

## The Medieval Catechism

1. **What is the Divine work?**

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

2. **How should a man live?**

The virtues are Faith, Hope, Love, Wisdom, Justice, Courage, Temperance.

3. **What is temperance?**

Modesty, Self-control, Chastity, Humility

4. **What are the vices?**

Pride, Greed, Lust, Envy, Gluttony, Anger, Sloth

5. **What are the spheres of cosmos?**

Earth, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Stellatum, *Primum Mobile*, Empyrean

6. **What is faith?**

The Centurion said to Christ, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it," and Christ replied, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."

7. **What does it mean to be human?**

Dante teaches that being human is: willing, acting, and receiving recompense for that action.

8. **What is freedom?**

Free will is the ability to do good or evil; freedom is the inability to do evil.

9. **What is righteousness?**

Dante teaches that righteousness is wanting what is good, not merely knowing what goodness is; if a knowledge of goodness is not married to a desire for righteousness, mere knowledge profits a man nothing.

10. **Who are the twelve apostles?**

Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas

11. **What are the twelve high feast days of the Church calendar?**

The Nativity of Mary (September 8), the Annunciation (March 25), the Nativity of Christ (December 25), the Presentation of Christ at the Temple (February 2, forty days after Christ's birth), the Baptism of Christ (January 6), the Transfiguration (August 6), the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (The Sunday before Easter), the Crucifixion (a moveable feast), the Resurrection (forty hours after the Crucifixion), the Ascension (forty days after Easter), Pentecost (fifty days after Easter), the Assumption of Mary (August 15)

**12. What do you believe?**

“I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.”

**13. What are the earthly consolations?**

At a funeral, an atheist may say of the dead, “He lived a good life. He left behind a great inheritance for his children. We will always remember him. He is no longer suffering.”

**14. What are the heavenly consolations?**

A Christian may say, “God is man’s friend and the lover of man’s soul. All men will someday die, though death is God’s enemy and Christ has defeated death.”

**15. Where does God live?**

God dwells in all places; God is beyond place; God is place itself.

**16. When does God live?**

God dwells in all places, at all times; God transcends time and is beyond time.

**17. What does God know?**

God knows all things; God is the very act of knowing.

**18. How good is God?**

God is all good; God does all good; God is goodness itself.

**19. What is justice?**

The Franks refuse a preemptive strike against the Saracens, even though God has told them they will be betrayed. The just man does not condemn his enemy for a sin he has not yet committed; the just man prays his enemy will repent of the evil he intends to do.

**20. What is just war?**

The Franks refused to take every tactical advantage open to them. The Franks voluntarily chose weakness in faith that God fights on behalf of the weak. If the Franks took every strategic advantage possible and won, they could not credit God.

**21. What is evil?**

Evil is nothingness; an absence; a cancer. Evil corrupts good things, but evil has no private existence of its own.

**22. What has St. Paul taught us about the pagans?**

“Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’ Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

## **The Medieval Timeline**

The Apostolic Era: 33 AD through 90 AD

The Age of Martyrs: 90 AD through 313 AD

313 AD: Constantine issues the Edict of Milan and legalizes Christianity

325 AD: The Council of Nicaea confirms the dogma of the Trinity

380 AD: Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire

393 AD: Emperor Theodosius ends the Olympic games and closes all theaters

410 AD: Rome is sacked by Alaric

400s and 500s: The Late Antique period, in which the pagan, barbarian hordes on the outskirts of the Roman Empire slowly move into Roman space

571 AD: Mohammed is born

590 AD–1321 AD: The Medieval Era

590 AD: Gregory the Great becomes Pope; the Medieval Era begins

714 AD–1124 AD: The Carolingian Project: swamps are drained, forests are cleared, roads are built, monasteries and libraries are established

800 AD: Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor

1054 AD: Separation of Eastern and Western churches

1124 AD: The great cathedral building work of Europe has begun; the city replaces the feudal farm as the organizing principle of society

1321 AD: *The Divine Comedy* is finished; the Medieval Era ends; the Italian Renaissance has begun