



Licensure and Ordination Study Guide 2024-2025

PCA Korean South West Orange County Presbytery
Examination Committee



Licensure and Ordination Study Guide

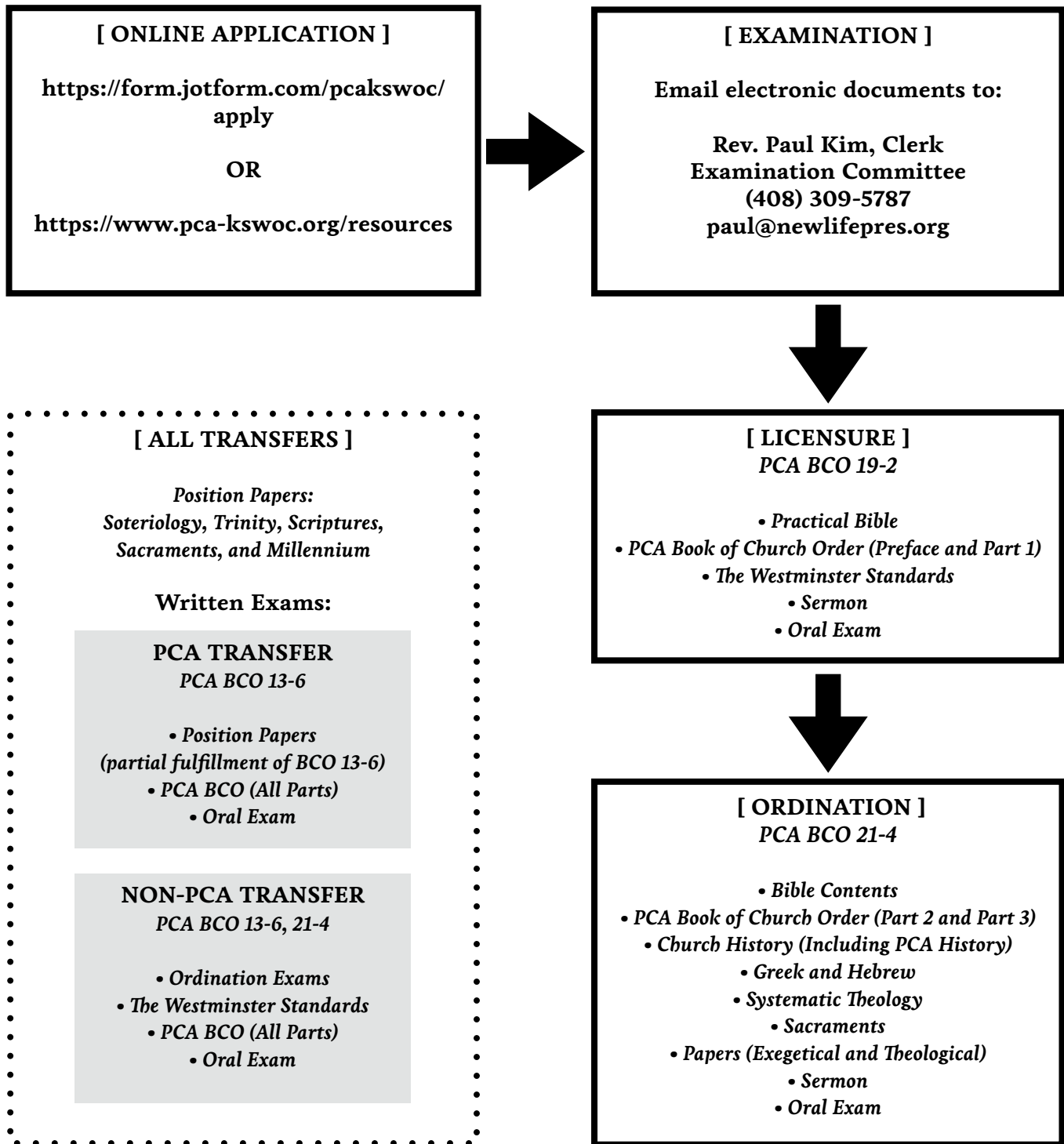
2024-2025

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The Process





Reading List for Ministry

For Life-Long Learning for Life-Long Ministry



Reading List for Ministry

HOW TO USE THIS LIST

We have found that having a well-organized and thorough reading plan promotes discipline and forces the reader to have a breadth of knowledge that will enrich the reader's studies in all areas.

But above all, and we cannot stress this highly enough, prayerfully read your Bible regularly in such a manner that you work through all of Scripture—preferably at least once each year. Theological study is worthless—even detrimental—apart from a life spent in prayer and reading God's Word.

Within each discipline, the readings are divided into three categories corresponding to when it would be appropriate to read them. This does not always correspond to difficulty. Occasionally, an advanced work will be stylistically accessible, but simply would not be applicable until you have worked through the content in the introductory and intermediate works. We have also attempted to list the titles within a given level in a suggested reading order. Nonetheless, each reader has a unique experience and particular acumen, so these suggestions should be viewed with a measure of flexibility.

