

The 1549 Book of Common Prayer,

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CONFIRMACION

Wherin is contained a Catechisme for children.



¶ Whende that confirmacion may be ministred to the moze edifying of suche as shall receiue it (according to Saint Paules doctrine, who teacheth that all thynges should be doen in the churche to the edificacion of the same) it is thought good that none hereafter shall be confirmed, but suche as can say in theyr mother tong, tharticles of the faith the lordes prayer, and the tenne commaundementes; And can also aunswere to suche questions of this shorte Catechisme, as the Bishopp (or suche as he shall appoynte) shall by his discrecion appose them in. And this ordze is most conuenient to be obserued for diuers consideracions.

¶ First because that whan children come to the yeres of discrecion and haue learned what theyr Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptisme, they may then themselves with their owne mouth, and with theyr owne consent, openly befoze the churche, ratifie and confesse the same, and also promise that by the grace of God, they will euermoze endeouour themselves fiathfully to obserue and kepe such thinges, as they by theyr owne mouth and confession haue assented vnto.

¶ Secondly, for asmuch as confirmacion is ministred to them that be Baptised, that by imposition of handes, and praier they may receiue strength and defence against all temptacions to sin, and the assautes of the worlde, and the deuill: it is most mete to be ministred, when children come to that age, that partly by the frayltie of theyr owne fleshe, partly by the assautes of the world and the deuill, they begin to be in daungier to fall into sinne.

¶ Thirdly, for that it is agreeable with the vsage of the churche in tymes past, wherby it was ordeined, that Confirmacion should bee ministred to them that were of perfecte age, that they beyng instructed in Christes religion, should openly professe theyr owne fayth, and promise to be obedient vnto the will of God.

¶ And that no manne shall thynke that anye detrimente shall come to children by differryng of theyr confirmacion: he shall knowe for trueth, that it is certayn by Goddes woorde, that children beeyng Baptized (if they departe out of thys lyfe in theyr infancie) are vndoubtedly saued.



A CATECHISME

that is to say, an instruccion to bee
learned of every childe, befoze he
be brought to be confirmed
of the Bushop.

Question.

What is your name?

Answer.

P or M.

Question.

Who gaue you this name?

Answer.

By Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptisme,
wherein I was made a member of Chryste, the childe of
God, and inheritour of the kingdome of heauen.

Question.

What did your Godfathers & Godmothers then for you?

Answer.

They did promise and vowe three thinges in my name.
First, that I should forsake the deuil and all his workes and
pompes, the vanities of the wicked worlde, and all the sinne
full lustes of the flethe. Secondly, that I should beleue all
the articles of the Christian fayth. And thirdly, that I
should kepe Goddes holy will and commaundementes and
walke in the same al the daies of my life.

Question.

Dooest thou not thinke that thou arte bound to beleue, and to
doe as they haue promised for thee?

Answer.

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Yes verely. And by Gods helpe so I wil. And I hartily thanke our heauenlye father, that he hath called me to thys state of saluacion, through Iesus Chryste our saueour And I pray God to geue me hys grace, that I may continue in the same vnto my liues ende.

Question.

Rehearse the articles of thy beliefe.

Answer.

I beleue in God the father almightie, maker of heauen and earth. And in Iesus Christ his only sonne our lord. Whiche was conceived by the holy gost, bozne of the virgin Marie. Suffered vnder Ponce Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hel. The third day he rose agayn from the dead. He ascended into heauen, and sitteth on the right hande of God the father almightie. From thence shal he come to iudge the quicke & the dead. I beleue in the holy goste. The holpe catholike church. The communion of saintes. The forgeuenes of sinnes. The resurreccion of the bodie. And the lyfe euerlasting. Amen.

Question.

What dooest thou chiefly learne in these articles of thy beliefe?

Answer.

Firste, I learne to beleue in God the father, who hath made me and all the worlde.

Secondely, in God the sonne who hath redemed me and all mankinde.

Thirdly, in god the holy goste, who sanctifyeth me and all the electe people of god.

Question.

You sayde that your Godfathers and Godmothers dyd promyse for you that ye should kepe Goddes commaundementes. Tell me how many there bee.

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Answer.

Tenne.

Question.

Whiche be they?

Answer.

Thou shalt haue none other Gods but me.

ii. Thou shalt not make to thyselfe anye grauen image, noz the likenesse of any thyng that is in heauen aboue, oz in the earth beneath, noz in the water vnder the earth: thou shalt not bowe downe to them, noz wurship them.

iii. Thou shalt not take the name of the lord thy God in vayne.

iiii. Remember that thou kepe holy the Sabboth day.

v. Honoz thy father and thy mother.

vi. Thou shalt doe no murdre.

vii. Thou shalt not commit adultry.

viii. Thou shalt not steale.

ix. Thou shalt not beare false witnes against thy neighbour.

x. Thou shalt not couet thy neighbours wife, noz his seruaunt, noz his mayde, noz his Dre, noz his Assle, noz any thing that is his.

Question.

What dooest thou chiefly leame by these commaundemente?

Answer.

I learne two thinges: My duetie towarde god, and my duetie towarde my neighbour.

Question.

What is thy duetie towarde god?

Answer.

My duetie towarde God is, to beleue in him. To feare him. And to loue him with al my hart, with al my mind, with al my soule, and with all my strength. To wurship him. To geue him thankes. To put my whole truste in hym. To call vpon him. To honoz his holy name and his word, and to serue him truely all the daies of my life.

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Question.

What is thy dutie towardes thy neighbour?

Answer.

