

The 1559 Book of Common Prayer,

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• The order of Confirmation, or laying
on of hands vpon children baptized, and able
to render an account of their Faith, according
to the Catechisme following.



O the end that confirmation may bee ministred to the more edifying of such, as shall receiue it (according vnto S. Pauls doctrine, who teacheth that all things should bee done in the Church, to the edification of the same) it is thought good that none hereafter shall bee confirmed but such as can say in their mother tongue the Articles of the Faith, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commandements, and can also answere to such questions of this short Catechisme, as the Bishop (or suche as hee shal appoint) shall by his discretion appose them in. And this order is most conuenient to be obserued for diuers considerations.

First, because that when children come to the yeeres of discretion, and haue learned what their Godfathers and Godmothers promised for them in Baptisme, they may then themselues with their owne mouth, and with their own consent, openly before the Church, ratifie and confirme the same : and also promise that by the grace of God, they will euermore endeauour themselues faithfully to obserue and keepe such things, as they by their owne mouth and confession haue assented vnto.

Secondly, forasmuche as Confirmation is ministred to them that be Baptized, that by imposition of hands and prayer, they may receiue strength and defence against all temptations to sinne, and the assaults of the world and the deuill: it is most mete to be ministred when children come to that age, that partly by the frailty of their owne flesh, partly by the assaults of the world and the deuill, they begin to bee in danger to fall into sundry kindes of sinne.

Thirdly, for that it is agreeable with the vsage of the Church in times past, whereby it was ordained that Confirmation should be ministred to them that were of perfect age, that they being instructed in Christs Religion,

should openly professe their owne faith, and promise to bee obedient vnto the will of God.

And that no man shall thinke that any detriment shall come to children by deferring of their Confirmation, hee shall know for trueth, that it is certaine by Gods word, that children being baptized, haue all things necessary for their saluation, and be vndoubtedly faued.

• A Catechisme, that is to say, an Instruction to bee learned of euery Childe, before hee bee brought to bee Confirmed by the Bishop.



Question.
What is your name?

Answer.

R. or M.

Question.
Who gaue you this name?

Answer.

My Godfathers and Godmothers in my Baptisme, wherein I was made a member of Christ, the childe of God, and an inheritour of the Kingdome of heauen.

Question.
What did your godfathers and godmothers then for you?

Answer.

They did promise, and vow three things in my name. First, that I should forsake the deuill, and all his workes, the pompes and vanities of the wicked world, and all the sinfull lults of the flesh. Secondly, that I should beleue all the Articles of the Christian Faith. And thirdly, that I should keepe Gods holy will and Commandements, and walke in the same all the dayes of my life.

Question.
Doelt thou not thinke that thou art bound to beleue and to doe as they haue promised for thee?

Answer.

Yes verely, and by Gods helpe so I will. And I heartily thanke our heauenly Father, that hee hath called mee to this

state of saluation, through Iesus Christ our Sauour. And I pray God to giue me his grace, that I may continue in the same vnto my liues end.

Question.

Reherse the Articles of thy beliefe.

Answer.

I beleue in God the Father Almighty, maker of heauen and of earth. And in Iesus Christ his only Sonne our Lord, which was conceived by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgine Mary, suffered vnder Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, he descended into hell, the third day hee rose againe from the dead, hee ascended into heauen, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shal come to iudge the quicke and the dead. I beleue in the holy Ghost, the holy Catholique Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiuenesse of sinnes, the resurrection of the body, and the life euerlasting. Amen.

Question.

What doest 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 world.

Secondly, in God the Sonne, who hath redeemed me and all mankinde.

Thirdly, in God the holy Ghost, who sanctifieth me and all the elect people of God.

Question.

You said, that your Godfathers and Godmothers did promise for you, that you should keepe Gods Commandements. Tell me how many there be?

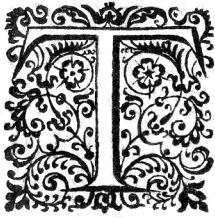
Answer.

Tenne.

Question.

Which be they?

Anfwere.



