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Shorter
CATECHISM

VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

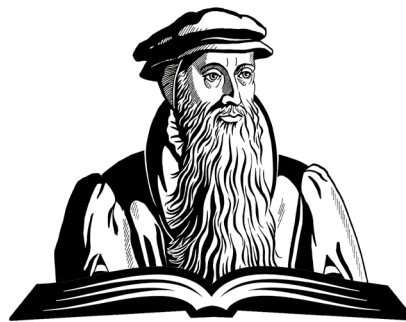
by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

Adult Study Guide

for Lecture #3

What God Is

Catechism Question 4



The John Knox Institute
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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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The Shorter CATECHISM

VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. Jonathan Mattull

1. The Chief End of Man—*Question 1*
2. God's Word and Its Teaching—*Questions 2 & 3*
3. What God Is—*Question 4*
4. One Triune God—*Questions 5 & 6*
5. The Decrees of God—*Questions 7 & 8*
6. God's Work of Creation—*Question 9*
7. God's Creation of Man—*Question 10*
8. God's Works of Providence—*Question 11*
9. God's Special Providence Towards Man—*Question 12*
10. The Fall of Man—*Questions 13 & 15*
11. What Sin Is—*Question 14*
12. The Fall's Effect on All Mankind—*Questions 16 & 17*
13. The Sinfulness & Misery of Man's Fallen State—*Questions 18 & 19*
14. The Covenant of Grace—*Question 20*
15. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of God's Elect—*Question 21*
16. The Incarnation—*Question 22*
17. Christ's Office of Prophet—*Questions 23 & 24*
18. Christ's Office of Priest—*Question 25*
19. Christ's Office of King—*Question 26*
20. The Humiliation of Christ—*Question 27*

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21. Christ's Exaltation—*Question 28*
22. Redemption Applied—*Questions 29 & 30*
23. Effectual Calling—*Questions 31 & 32*
24. Justification—*Question 33*
25. Adoption—*Question 34*
26. Sanctification—*Question 35*
27. Blessings of Salvation in this Life—*Question 36*
28. Blessings of Salvation at Death—*Question 37*
29. Blessings of Salvation at the Resurrection—*Question 38*
30. The Duty Required of Man—*Questions 39 through 42*
31. The Ten Commandments: A Preface of Grace—*Questions 43 & 44*
32. The Ten Commandments: Love for God—*Questions 45–8*
33. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Worship—*Question 49–52*
34. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Name—*Questions 53–56*
35. The Ten Commandments: A Day for Holy Love—*Questions 57–59*
36. The Ten Commandments: Love for God's Day—*Questions 60–62*
37. The Ten Commandments: Love within Our Relationships—*Questions 63–66*
38. The Ten Commandments: Love for Life—*Questions 67–69*
39. The Ten Commandments: Love for Purity—*Questions 70–72*
40. The Ten Commandments: Love for the Lord's Allotment—*Questions 73–75*

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41. The Ten Commandments - Love for the Truth—*Questions 76 thru 78*
42. The Ten Commandments - Love from Within—*Questions 79 thru 81*
43. Understanding Our Sin—*Questions 82 thru 84*
44. Escaping God’s Wrath and Curse: Saving Faith—*Questions 85 and 86*
45. Escaping God’s Wrath and Curse: Repentance unto Life—*Question 87*
46. Escaping God’s Wrath and Curse: Means of Grace—*Question 88*
47. Means of Grace: The Word of God—*Questions 89 and 90*
48. Means of Grace: The Sacraments—*Questions 91 thru 93*
49. Means of Grace: Christian Baptism—*Questions 94 and 95*
50. Means of Grace: The Lord’s Supper—*Question 96*
51. Means of Grace: Receiving the Lord’s Supper—*Question 97*
52. Means of Grace: Prayer—*Questions 98 and 99*
53. The Lord’s Prayer: The Preface—*Question 100*
54. The Lord’s Prayer: The First Petition—*Question 101*
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60. The Lord’s Prayer: The Conclusion—*Question 107*

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ADULT STUDY GUIDE

for Lecture #3

What God Is

Memorization

Question 4: *What is God?*

Answer: *God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth*

Lecture Structure

1. Introduction.
2. Defining the terms.
3. Two main points.
4. Application.

Literal Study

1. Briefly define these key terms:

a. Spirit _____

b. Infinite _____

c. Eternal _____

d. Unchangeable _____

e. His being _____

f. Wisdom _____

g. Power _____

h. Holiness _____

i. Justice _____

j. Goodness _____

k. Truth _____

2. Paraphrase this Question and Answer, or put it into your own words.

Lecture Checkup

(If a text is mentioned, please read it and write it out in the space provided.)

1. Will anyone ever fully understand the character of God?

2. What are the implications of the fact that God is a Spirit?

3. If God is a Spirit, when the Bible speaks about his hand, or his eye, or his face, how should we understand that?

4. What are the differences between man's spirit and God as a Spirit?

5. What are we referring to when we speak of "God's perfections"?

6. What is an attribute? What is meant by "a perfect attribute"? Do we have any perfect attributes?

7. What does it mean to say that God's being is infinite?

Jeremiah 23, verse 24

Psalm 139, verses 7-10

8. Is there anything that is too difficult for God?

9. Are there situations in which God reveals that all of his perfections are perfectly joined together? How does this relate to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus?

10. How does the greatness of God connect to *Shorter Catechism* Question #1?

11. How does the greatness of God show us the evil of sin?

Further Studies

1. Are all of God's attributes "infinite, eternal, and unchangeable"? How can we understand this?

2. How do we see God's attributes of wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth?

3. In what way is God infinite?

4. Where is it revealed to us that God is eternal?

5. In what way is God unchangeable?

Practical Application

1. Meditate on what God is. What comforts and encouragements come to mind when considering these attributes of God?

2. Think more about how God's works reveal that his attributes are perfectly joined together. Try to find more biblical examples of this.

Project Ideas

Start a notebook, and title each page with an attribute of God. Start collecting Bible passages about each attribute. Keep this notebook handy when you read the Bible, and record all the texts that relate to each attribute of God.