My duetie towardes my neighbour is, to loue hym as my selfe. And to do to al men as I would they should do to me. To loue, honour, and succoure my father and mother. To honour and obey the kyng and his ministers. To submitte my selfe to all my gouernours, teachers, spirituall pastours, and maisters. To ordze my selfe lowlye and reuerentelye to al my betters. To hurte no bodie by woozde noz dede. To bee true and iust in al my dealing. To beare no malice noz hatred in my heart. To kepe my handes from picking and stealing, and my tongue from euill speaking, lypng, and slaundzing. To kepe my body in temperaunce, sobzenes, and chastitie. Not to couet noz desire other mennes goodes. But learne and laboure truely to geate my owne liuing, and to doe my duetie in that state of life: vnto which it shal please God to cal me.

Question.

My good sonne, knowe this, that thou arte not hable to do these thinges of thy self, noz to walke in the commaundementes of God and to serue him, without his speciall grace, which thou muste leame at all times to cal for by diligent prayer. Let me heare therfoze if thou canst say the Lordes prayer.

Answer.



Our father whiche art in heauen, halowed bee thy name. Thy kyngdome come. Thy wil bee done in earth as it is in heauen. Geue vs this day our dailye bzeade. And forgene vs our trespasses, as we forgeue them that trespassse againste vs. And leade vs not into temptacion, but deliuer vs from euil. Amen.

Question.

What desireste thou of God in this prayer?

Answer.

I desire my lord god our heauenly father, who is the geuer of al goodnes, to send his grace vnto me, and to all people,

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that we may worship him, serue hym, and obey him, as we ought to doe. And I praye vnto God, that he will sende vs al thynges that be nedeful both for our soules and bodies: And that he wil bee mercifull vnto vs, & forgeue vs our sinnes: And that it will please him to saue & defende vs in al daungers gost and bodily: And that he wil kepe vs from al sinne and wickednes, & from our gostly enemye, and from euerlastyng death. And this I truste he wil doe of his mercie and goodnes, throught our lordes Jesu Christe. And therefore I say, Amen. So be it.

● So soone as the childzen can say in their mother tongue tharticles of the faith, the lordes praier, the ten commaundementes, and also can aunswere to such questions of this short Catechisme as the Bushop (or suche as he shall appointe) shal by hys discrecion appose them in: then shall they bee brought to the Bushop by one that shalbee his godfather or godmother, that euerye childe maye haue a wittenesse of hys confirmacion.

● And the Bushop shal confirme them on this wyse.

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Our helpe is in the name of the Lorde.

Answer.

Whiche hath made both heauen and yearth.

Minister.

Blessed is the name of the lorde.

Answer.

Henceforth worlde without ende.

Minister.

The lorde be with you.

Answer.

And with thy spirite.

Let vs praye.

Almighty and euerliuing God, who hast vouchesafed to regenerate these thy seruauntes of water & the holy goste: And haste geuen vnto them forgeuenesse of all their sinnes: Sende downe from heauen we beseeche thee, (A

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lorde) vpon them thy holy gost the counforter, with the manifold giftes of grace, the spirite of wisdom and vnderstandyng: the spirite of counsell and gostly strength: The spirite of knowledge and true godlinesse, and fulfil them (o lord) with the spirite of thy holy feare.

Answer.

Amen.

Minister.

Signe them (o lord) and marke them to be thyne for euer, by the vertue of thy holpe crosse and passion. Confirme and strength them with the inward vncion of thy holy gost, mercifully vnto euerlasting life. Amen.

Then the Bishop shal crosse them in the forehead, and lay his handes vpon theyr heades saying

P. I signe thee with the signe of the crosse, and laye my hande vpon thee. In the name of the father, and of the sonne, and of the holy gost. Amen.

And thus shall he doe to euery childe one after another. And whan he hath layed hys hande vpon euery chylde, then shall he say.

The peace of the lord abide with you.

Answer.

And with thy spirite.

¶ Let vs pray.

Almighty euerliuing god, which makest vs both to will and to doe those thinges that bee good and acceptable vnto thy maiestie: we make our humble supplicacions vnto thee for these childzen, vpon whome (after the example of thy holy Apostles) we haue laied our handes, to certify them (by this signe) of thy fauour and gracious goodnes toward them: leat thy fatherly hand (we beseeche thee) euer be ouer them, let thy holy spirite euer bee with them, and so leade them in the knowledge and obedience of thy woord, that in the end they may obtain the life euerlasting, through our lord Iesus Christ, who with thee and the holy goste liueth and reyneth one god world without ende. Amen.

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Then shall the Bishopp blisse
the children, thus saying.

The blessing of god almightie, the father, the sonne, and the
holy goste, be vpon you, and remayne with you foze euer.
Amen.

The curate of euery parish once in sixe wekes at the least vpon
warnyng by him geuen, shall vpon some Soonday or holy day, half
an houre befoze euen-song openly in the churche instructe and examine
so many children of his parish sent vnto him, as the time wil serue, &
as he shall thinke conueniente, in some parte of this Catechisme. And
all fathers, mothers, maisters, and dames, shall cause theyr children,
seruantes, & pzentises (whiche are not yet confirmed), to come to
the churche at the daie appoynted, and obediently heare & be ordered
by the curate, vntil suche time as they haue learned all that is here
appointed for them to learne.

¶ And whansoeuer the Bishopp shall geue knowlage for children to be
brought afoze him to any conuenient place, for their confirmation:
Then shall the curate of euery parish either bring or send in writing,
ye names of al those children of his parish which can say tharticles of
theyr faith, the lordes praier, and the ten commaundementes. And
also how many of them can answere to thother questions contained in
this Catechisme.

¶ And there shall none be admitted to the holye communion vntil
suche time as he be confirmed.