

HS RCIA Class Review: Ten BIG IDEAS for Catechism -- overview --

For understanding and practicing the Christian Faith, Catechumens (students of the Catechism) can use these fundamental, or underlying, ideas to apply to their general learning about the **Catholic Faith** and **Life in Christ**

1. Jesus Christ

- Jesus = "God saves"
- Christ = "Messiah" = "Mission"
- Jesus is fully God and fully man

2. The Trinity

- one God, three persons: *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*
- one God, three natures: *Creator, the Savior, and the Sanctifier*

3. Sin

- "an offense against God" ([CCC 1850](#))
- sin = separation from God
- hell = eternal separation from God
- concupiscence = our tendency towards sin
- the "three-fold sins": *lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life*
- mortal v. venial sin

4. Thoughtful worship

- "Four Senses of Scripture": *Literal, Allegorical, Moral, Anagogical*
- seeking God and truth through the "Two Wings" of Faith and Reason
- praying thoughtfully, purposefully and actively

5. Life in Christ

- Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes
- Ten Commandments & Christ's clarifications & New Commandments
- seeking a State of Grace
- "Repent, and believe"

6. Christ as fulfillment of the Old Testament

- Jesus fulfills the "Old Covenant" and gives us the "New Covenant" (or "Testament")
- = History of Salvation
- *The New is hidden in the Old, and the Old is revealed by the New*

7. The Mysteries

- works of the Holy Spirit: "the seen and the unseen"
- using our "Wings of Faith" & recognizing the limits of Reason

8. Sacraments

- the seen and unseen: "the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation" ([CCC 774](#))
- an "outward sign" instituted by Christ to give Grace
- we see the Sacramental Act, but our faith reveals the workings of the Holy Spirit
- types and purposes of the Sacraments

9. The Catholic Mass

- the "Real presence of Christ"
- weekly attendance at Mass
- proper attire for Mass

10. The Bible

- reading the Word of God (the Bible) is prayer
- familiarity with the Bible, its parts and organization
- applying Biblical knowledge to the "Liturgy of the Word" at Mass

HS RCIA Class Review: Ten BIG IDEAS for Catechism

-- detailed --

1. Jesus Christ

- Jesus = "God saves"
- Christ = "Messiah" = "Mission"
- the "Mission" of "Christ" is to save us from sin
- Christ is "the way" ([Jn 14:6](#))
 - "The Way" = name for the early Church
- the God-man, mystical union, person of Christ
 - = the "Hypostatic Union"
 - Jesus is fully God and fully man
- Christ died for all sin
 - he died for all of us because we are not capable of redeeming ourselves
 - St. Anselm's formulation of salvation: *"For God will not do it, because he has no debt to pay; and man will not do it, because he cannot."*

2. The Trinity

- one God, three persons
 - "1 x 1 x 1 = 1" (not "1 + 1 + 1 = 3")
 - "person" = perspective
 - God in the "persons" of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- one God, three natures
 - "nature" = form of
- God in the "natures" of the *Creator*, the *Savior*, and the *Sanctifier*
- "The Word" per [John 1:1](#): *"In the beginning was the Word"*
- God's existence outside of time and creation

3. Sin

- sin = separation from God
- hell = eternal separation from God
- "devil" is from the Greek *diaballein*, for "throw across, separate, cause scandal"
- Satan wants to separate us from God
- Jesus called Satan *"the father of lies," "a murderer from the beginning"*
- Jesus taught that murder starts in the heart ([Mt 15:19](#))
- "Original Sin":
 - Fall of Adam and Eve and its implications
- concupiscence = our tendency towards sin

