

THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS

*Shorter*  
**CATECHISM**

VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

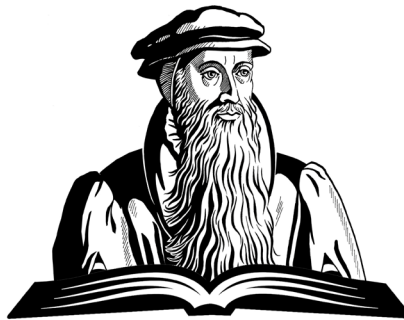
*by Rev. Jonathan Mattull*

**Adult Study Guide**

for Lecture #11

**What Sin Is**

*Catechism Question 14*



**The John Knox Institute**  
of Higher Education

**John Knox Institute of Higher Education**

*Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide*

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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*

# *The Shorter CATECHISM*

## VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

*by Rev. Jonathan Mattull*

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*

# *The Shorter CATECHISM*

## VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

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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*
55. The Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition—*Question 102*
56. The Lord's Prayer: The Third Petition—*Question 103*
57. The Lord's Prayer: The Fourth Petition—*Question 104*
58. The Lord's Prayer: The Fifth Petition—*Question 105*
59. The Lord's Prayer: The Sixth Petition—*Question 106*
60. The Lord's Prayer: The Conclusion—*Question 107*



# *The Shorter CATECHISM*

## VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

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## ADULT STUDY GUIDE

for Lecture #11

What Sin Is

### Memorization

**Question 14:** *What is sin?*

**Answer:** *Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression against, the law of God..*

### Lecture Structure

1. Introduction: a subject ignored in the world today.
2. Sin has an objective standard.
3. Sin includes failing to do what God commands.
4. Sin includes doing what God forbids.
5. Applications.

### Literal Study

1. Define these key terms as they are used in this lecture:

- a) Want \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Conformity \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Transgression \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Law of God \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please paraphrase this Question and Answer, or put it into your own words:

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*Lecture Checkup*

1. How is it that people can realize there is such a thing as right or wrong? Are there general agreements over certain things?

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2. What is the real source of knowing right and wrong?

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3. Is God's law only forbidding outward sin? What is its extent?

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4. What is the ultimate rule of discerning whether something is right or wrong? Will that rule change over time?

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5. What is the sin of omission? Please give an example. How should we think about the law of God?

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6. What is the sin of commission? Give an example.

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7. Where can we find true righteousness? Please give an example from the Bible.

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8. What is a conscience, and what does it do? How can our conscience be informed?

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9. What is the right way to examine ourselves?

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10. Rev. Mattull said, “We may not call sin what God has not called sin.” Please explain what this means and give some examples.

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**Further Studies**

1. How many kinds of laws of God are there in the Word of God?

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2. Is nothing a sin then but what is against God’s law?

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**Practical Application**

1. Read all of Psalm 119 and meditate on it. What are the psalmist's affections towards the law of God?

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2. In what ways can a Christian's life be affected by studying God's law?

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**Project Ideas**

Memorize the Ten Commandments.