THE same which GOD spake in the twentieth Chapter of Exodus, laying: I am the Lord thy God which haue brought thee out of the land of Egypt, oute of the house of bondage.

i. Thou shalt haue none other Gods but me.

ii. Thou shalt not make to thy selfe any grauen image nor the likenes of any thing that is in heauen aboue, or in the earth beneath, nor in the water vnder the earth. Thou shalt not bow downe to them nor worship them. For I the Lord thy God am a iealous God, and visit the sinnes of the fathers vpon the children, vnto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shew mercy vnto thousands of them that loue me, and keepe my commandements.

iii. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vaine: for the Lord will not hold him guiltlesse that taketh his Name in vaine.

iiii. Remember that thou keepe holy the Sabbath day. Six dayes shalt thou labour and do all that thou halt to do: but the seuenth day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou shalt doe no manner of worke, thou, and thy sonne, and thy daughter, thy man seruant, and thy maid seruant, thy cattell, and the stranger that is within thy gates: for in six dayes the Lord made heauen and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seuenth day, wherfore the Lord blessed the seuenth day, and hallowed it.

v. Honour thy father and thy mother, that thy dayes may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giueth thee.

vi. Thou shalt do no murder.

vii. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

viii. Thou shalt not steale.

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

x. Thou shalt not couet thy neighbours house, thou shalt not couet thy neighbours wife, nor his seruant, nor his maid, nor his Oxe nor his Ass, nor any thing that is his.

Question.

What doest thou chiefly learne by these Commandements?

Anfwere.

I learne two things : My duetie towards God, and my duetie towards my neighbour.

Question.

What is my duetie towards God?

Anfwere.

My duetie towards God, is to beleue in him, to feare him, and to loue him with all my heart, with all my minde, with all my soule, and with all my strength. To worship him, to giue him thanks, to put my whole trust in him, to call vpon him, to honour his holy Name and his Word, and to serue him truly all the dayes of my life.

Question.

What is thy duetie towards thy neighbour?

Anfwere.

My duetie towards my neyghbour is, to loue him as my selfe, and to doe to all men as I would they should doe vnto mee. To loue, honour, and succour my father and mother. To honour and obey the King and his ministers. To submit my selfe to all my Gouvernours, teachers, spirituall Pastours and Masters. To order my selfe lowly and reuerently to all my betters. To hurt no body by word or deed. To bee true and iust in all my dealing. To beare no malice nor hatred in my heart. To keepe my hands from picking and stealing, and my tongue from euill speaking, lying and slandering. To keepe my body in temperance, sobernesse, and chastitie. Not to couet nor desire other mens goods, but to learne and labour truly to get mine owne liuing, and to doe my duety in that state of life, vnto the which it shall please God to call me.

Question.

My good childe know this, that thou art not able to doe these things of thy selfe, nor to walke in the commandements of God, and to serue him, without his speciall grace, which thou must learne at all times to call for by diligent prayer. Let me heare therefore if thou canst say the Lords prayer.

Anfwere.



Our Father which art in heauen, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdome come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heauen. Giue vs this day our daily bread. And forgiue vs our trespalles, as we forgiue them that trespalle against vs. And leade vs not into temptation : but deliuer vs from euill. Amen.

Question.

What delirest thou of God in this prayer?

Anfwere.

I delire my Lord God our heauenly Father, who is the giuer of all goodnelle, to lend his grace vnto mee, and to all people, that wee may worship him, serue him, and obey him as we ought to doe. And I pray vnto God, that he will lend vs all things that be needfull both for our soules and bodies. and that hee will be mercifull vnto vs, and forgiue vs our sinnes, and that it will please him to saue and defend vs in all dangers gholtly and bodily, and that he will keepe vs from all sinne and wickednelle, and from our gholtly enemye, and from euerlastyng death. And thil I trust he wil doe of his mercy and goodnelle, through our Lord Iesus Christ. And therefore I say. Amen. So be it.

Question.



How many Sacraments hath Christ ordained in his Church?

Anfwere.

Two onely as generally necessary to saluation; that is to say, Baptisme, and the Supper of the Lord.

Question.

What meanest thou by this word Sacrament?

Anfwere.

I meane an outward and visibible Signe of an Inward and Spirituall grace giuen vnto vs; ordained by Christ himselte, as a means whereby we receiue the same, and a pledge to assure vs thereof.

Question.

How many parts be there in a Sacrament?

Anfwere.

Two; the Outward visible Signe, and the Inward Spirituall Grace.

Question.

What is the outward visible signe or forme in Baptisme?

Anfwere.

Water: wherein the person baptized is dipped or sprinkled with it, In the Name of the Father, and of Sonne, and of the holy Ghost.

Question.

What is the inward and spirituall grace?

Anfwere.

A death vnto sinne, and a new birth vnto righteoulnesse: for being by nature borne in sinne, and the children of wrath, we are hereby made the children of grace.

Question.

What is required of persons to be baptized?

Anfwere.

Repentance, whereby they forsake sinne; and faith, whereby they stedfastly beleue the promises of God, made to them in that Sacrament.

Question.

Why then are Infants baptized, when by reason of their tender age they cannot performe them?

