



## Message Reflections

June 23, 2019

### What is a Catechism?

For some, the word "catechism" produces thoughts of lifeless memorizing from years gone by. For others, it's like a foreign word because there is no experience with it at all.

The word "catechize" means to teach orally through question and answer, especially in Christian doctrine. A **catechism** is a set of questions and answers that contain the essentials of the faith. Different catechisms have been used through the history of the church to train children and adults in the "faith once delivered to the saints."

Clearly, only knowing doctrine does not change anyone's heart; knowing Jesus does. But by laying a foundation of "kindling" with Biblical truth, the Holy Spirit can light the fire and make a heart come alive.

### **New City Catechism Question 1:** *What is our only hope in life and death?*

**Answer:** *That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and our Savior Jesus Christ.*

Question 1 asks you about your "only hope." It is important to reflect upon and evaluate the object of our hope, because without realizing it we can attach our hopes to people, to things, to experiences and to ideas about God that let us down and disappoint us.

**Romans 14:7-8** *"For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord."*

Take a moment to reflect on what it means for you to belong to God.

- What appeals to you about viewing yourself as "belonging, body and soul, both in this life and in death, to God and to Jesus our Savior"?
- What do you need to do to live in this identity more and more, claiming it as your true identity, hope and desire?

I hope you enjoy our summer series based on New City Catechism as we learn the gospel message and study the wonder and work of God.

*Eric*