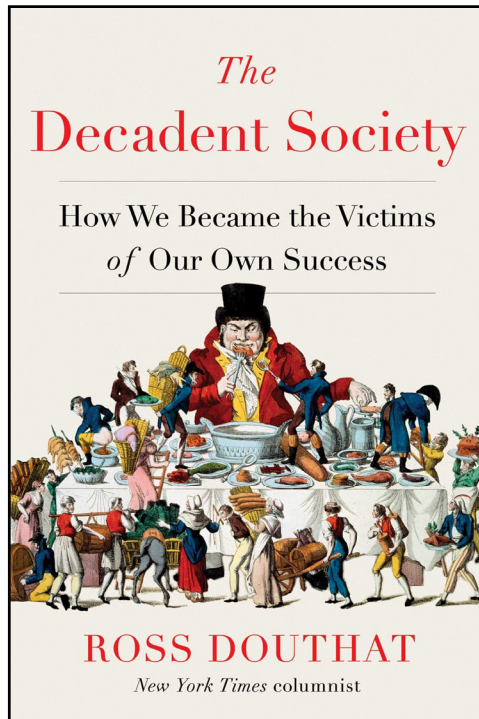


## Week Four: RPC and Public Catechism

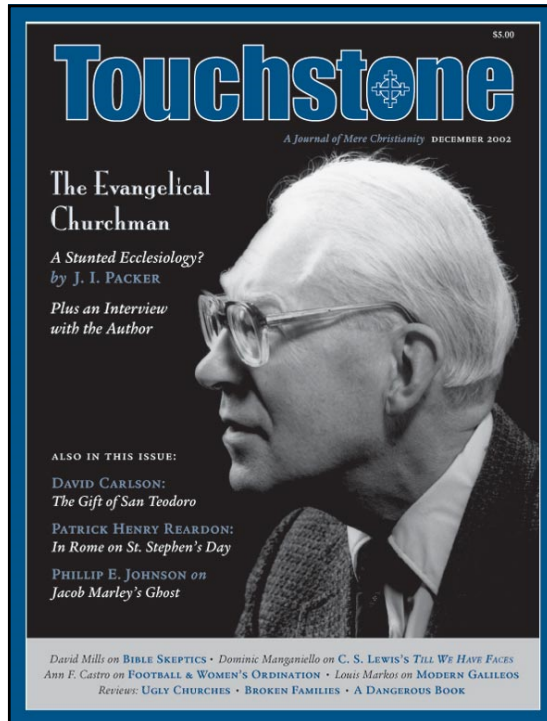
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## Decadence

- What if many of the “cutting edge” discipleship materials are really just repackaged from early generations? Common example, the Willow Creek model.
- What if the way forward is to bring back the classical catechism model into the public setting ?
- This is not for nostalgic reasons. But because it truly works!

45



## Definition of Public

- ▶ The book of Acts records the importance of public worship, public prayer, and public gathering of the people of God (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37).
- ▶ Evangelicalism prioritizes piety over churchliness.
- ▶ I think we could use some more discipline in our lives over against unbridled freedom.

46



## Preaching

- ▶ The first way we are publicly catechized is through preaching.
- ▶ The Reformed tradition has preached through books, historically, to teach people to read Scripture well.
- ▶ High literacy rates is one of the gifts of Protestantism to the world.

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## Generic Evangelical Churches Preach Well....

- But they do not catechize well. Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Anglicans have the upper hand to disciple well, I believe.
- Discipleship can be even seen as optional!
- Data points towards the collapse of the movement in the future.

48



## Prayer

- The Book of Common Prayer (1966) has a daily office for prayer.
- We could host morning prayer in the future.
- Public prayer is prioritized in Acts!

49





## Public Prayer

- What if we challenged our people to come to morning prayer in the future?
- Once we have a more permanent worship space, we will complete the Lord's Day by offering an evening prayer/catechism service.
- This “keeps us honest” by truly keeping the Lord's Day.

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## Public Prayer

- Praying the daily office disciplines us to pray well.
- It teaches us the language of Scripture.
- It gets us away from just thinking prayer is petitions only.

51

# CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

## Public Catechism

- What if one of the best ways to keep us accountable to learning our faith is through public catechism?
- The Christian Reformed Church developed the tradition of working through the Heidelberg Catechism on Sunday evening.

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## TEACHER KIT



INCLUDES:  
TEACHER MANUAL,  
VISUALS,  
1 STUDENT PACKET

## Family Catechism

- Just because we do not have children in our home doesn't mean we cannot have family catechism.
- Quizzing each other on the questions and answers can be fun! Especially when the pastor's wife is better at memorization than the pastor 😊
- How often do we learn better together?

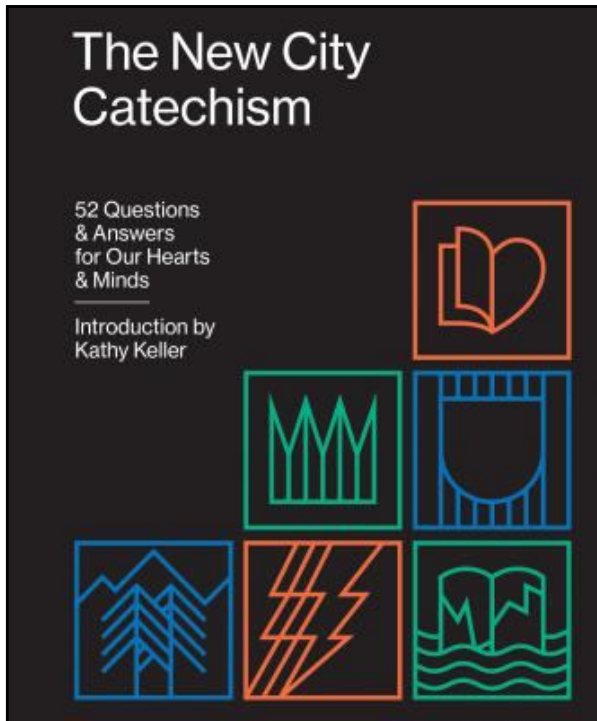
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## Great Commission Publishing

- Great Commission Publishing produces excellent catechism based Sunday school material.
- We should pitch our “traditional vision” of the church to prospective young families.

54



## New City Catechism

- We also have modern catechisms that could be learned within the context of public gathering.
- The NCC is shorter than the traditional Reformed catechisms.
- It's really cute!

55

## Building Towards The Future

- We are a traditional church. If we are to be successful as a church, we need to be traditionally Presbyterian.
- We live in a world with rampant freedom and individualism. What if younger people are craving discipline? Use this to persuade them to join us!
- Catechism will help us build towards a future where we raise many children in the faith. All of the sociology of religion data points towards this truth.