



Why Do We Need Catechism?

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Pastoral Concerns

- "I am trying to shepherd RPC into being a truly" confessional church."
- Therefore, we should place an emphasis on catechesis.
- We need to learn the grammar and practice of the Presbyterian tradition.

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Remixed Religion

- What if the way we categorized religion in America is incorrect? We often hear the binary of religious versus secular.
- What if we have three categories? Remixed religion and orthodoxy.

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Remixed Religion

- In a culture that prizes choice, we “pick and choose” orthodoxy, liturgical practices, and traditions. We then create a designer religion.
- This manifest itself in the Boomer/Silent generation with the rise of “non-denominational” Christianity and some of the liturgical renewal movements.
- The Generation X/Millennial now mix several different religions together.

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Remixed Religion

- ▶ Remixed religion is in the Bible. For example, the golden calf incident found Exodus 32.
- ▶ Israelites were mixing religions and are given Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and entire book of Leviticus to be catechized to be a "kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:6).
- ▶ Exile is the punishment that Israel receives for not fully embracing monotheism, I believe.

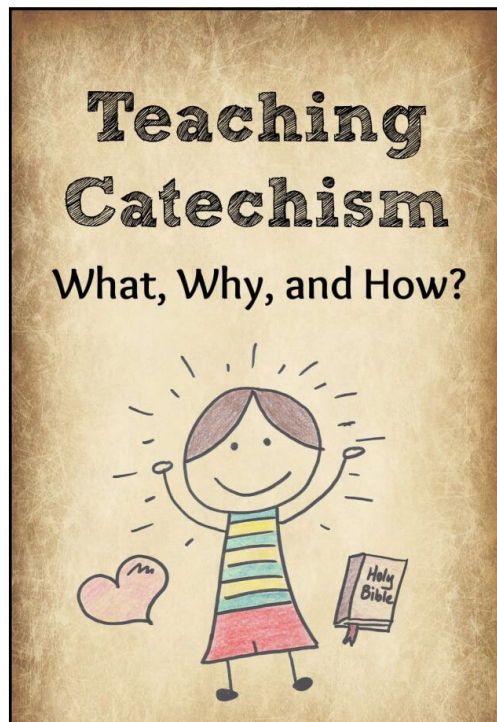
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The Goal of Catechism

- ▶ We should all, ideally, be shedding our remixed religion and moving towards orthodoxy.
- ▶ But how do we learn orthodoxy? Through the great creeds, confessions, and catechisms of the church.
- ▶ Learning to "speak/think God" correctly is a life long mountain climb!

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Catechism Definition

- Oral instruction
- A manual for religious instruction
- Formal questions used for testing

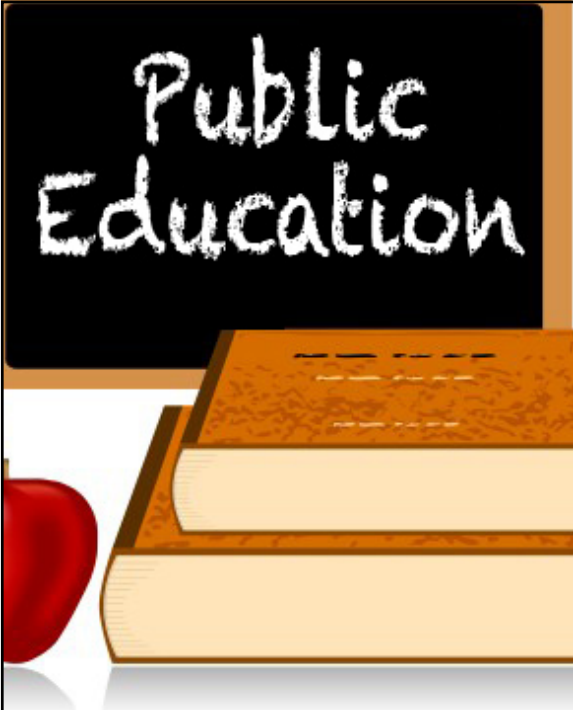
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Introduction

- What if we have been catechized our entire lives?
- Examples: public school system (citizenship), corporate America (work, work, work), and places of exercise (health).
- We need to catechized by the gospel.

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Public School System

- ▶ I would argue that we were all catechized if we went through the public school system.
- ▶ We spent more time, in many ways, in the public school system than with our parents!
- ▶ We recited a creed (pledge), we learned dogma (freedom), and we were catechized on how to be good citizens.

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Corporate America

- ▶ Corporate America has a vested interest in catechizing their workers.
- ▶ We are habituated to think that making money is the primary meaning in life. Promotions become our goal.
- ▶ Corporations or any work place quickly weed out individuals who they know will become loyal to their brand.

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Marketers

- ▶ What if marketers are actually catechesis instructors? Doesn't the word "brand" sound religious?
- ▶ We go through a catechism regiment. We might sign up for the brand's credit card, we receive mail or email reminding us about sales, and so forth.
- ▶ All of these tools are used by the marketers to try and attempt to attach our hearts to their products.

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Good Augustinians ☺

- ▶ The public school system and corporate America **are not** bad or evil.
- ▶ However, we need to have a proper hierarchy of catechesis.
- ▶ How? The great catechisms of the Reformed tradition and newer ones such as New City Catechism.

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