- "Three-fold sins": *lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life*
- mortal v. venial sin
- mortal sin = deadly to our soul
 - destroys "charity" (love in action)
 - must be conscious and willful ([CCC 1860](#))
 - we must not receive Communion under mortal sin
- venial sin =
 - sinful acts or thoughts that do not break us entirely from God
 - weakens "charity"
- free will
- mortal v. venial sin
- idolatry = putting something above God
- Jesus taught how to avoid sin: pray and turn away from it:
 - *"Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test"* ([Mk 14:38](#))
 - *"If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away"* ([Mt 5:30](#))
- avoiding the "occasion of sin"
 - temptation will happen:
 - but "don't let that bird land" (advice from a priest)
- turning back to God:
 - Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - God celebrates a repentant sinner (see Parable of the Lost Sheep, [Lk 15:10](#) and Parable of the Prodigal Son, [Lk 15:11](#))

4. Thoughtful worship

- the "Four Senses of Scripture":
 - *Literal* = the direct meaning of the words
 - *Allegorical* = extending the words
 - *Moral* = right from wrong
 - *Anagogical* = where does it lead me?
- esp. for recognizing implications in Biblical passages beyond the literal word:
 - ex.: when scripture mentions water, it usually means *Baptism*; where it mentions blood, it usually means *Christ's sacrifice & eternal life through him*; where it mentions the wind, it usually means the *Holy Spirit*
 - ex.: Fourth Commandment to "Honor your father and your mother"

- extension = obey all legitimate authority
- applying Jesus' clarifications:
 - ex. *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."* ([Mt 22:37](#))
- what are the implication of loving God with *"all your heart, soul, mind"*?
- seeking God and truth through the "Two Wings" of Faith and Reason:
 - = "the Gifts of Faith and Reason"
 - It takes two wings to fly
- praying thoughtfully and purposefully
 - ex. what do you think about while making the Sign of the Cross?
- "Our Father" prayer and the "Seven Petitions"

5. Life in Christ

- Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes ([Mt Ch 5 & 6](#); [Lk 6:20](#))
- Christ's New Commandment: "love one another" ([Jn 13:35](#))
- Ten Commandments & Christ's clarifications of Mosaic Law
 - ex. murder and adultery start in the heart
- God's "Plan of Redemption"
- *"dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus"* ([Rom 6:11](#))
- seeking the "State of Grace"
- "repent, and believe" ([Mk 1:15](#))

6. Christ as fulfillment of the Old Testament

- Covenant = God's loving design and gift to mankind
- God's promises are expressed in the "Covenants"
- Jesus fulfills the "Old Covenant" and gives us the "New Covenant" " (or "Testament")
- = the History of Salvation
- St. Augustine's formulation of the Old and New Testaments:
 - *"The New is hidden in the Old, and the Old is revealed by the New"*
- Typology

7. The Mysteries

- the works of the Holy Spirit
- understanding "the seen and unseen"
- identifying what is mysterious

- using the "Wing of Faith" & recognizing the limits of Reason:
 - Reason is limited by our finite intelligence and senses, and our inherent concupiscence (tendency towards sin)

8. Sacraments

- the seen and unseen: "the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation" ([CCC 774](#))
- outward sign instituted by Christ to give Grace
- salvation"
- we see the Sacramental Act, but our faith reveals the workings of the Holy Spirit
- types and purposes of Sacraments, especially Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation, and Marriage
- The Church is "the Mystical Body of Christ." ([CCC 779](#))

9. The Catholic Mass

- the "Real presence of Christ"
- role of the Priest
- parts of the Mass and their purpose and implications on worship
- The Eucharist and Holy Communion
- transubstantiation
- Receiving (not taking) the Eucharist (the "Host")
- receiving the Eucharist "worthily"
 - one hour fast beforehand
 - In a state of Grace
- Weekly attendance at Mass
- proper attire
- Mass across the world: constant worship
 - catholic = "universal"

10. The Bible

- reading the Word of God (the Bible) is prayer
- "testament" means "covenant"
- Bible = divinely "inspired" but written by and for men
- student familiarity with the Bible
 - its parts and organization
- actually using the Bible:
 - finding passages
 - flipping through pages
- using Biblical references
- applying Biblical knowledge to Liturgy of the Word at Mass