a king? (WSC Q.26) Q. 46. What was the estate of Christ's humiliation? (WSC Q.27) Q. 47. How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth? Q. 48. How did Christ humble himself in his life? Q. 49. How did Christ humble himself in his death? Q. 50. Wherein consisted Christ's humiliation after his death? Q. 51. What was the estate of Christ's exaltation? (WSC Q.28) Q. 52. How was Christ exalted in his resurrection? Q. 53. How was Christ exalted in his ascension? Q. 54. How is Christ exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God? Q. 55. How doth Christ make intercession? Q. 56. How is Christ to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world? Q. 57. What benefits hath Christ procured by his mediation? Q. 59. Who are made partakers of redemption through Christ?	
Session 8	There are no Shorter Catechism questions here.	Q. 60. Can they who have never heard the gospel, and so know not Jesus Christ, nor believe in him, be saved by their living according to the light of nature?  Q. 61. Are all they saved who hear the gospel, and live in the church?  Q. 62. What is the visible church?  Q. 63. What are the special privileges of the visible church?  Q. 64. What is the invisible church?  Q. 65. What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?  Q. 66. What is that union which the elect have with Christ?	Chapter 9 Of Free Will Chapter 25 Of the Church
Session 9	† Q. 29. How are we made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ? † Q. 30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ? Q. 31. What is effectual calling? † Q. 32. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life? Q. 33. What is justification? Q. 34. What is adoption?	<ul> <li>Q. 67. What is effectual calling? (WSC Q.31)</li> <li>Q. 68. Are the elect only effectually called?</li> <li>Q. 69. What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?</li> <li>Q. 70. What is justification? (WSC Q.33)</li> <li>Q. 71. How is justification an act of God's free grace?</li> <li>Q. 72. What is justifying faith?</li> <li>Q. 73. How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?</li> <li>Q. 74. What is adoption? (WSC Q.34)</li> <li>Q. 75. What is sanctification? (WSC Q.35)</li> </ul>	Chapter 10 Of Effectual Calling Chapter 11 Of Justification Chapter 12 Of Adoption Chapter 13 Of Sanctification

Session 10	Q. 35. What is sanctification? † Q. 36. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?  Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ? Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?	Q. 72. What is justifying faith? (WSC Q.84) Q. 76. What is repentance unto life? (WSC Q.85) Q. 77. Wherein do justification and sanctification differ? Q. 78. Whence ariseth the imperfection of sanctification in believers? Q. 79. May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?	Chapter 14 Of Saving Faith  ** Chapter 15 Of Repentance unto Life Chapter 16 Of Good Works Chapter 17 Of the Perseverance of the Saints
Session 11	† Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? † Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?	Q. 80. Can true believers be infallibly assured that they are in the estate of grace, and that they shall persevere therein unto salvation?  Q. 81. Are all true believers at all times assured of their present being in the estate of grace, and that they shall be saved?  Q. 82. What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?  Q. 83. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?	Chapter 18 Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation Chapter 20 Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience Chapter 26 Of the Communion of Saints
Session 12	There are no Shorter Catechism questions here.	<ul> <li>Q. 84. Shall all men die?</li> <li>Q. 85. Death being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ?</li> <li>Q. 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?</li> <li>Q. 87. What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?</li> <li>Q. 88. What shall immediately follow after the resurrection?</li> <li>Q. 89. What shall be done to the wicked at the day of judgment?</li> <li>Q. 90. What shall be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?</li> </ul>	Chapter 32 Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead Chapter 33 Of the Last Judgment
Session 13	Q. 39. What is the duty which God requireth of man? Q. 40. What did God at first reveal to	Q. 91. What is the duty which God requireth of man? (WSC Q.39) Q. 92. What did God at first reveal unto man as	Chapter 19 Of the Law of God

man for the rule of his obedience? the rule of his obedience? (WSC Q.40) Q. 41. Wherein is the moral law Q. 93. What is the moral law? summarily comprehended? Q. 94. Is there any use of the moral law to man † Q. 42. What is the sum of the Ten since the fall? Commandments? Q. 95. Of what use is the moral law to all men? Q. 43. What is the preface to the Q. 96. What particular use is there of the moral law Ten Commandments? to unregenerate men? † Q. 44. What doth the preface to Q. 97. What special use is there of the moral law the Ten Commandments teach us? to the regenerate? Q. 98. Where is the moral law summarily comprehended? (WSC Q.41) Q. 99. What rules are to be observed for the right understanding of the Ten Commandments? Q. 100. What special things are we to consider in the Ten Commandments? Q. 101. What is the preface to the Ten **Commandments?** (WSC Q.43) Q. 102. What is the sum of the four commandments which contain our duty to God?