Anfwere.

Yes: they doe performe them by their Sureties; who promise and vow them both, in their names: which when they come to age, themselues are bound to performe.

Question.

Why was the Sacrament of the Lords Supper ordained?

Anfwere.

For the continuall remembrance of the Sacrifice of the death of Christ, and the benefits which we receiue thereby.

Question.

What is the outward part or signe of the Lords Supper?

Anfwere.

Bread and wine, which the Lord hath commanded to bee receiued.

Question.

What is the inward part or thing signified?

Anfwere.

The Body and Blood of Christ, which are verely and indeed taken and receiued of the faithfull in the Lords Supper.

Question.

What are the benefitt wherEOF we are partaker thereof?

Anfwere.

The strengthening and refreshing of our soules by the Body and Blood of Christ, as our bodieS are by the Bread and wine.

Question.

What is required of those which come to the Lords Supper?

Anfwere.

To examine themselves, whether they repent them truly of their former sinnes, stedfastly purposing to leade a new life; haue a liuely faith in Gods mercy through Christ, with a thankfull remembrance of his death; and be in charitie with all men.

¶ So soone as the children can say in their mother tongue the Articles of the Faith, the Lords prayer, the ten Commandements, and also can answere to such questions of this short Catechisme, as the Bishop (or such as he shall appoint) shall by his discretion appose them in : then shall they be brought to the Bishop by one that shall be their Godfather, or Godmother, that euery childe may haue a witnessse of his Confirmation. And the Bishop shall confirme them on this wise.

Confirmation, or laying on of hands.

Minister.



Our helpe is in the Name of the Lord.

Answere.

Which hath made heauen and earth.

Minister.

Blessed is the Name of the Lord.

Answere.

Hencefoorth world without end.

Minister.

Lord heare our prayers.

Answere.

And let our cry come vnto thee.

¶ Let vs pray.



Almighty and euerliuing God, who hast vouch-
lauded to regenerate these thy seruants by water
and the holy Ghost, and hast giuen vnto them for-
giuenesse of all their sinnes: strengthen them wee
beseech thee, O Lord, with the holy Ghost the
Comforter, and dayly increase in them thy manifold gifts of
grace, the Spirit of wiledome and vnderstanding: the Spirit of
Counsell and ghostly strength, the Spirit of knowledge and
true godlinesse, and fulfill them (O Lord) with the Spirit of
thy holy feare. Amen.

¶ Then the Bishop shall lay his hand vpon euery childe
feuerally, saying,

Defend, O Lord, this childe with thy heauenly grace that
he may continue thine for euer, and dayly increase in thy holy
Spirit more and more, vntill hee come vnto thy euerlasting
Kingdome. Amen.

¶ Then shal the Bishop say,

¶ Let vs pray.



Almightie euerliuing God, whiche makelt vs both
to will, and to doe thole things that bee good and
acceptable vnto thy Maiestie. Wee make our hum-
ble supplications vnto thee for these children, vpon
whom (after the example of the holy Apostles) we

haue laied our hands, to certifie them (by this signe) of thy fauour and gracious goodnesse toward them : Let thy Fatherly hand, wee beleeue thee, euer be ouer them : Let thy holy Spirit euer bee with them, and so leade them in the knowledge and obedience of thy word, that in the end they may obtaine the euerlasting life: through our Lord Iesus Christ, who with thee and the holy Ghost liueth and reigneth one God, world without end. Amen.

¶ Then the Bishop shal bleffe the children,
faying thus,

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Sonne, and the holy Ghost, bee vpon you, and remaine with you for euer. Amen.

- ¶ The Curate of euery Parish, or some other at his appointment, shall diligently vpon Sundayes and Holy dayes, halfe an houre before Euenfong openly in the Church, instruct and examine so many Children of his Parish sent vnto him, as the time will serue and as he shall thinke conuenient, in some part of this Catechisme.
- ¶ And all Fathers, Mothers, Masters, and Dames, shall cause their children, seruants & prentises (which haue not learned their Catechisme) to come to the Church at the time appointed, and obediently to heare, and be ordered by the Curate, vntill such time as they haue learned all that is here appointed for them to learne. And whensoever the Bishop shall giue knowledge for children to be brought before him to any conuenient place, for their confirmation: then shall the Curate of euery Parish, either bring or send in writing the names of all those children of his Parish, which can say the Articles of their Faith, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commandments, and also how many of them can answere to the other questions contained in this Catechisme.
- ¶ And there shall none be admitted to the holy Communion; vntil such time as he can say the Catechisme, and be confirmed.