

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." --1 Peter 3:15

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR CONFIRMATION EXAMINATION

(Note that these are only samples, and that other questions, as well as some "follow-ups", might be asked, also **prooftexts** for the doctrines discussed.)

1. What is a *catechism*? Who wrote our *Small Catechism*? When?
2. What does the *Small Catechism* contain? From what source were they taken?
3. What is the *Bible*? Who wrote it --OT? --NT? How many books in each testament?
4. Why is the Bible *God's Word* even though it was written down by *men*?
5. What does *by inspiration of God* mean? What is verbal inspiration?
6. What are the *two purposes* of the Bible? What *use* should we make of it? (4)
7. What are the *two chief doctrines* of the Bible?
8. What is the *Law*? What is the *Gospel*? In what three ways can we contrast them?
9. When was God's Law given to men? (2) What is the *written summary* of God's Law?
10. What is the *First Commandment*? What does this mean?
11. Who is the *only true God*?
12. What does God *forbid* in the First Commandment?
13. When do men have *other gods*?
14. Give several examples of *antitrinitarian* religions. (Don't forget lodges & Scouts!)
15. Give several examples of *fine idolatry*.
16. What does God *require* in the First Commandment?
17. What is the *Third Commandment*? What does this mean?
18. Does God still require His people to keep *the Sabbath* today? Why not?
19. What was the Old Testament Sabbath a picture of --looking back? --looking ahead?
20. How do people despise preaching and the Word of God?
21. What does God *require* in the Third Commandment? (4)
22. When the Lord warns us not to forsake "*the assembling of ourselves together*," does that refer only to coming to worship services or also to other opportunities for the hearing and learning of God's Word with our brethren?

23. What is the *Sixth Commandment*? What does this mean?
24. What is *marriage*? What is a *rightful engagement*?
25. For what *two reasons only* does God permit an innocent party to procure a *divorce*?
26. What *else* does God forbid in the Sixth Commandment?
27. What does God *require* of all of us in the Sixth Commandment?
28. What must we do to lead a chaste and decent life as Christians?
29. How does God expect us to keep His Law? Can anyone do that? (2)
30. Can anyone be *saved* by the Law?
31. What *threefold purpose* does God's Law serve? Which is the *chief purpose*?
32. What is *sin*? By whom was it brought into the world?
33. What is *original sin*? What is *actual sin*? Sins of *commission*? *Omission*?
34. Where alone can we find *salvation from sin*?
35. What is a *creed*? Why is the first of our creeds called the *Apostles' Creed*?
36. What do you mean when you confess, "I *believe* in God"? (3)
37. Why do we call God our *Maker*? Why can't a Christian accept *evolution*? (4)
38. What *moves God* to do all that He does for you?
39. What is *your duty* toward Him in view of all that He has done for you?
40. What is the meaning of the *Second Article* of the *Apostles' Creed*? (Recite!)
41. Of whom does the *Second Article treat*? Why is He called *Jesus*? Why *Christ*?
42. What do you mean when you confess, "I *believe* in Jesus Christ"? (3)
43. *Who is* Jesus Christ? (2)
44. Why do you believe that Jesus Christ is *true God*? (4) Why *true man*? (3)
45. What *two natures* are therefore united in Christ? [Know term: ***personal union***]
46. Why was it necessary that our Savior be *true man*? (2) Why *true God*? (3)
47. "Christ" means "the Anointed One". For what *threefold office* was He anointed?
48. In what did Christ's *State of Humiliation* consist?
49. *Why* did Christ so humble Himself?
50. What does *redeem* mean? *With* what? (Not with...but with...) *From* what? (3)
51. How does Christ's work of redemption *benefit YOU*? [Term: ***Vicarious Atonement***]
52. Has Christ redeemed, purchased and won *only you*?
53. In what does Christ's *State of Exaltation* consist?

54. Why is the *resurrection* of Christ of such great importance and comfort to us? (4)
55. What comfort do we derive from Christ's *sitting at the right hand of the Father*? (How does He exercise His threefold office on our behalf now that He is exalted?)
56. What do the Scriptures teach about Christ's *coming to judgment*?
57. Is there any basis in Scripture for the so-called "*Millennium*" of Christ on earth?
58. *How sure are you* of your redemption by Jesus Christ?
59. Why do we close this and the other articles of our creed with the words: "This is most certainly *true*"?
60. Who is the *Holy Ghost*? What is His *chief work*?
61. Why is it necessary that the *Holy Ghost* work this faith in you?
62. What did the Holy Ghost *do* when He called you by the Gospel? (Def. of **Enlight.**)
63. What is this work of the Holy Ghost *called*? (Term: **Conversion**)
64. Why do we say He has done this work *by the Gospel*?
65. *What else* has the Holy Ghost wrought in you by the Gospel? (**Sanct. Narrower**)
66. What is a "good work" *in the sight of God*? (Know all points!)
67. What has the Holy Ghost *lastly* wrought in you by the Gospel?
68. Does the Holy Ghost *desire* to work all this in *everyone* who hears the Gospel?
69. Why then are not all men saved? How do the *Calvinists* account for this?
70. What is the *Holy Christian Church*? Why is it *invisible*?
71. Where is this Church *to be found* according to Isaiah 55:10-11?
72. *Where* is the Gospel *regularly and consistently* in use? (Local Cong. with its Ministry)
73. What is the so-called "visible church"?
74. What is an *orthodox church*? Why is orthodoxy so *important* to our faith?
75. What is the *only divinely-ordained external fellowship*?
76. What is the *local congregation*?
77. When do we use the Doctrine of the Church *properly*? (4 points)
78. What is meant by the term *religious unionism*? What is *sinful separatism*?
79. Briefly, what is the false position on the Church held by the *Wisconsin Synod*?
80. How does God *forgive* your sins?
81. What *moves Him* to do this?