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#### Session TO GOD

- Q. 45. Which is the first commandment?
- Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?
- Q. 47. What is forbidden in the first commandment?
- Q. 48. What are we specially taught by these words, before me, in the first commandment?
- Q. 49. Which is the second commandment?
- Q. 50. What is required in the second commandment?
- Q. 51. What is forbidden in the second commandment?
- Q. 52. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
- Q. 53. Which is the third commandment?
- Q. 54. What is required in the third commandment?
- Q. 55. What is forbidden in the third commandment?
- Q. 56. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?
- Q. 57. Which is the fourth commandment?
- Q. 58. What is required in the fourth

#### TO GOD

- Q. 103. Which is the first commandment? (WSC
- Q. 104. What are the duties required in the first commandment? (WSC Q.46)
- Q. 105. What are the sins forbidden in the first commandment? (WSC Q.47)
- Q. 106. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment? (WSC Q.48)
- Q. 107. Which is the second commandment? (WSC Q.49)
- Q. 108. What are the duties required in the second commandment? (WSC Q.50)
- Q. 109. What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment? (WSC Q.51)
- Q. 110. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q.52)
- Q. 111. Which is the third commandment? (WSC Q.53)
- Q. 112. What is required in the third commandment? (WSC Q.54)
- Q. 113. What are the sins forbidden in the third commandment? (WSC Q.55)
- Q. 114. What reasons are annexed to the third commandment? (WSC Q.56)
- Q. 115. Which is the fourth commandment? (WSC Q.57)
- Q. 116. What is required in the fourth

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Of the Law of God

- \*\* Chapter 21
- Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day
- Take Lords name in vain

### Chapter 22

Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

commandment? commandment? (WSC Q.58) † Q. 59. Which day of the seven Q. 117. How is the sabbath or the Lord's day to hath God appointed to be the weekly be sanctified? (WSC Q.60) Sabbath? Q. 118. Why is the charge of keeping the sabbath Q. 60. How is the Sabbath to be more specially directed to governors of families, sanctified? and other superiors? Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth Q. 119. What are the sins forbidden in the commandment? fourth commandment? (WSC Q.61) Q. 62. What are the reasons Q. 120. What are the reasons annexed to the annexed to the fourth fourth commandment, the more to enforce commandment? it? (WSC Q.62) Q. 121. Why is the word Remember set in the beginning of the fourth commandment? Session TO NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR Part 3 Chapter 19 Q. 63. Which is the fifth Q. 122. What is the sum of the six commandments Of the Law of God commandment? which contain our duty to man? False witness † Q. 64. What is required in the fifth Q. 123. Which is the fifth commandment? (WSC Chapter 22 commandment? Of Lawful Oaths and Q. 124. Who are meant by father and mother in the † Q. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth Vows fifth commandment? commandment? Q. 66. What is the reason annexed Q. 125. Why are superiors -Adultery styled Father and Mother? to the fifth commandment? Chapter 24 Q. 126. What is the general scope of the fifth Q. 67. Which is the sixth Of Marriage and commandment? commandment? Divorce Q. 127. What is the honor that inferiors owe to their Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment? superiors? Q. 128. What are the sins of inferiors against their Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth superiors? commandment? Q. 129. What is required of superiors towards their Q. 70. Which is the seventh inferiors? commandment? Q. 130. What are the sins of superiors? Q. 71. What is required in the Q. 131. What are the duties of equals? seventh commandment? Q. 132. What are the sins of equals? Q. 72. What is forbidden in the Q. 133. What is the reason annexed to the fifth seventh commandment? commandment, the more to enforce it? (WSC Q. 73. Which is the eighth Q.66) commandment? Q. 134. Which is the sixth commandment? (WSC Q. 74. What is required in the eighth Q.67) commandment? Q. 135. What are the duties required in the sixth Q. 75. What is forbidden in the commandment? (WSC Q.68) eighth commandment? Q. 136. What are the sins forbidden in the sixth Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.69) commandment? Q. 137. Which is the seventh Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.70) commandment? Q. 138. What are the duties required in the Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth seventh commandment? (WSC Q.71) commandment?

