

CREDO

PART I

Q1: According to Scripture: Who is God?

A1: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.* God is Sovereign, Autonomous, and Immutable Creator of all over all.

Q2: What is the significance of the Sovereignty of God?

A2: Sovereign God means that God alone is the Absolute and Ultimate Reference Person (point) of all meaning, all truth, all knowledge, and all value (AURP); God is the Absolute, Autonomous point of reference for all thought and life, in Him we live, and move, and have our being. (Acts 17:28a)

Q3: What is the significance of God being AURP?

A3: God alone is Autonomous; He alone is the "I am that I am." God causes and determines all things for He alone possesses all perfections.

Q4: What are God's perfections?

A4: God's perfections are His attributes: Immutable, Omnitemporal, Omnipresent, Omniscient, All Powerful, All Good, being Righteous, Holy, and Just; Supreme, the Alpha and Omega, Creator, Sustainer of all creation.

PART II:

Q1: What was Adam's folly?

A1: Against knowledge, reason, and warning, Adam turned from God to self as the AURP in disobedience to God's prohibition not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Q2: What consequences flow from Adam's failed attempt?

A2: In turning from God to self as AURP, Adam turned from God's Sovereign Rule to autonomous self-rule in all thought and life.

Q3: Why did Adam's attempt for autonomy fail?

A3: No created being, being mutable, can fulfill the role of AURP.

Q4: What triggered Adam's attempt to be AURP?

A4: Adam desire for autonomous self-reference for all thought and life rendered him a slave to the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life: not able not to sin.

Q5: How may we summarize Adam's folly?

A5: Adam capitulated to his desire for Eve, Self, and Autonomy.

Q6: Did God cause Adam's folly?

A6: God causes all things; God in His knowledge, power, and wisdom decreed Adam's failed attempt to be AURP.

Q7: To what purpose was Adam's folly decreed by the Sovereign Creator?

A7: Two reasons: (1) To demonstrate to Adam and his Eve, and to all born in Adam the exceeding sinfulness of sin; (2) To establish for all that only Holy God the Creator is AURP.

Q8: Was the basis for Adam's foolish attempt his free will to declare himself independent of God's Sovereign Rule?

A8: Only God possesses a perfect, free, holy will. God alone is immutably God; man's will is framed in mutability and vanity apart from God. The Scripture nowhere states that Adam possesses a free will.

Q9: If God causes all things, why is the sinful creature responsible and accountable for what God causes?

A9: God is the absolute, ultimate cause of everything that comes to pass; the mutable creature is causally-endowed with the gift of free agency in thought and action and as such will render an account to God.

Q10: How does one respond to a creature's "It's not fair!"

A10: God alone determines all meaning, all truth, all knowledge, all value, including what is or is not fair.

Q11: Did Adam believe he could determine what is meaning and what if anything is meaningful?

A11: Adam desired to replace the Sovereign God as the AURP to live and rule his life according to desires of mutability.

Q12: Who would determine what is right or wrong for Adam if not God his Creator?

A12: Adam, not God, would determine what is right or wrong according to his desires and his needs.

Q13: Who would determine what truth is and what is false for Adam if not God his Creator?

A13: Adam, not God, would determine what is truth and what is false as circumstances and events make known what is the best course of action.

Q14: Who determines what is to be known, ought to be known, or worthy to be known for Adam if not God his Creator?

A14: Adam, not God, would determine what is known, can be known, and ought to be known or worthy to be known.

Q15: What consequences resulted from Adam's folly to reject God as AURP and thereby to declare himself sovereign in all matters pertaining to thought, life, and destiny?

A15: Adam's foolish attempt to usurp ultimate authority proved to be the disaster of man's existence: suffering, disease, wars, murders, disasters, and death leading to the grave and hell for all except the predestined elect of God in Jesus Christ.

Part III:

Q1: What is the creature's history and destiny?

A1: Augustine described 4 stages: (1) posse non peccare (able not to sin); (2) unbeliever: non posse non peccare (not able not to sin); (3) believer: posse non peccare (able not to sin); and (4) non posse peccare (not able to sin). The unbeliever's destiny falls in (3) in eternal hell; the believer's in (4) in heaven forever in eternity.

AUGUSTINE'S FOUR STAGES			
1 Pre-Fall Man	2 Post-Fall Man	3 Re-Born Man	4 Glorified Man
Able to Sin (posse peccare)			Not Able To Sin (non posse peccare)
Able To Not Sin (posse non peccare)	Not Able to Not Sin (non posse non peccare)	Able To Not Sin (posse non peccare)	
Able To Die (posse mori)	Not Able To Not Die (non posse non mori)		
Able Not To Die (posse non mori)	Not Able To Not Die (non posse non mori)		Not Able To Die (non posse mori)
	Hell: Not Able Not To Die	Heaven: Not Able To Sin	

Q2: In what respect do the Elect differ from the Lost?

A2: The saved enjoy posse non peccare life here, non posse peccare life in eternity; the Lost are non posse non peccare here and remain so in eternity.

Q3: In what respect is the believer like the unbeliever?

A3: Both believer and unbeliever share not able not to sin life here; at regeneration the believer receives the gift of posse non peccare life applied by the Spirit in the believer's sanctification.

Q4: How does regeneration differ from sanctification of the believer?

A4: Regeneration is an instantaneous and immediate enabling of belief (faith) of the truth of God's gift of the Good News; sanctification is the process of transforming the creature to the image of Jesus Christ from non posse non peccare existence to posse non peccare life leading to non posse peccare life eternal.

Q5: How is the saved creature not able to sin in eternity yet remain mutable in other respects?

A5: Glorification confirms the believer to sinless holy life as his Savior Jesus Christ and even as the holy angels have been confirmed.

Q6: Is there repentance or confession of sins in hell for the unregenerate?

A6: The damned in hell do not repent and do not confess as they are under the curse of non posse non peccare existence forever.

Q7: In what respects will the saved creature be like his Savior?

A7: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the Things which God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2: 9) This we know: the saved are a Kingdom of Priests with Jesus Christ as High Priest forever after the Order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5: 6, 10)

Q8: Does Scripture describe the role of the Kingdom of Priests in Eternity?

A8: The role of the Kingdom of Priest is to serve God in the Kingdom of God with Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords ruling all creation under God.

Q9: Does Time cease in Eternity?

A9: Time is a property of the creature; the believer conformed to the image of Jesus Christ will partake of all blessings, gifts, and powers necessary for non posse peccare life in the Eternal-Now.

Q10: What is the Eternal-Now to be enjoyed with Jesus Christ in Eternity?

A10: The Eternal-Now is the Spiritual Dimension of life wherein Time is subject to the glorified creature's will even as Jesus Christ displayed to his followers after His resurrection and before His ascension to Heaven.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body. (Philippians 3:20-21)

(John 4.24; Job 11.7; Psalms 90.2; James 1.17; Exodus 3.14; Psalms 147.5; Revelation 4.8, 15.4; Exodus 34.6.)

*The Shorter Catechism with scripture proofs, The Banner of Truth Trust, P.O. Box 621, Carlisle, PA 17013, USA