82. *For whom* has forgiveness been both *obtained* and *declared*? (Term: **Objective Justification**)
83. Where is this forgiveness *offered* to poor sinners? (What is the **giving** means?)
84. How is it *accepted* & *received* by a penitent sinner? (What is the **receiving** means?)
85. Why *can* and *should* every believer be **certain** of the forgiveness of sins?
86. Why must we ever firmly maintain the doctrine of **justification** by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith? (5 points!)
87. *To whom* will God give eternal life?
88. Are you sure that *you* will enter eternal life? How do you know this? (The **Election of Grace** -- Know the points as well as the answer to Q/A 199.)
89. What is *prayer*? *To whom alone* should prayer be directed?
90. What should *move us* to pray? (4 points)
91. *How* should we pray?
92. What prayers has God *not promised to answer*?
93. Which is the *most excellent* of all prayers? Why?
94. With whom only should we pray? Why? (Principle of **Fellowship**)
95. What is a *sacrament*? (4 points)
96. What is *Baptism*? What is the *visible element*?
97. What does the word "*baptize*" mean?
98. What does Baptism *give or profit*?
99. Why should *infants too* be baptized? (3 points & passages!)
100. *To whom* does Baptism give forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?
101. What is the *Office of the Keys*? (Catechism definition)
102. What all is authorized under the *Office of the Keys*? (Cf. Q/A 267)
103. To whom was this authority given by Christ, both in general & particularly?
104. Who are *penitent sinners*? (2 points) What is the *fruit* of true repentance?
105. What is a test of genuine repentance? (*Willingness* to amend one's sinful life)
106. How does the local congregation *publicly administer* the Office of the Keys? (Know well Q/A 275!)
107. What is the *only* **divinely-ordained** or **-commanded** office in the church?
108. What function do *other offices* serve? Do we have to have such offices?
109. What are the Pastor's *God-given duties* overagainst the sheep in his flock? (Know Acts 20:28 and Hebrews 13:17.)

110. How must the Christian congregation deal with *manifest and impenitent sinners*?
111. What *steps of admonition* does the Savior prescribe before a manifest and impenitent sinner is put out of His Church? (*Matthew 18:15-17*)
112. What does Jesus mean when He says, "*If he neglect to hear the church*"?
113. What does Jesus call someone who *refuses* to hear and heed the admonition of His Word? When the congregation makes that declaration according to Jesus' command, what IS such a person *before God* as well as *before men*? (Passage)
114. Is an excommunicated person only out of the *local congregation* and its *fellowship*?
115. What is the *real purpose* of excommunication?
116. What is the *Sacrament of the Altar*?
117. What are the earthly elements in this Sacrament?
118. What is *received in, with, and under* those elements in the Sacrament? Only by *believers*??
119. What is meant by the term "*real presence*"?
120. Why do you believe in the *real presence*? (4 points)
121. What do the *Reformed* believe about this? What do the *Romanists* believe about it?
122. How does the *Roman Catholic Church* describe the Lord's Supper, which it calls the "Mass"? Is that what the true Lord's Supper IS? Prove that it is NOT a "sacrifice".
123. When and only when do we have the *true Lord's Supper*? Do the Reformed have it? Do the Romanists have it?
124. Why should we partake of the Lord's Supper *frequently*? (3 points)
125. For what *purposes* do we come to the Lord's Table? (3 points)
126. How should we *examine ourselves* before coming to the Sacrament? (4 points)
127. In the first of those steps, how do we *identify our sins* and *recognize their grossness* before God?
128. What does it say about a communicant's preparedness to receive the Sacrament if he does not *intend to amend* his sinful life?
129. Why must we consider the *true worthiness* of a communicant?
130. To whom must the Lord's Supper be *denied*? (4 points)
131. What is the purpose of *Communion Announcement* to the Pastor? Is that *his business* to guide us in our self-examination? (See *Hebrews 13:17* and *Acts 20:28*)
132. How does the Sacrament *impart* the forgiveness of sins? How do we *receive* it?