

Foundations of Faith (A Catechism for Today)

Sunday 1- January 1

Question 1. What is God's purpose for our lives?

We have been made for joy: joy in knowing, loving and serving God, joy in knowing, loving and serving one another, joy in the wonder of all God's works.

Gen 1:27-28 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them.

Isa 65:18 For I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

Ps 40:8 I delight to do your will, O my God.

Isa 58:2 Yet they act so pious! They come to the Temple every day and seem delighted to learn all about me. They act like a righteous nation that would never abandon the laws of its God. They ask me to take action on their behalf, pretending they want to be near me.

Job 22:26 "Then you will take delight in the Almighty and look up to God.

Lk 1:47 How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Jn 16:22,24 So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

Rom 7:22 I love God's law with all my heart.

Phil 4:4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Rev 19:7. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

Question 2. What does it mean to know, love and serve God?

We know God in Jesus Christ witnessed to in scripture. We love and serve God in worship and in the care and compassion we show for all creation. Worship draws us into the work of Christ. In union with him we pray and work for the healing and salvation of the world. Christ calls us to a life of kindness and generosity.

How can we love God, whom we cannot see, without loving those whom we can see?

Jn 1:18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Mt 22:37-39 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

1 Jn 4::20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

Deut 6:5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

Gen 2:15 The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

Ps 66:4 Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs.

Am 5:21-24 "I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won't even notice all your choice peace offerings. Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice, an endless river of righteous living.

Jn 4:23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way.

Rev 14:7 "Fear God," he shouted. "Give glory to him. For the time has come when he will sit as judge. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all the springs of water."