Q. 139. What are the sins forbidden in the

seventh commandment? (WSC Q.72)

Q. 140. Which is the eighth

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Q. 79. Which is the tenth

commandment?

	Q. 80. What is required in the tenth commandment? Q. 81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?	commandment? (WSC Q.73) Q. 141. What are the duties required in the eighth commandment? (WSC Q.74) Q. 142. What are the sins forbidden in the eighth commandment? (WSC Q.75) Q. 143. Which is the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.76) Q. 144. What are the duties required in the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.77) Q. 145. What are the sins forbidden in the ninth commandment? (WSC Q.78) Q. 146. Which is the tenth commandment? (WSC Q.79) Q. 147. What are the duties required in the tenth commandment? (WSC Q.80) Q. 148. What are the sins forbidden in the tenth commandment? (WSC Q.81)	
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Of the Lord's Supper Q. 94. What is baptism? Testament? (WSC Q.93) Q. 95. To whom is baptism to be **Q. 165. What is baptism?** (WSC Q.94) administered? Q. 166. Unto whom is baptism to be Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper? administered? (WSC Q.95) Q. 97. What is required for the Q. 167. How is baptism to be improved by us? Q. 168. What is the Lord's supper? (WSC Q.96) worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper? Q. 169. How hath Christ appointed bread and wine to be given and received in the sacrament of the Lord's supper? Q. 170. How do they that worthily communicate in the Lord's supper feed upon the body and blood of Christ therein? Q. 171. How are they that receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper to prepare themselves before they come unto it? Q. 172. May one who doubteth of his being in Christ, or of his due preparation, come to the Lord's supper? Q. 173. May any who profess the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's supper, be kept from it? Q. 174. What is required of them that receive the sacrament of the Lord's supper in the time of the administration of it? (WSC Q.97) Q. 175. What is the duty of Christians, after they have received the sacrament of the Lord's supper? Q. 176. Wherein do the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper agree? Q. 177. Wherein do the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper differ? \*\* Chapter 21 Session Q. 98. What is prayer? **Q. 178. What is prayer?** (WSC Q.98) Q. 99. What rule hath God given for Q. 179. Are we to pray unto God only? Of Religious Worship Q. 180. What is it to pray in the name of Christ? our direction in prayer? and the Sabbath Day Q. 100. What doth the preface of the Q. 181. Why are we to pray in the name of Christ? Lord's Prayer teach us? Q. 182. How doth the Spirit help us to pray? Q. 101. What do we pray for in the Q. 183. For whom are we to pray? first petition? Q. 184. For what things are we to pray? Q. 102. What do we pray for in the Q. 185. How are we to pray? second petition? Q. 186. What rule hath God given for our Q. 103. What do we pray for in the direction in the duty of prayer? (WSC Q.99) third petition? Q. 187. How is the Lord's prayer to be used? Q. 104. What do we pray for in the Q. 188. Of how many parts doth the Lord's prayer fourth petition? consist? Q. 105. What do we pray for in the Q. 189. What doth the preface of the Lord's fifth petition? prayer teach us? (WSC Q.100) Q. 106. What do we pray for in the Q. 190. What do we pray for in the first sixth petition? petition? (WSC Q.101) Q. 107. What doth the conclusion of Q. 191. What do we pray for in the second the Lord's Prayer teach us? petition? (WSC Q.102)

Q. 192. What do we pray for in the third

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Chapter 29

		petition? (WSC Q.103) Q. 193. What do we pray for in the fourth petition? (WSC Q.104) Q. 194. What do we pray for in the fifth petition? (WSC Q.105) Q. 195. What do we pray for in the sixth petition? (WSC Q.106) Q. 196. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us? (WSC Q.107)	
Session 20		These Westminster Confession of Faith Chapters are not discussed in the Catechisms.	*** Chapter 23 Of the Civil Magistrate *** Chapter 30 Of Church Censures *** Chapter 31 Of Synods and Councils
	* Not in the Original WCF of 1687  ** Chapter 15 and Chapter 21 Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day is used in multiple sections  *** These chapters do not have any questions in the catechisms  † This question is expounded or left out of in the Larger catechism  () Chapter numbers in parenthesis are different from the original WCF chapters		

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