- ★ Introductory - Offers a general introduction to concepts accessible to readers with limited prior knowledge of the subject matter
- ☆ Intermediate - Provides a more challenging approach to the issues and ideas of each topic, yet accessible to most readers with some prior knowledge of the subject matter
- ⊛ Advanced - Addresses more profound theological questions and arguments, intended for readers with a good deal of prior knowledge of the subject matter

Readers new to the Reformed tradition may find even these first level books quite challenging, but be strong and courageous. Keep working hard and asking questions. After mastering the first level material, move to the second level books. Since the disciplines inform one another, it is important to build a wide foundation before moving to the next level. Therefore, complete the level one material in every discipline before moving to any of the second levels. Likewise, move to the third levels only after you have a firm grasp on all of the intermediate material. *This is not a race.* You will benefit much more by careful, patient, and deliberate reading. Think quality, not quantity.

BIBLE CONTENT AND INTERPRETATION

- ★ *Reformation Study Bible* (Reformation Trust); Edmund Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery* (P&R); Michael Horton, *Introducing Covenant Theology* (Baker); Herman N. Ridderbos, *Redemptive History and New Testament Scriptures* (P&R); Vern S. Poythress, *God-Centered Biblical Interpretation* (P&R); D. A. Carson and Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament* (Zondervan)
- ☆ Greg Beale, *The Erosion of Inerrancy in Evangelicalism* (Crossway); Vern S. Poythress, *Understanding Dispensationalists* (P&R); Richard Gaffin, Jr. "The Redemptive-Historical View," in *Biblical Hermeneutics: Five Views* (IVP Academics)
- ⊛ Geerhardus Vos, *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos* (P&R); Lane G. Tipton, "The Gospel and Redemptive-Historical Hermeneutics," in *Confident of a Better Things: Essays Commemorating Seventy-Five Years of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church* (The Committee on Christian Education for the OPC); Herman Ridderbos, *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* (Eerdmans)

REFORMED CONFESSIONS AND CATECHISMS

- ★ *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, Canons of Dort*, Joel R. Beeke and Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Reformed Confession Harmonized: With an Annotated Bibliography of Reformed Doctrinal Works*
- ☆ A. A. Hodge, *The Confession of Faith* (Banner of Truth)
- ⊕ Zacharius Ursinus, *Commentary on the Heidelberg Catechism* (P&R); Chad Van Dixhoorn, *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to Westminster Confession of Faith* (Banner of Truth); J. V. Fesko, *The Theology of the Westminster Standards* (Crossway)

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

- ★ Geerhardus Vos, *Grace and Glory: Sermons Preached in the Chapel of Princeton Theological Seminary* (The Reformed Press); Herman Ridderbos, *When Time Had Fully Come: Studies in New Testament Theology* (Wipf & Stock); Vern Poythress, *The Shadow of Christ in the Law of Moses* (P&R); Edmund Clowney, *The Unfolding Mystery* (P&R); Michael Kruger, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Crossway); Miles Van Pelt, *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised* (Crossway); Michael Lawrence, *Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church: A Guide for Ministry* (Crossway); Desmond Alexander, *From Eden to the New Jerusalem: An Introduction to Biblical Theology* (Kregel)
- ☆ Geerhardus Vos, *Biblical Theology* (Banner of Truth); Meredith G. Kline, *Kingdom Prologue: Genesis Foundations for a Covenantal Worldview* (Wipf & Stock); Herman Ridderbos, *The Coming of the Kingdom* (Cristian World Publications); Geerhardus Vos, *The Kingdom of God and the Church* (P&R); Meredith G. Kline, *Images of the Spirit* (Wipf & Stock); G. K. Beale, *A New Testament Biblical Theology* (Baker); O. Palmer Robertson, *Christ of the Consummation: A New Testament Biblical Theology (The Testimony of the Four Gospels, Volume 1)* (P&R); Richard Gaffin, Jr., *In the Fullness of Time: An Introduction to the Biblical Theology of Acts and Paul* (Crossway)
- ⊕ Geerhardus Vos, *The Pauline Eschatology* (P&R); Greg Beale, *A New Testament Biblical Theology* (Baker); Geerhardus Vos, *The Teaching of the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Eerdmans); Richard Gaffin, Jr., *Word and*

Spirit: Selected Writings in Biblical and Systematic Theology (WSP); G. K. Beale, *Union with the Resurrected Christ: Eschatological New Creation and New Testament Biblical Theology* (Baker)

APOLOGETICS AND PHILOSOPHY

- ★ Diogenes Allen, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology* (Westminster John Knox); J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (Eerdmans); K. Scott Oliphint, *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* (P&R); Richard Pratt, *Every Thought Captive: A Study Manual for the Defense of Christian Truth* (P&R); Greg L. Bahnsen, *Always Ready: Directions for Defending the Faith* (Covenant Media Press)
- ☆ Cornelius Van Til, *Defense of the Faith* (with annotations by K. Scott Oliphint) (P&R); K. Scott Oliphint, *Covenantal Apologetics: Principles and Practice in Defense of Our Faith* (Crossway); Cornelius Van Til and Greg L. Bahnsen, *Van Til's Apologetics: Readings and Analysis* (P&R); K. Scott Oliphint and Lane G. Tipton, *Revelation and Reason* (P&R); Greg Bahnsen, *Presuppositional Apologetics: Stated and Defended* (Covenant Media Press)
- ⊕ K. Scott Oliphint, *Reasons for Faith: Philosophy in the Service of Theology* (P&R); W. T. Jones, *A History of Western Philosophy*, 5 vols.

THEOLOGY

- ★ R. Scott Clark (ed.) *Covenant, Justification and Pastoral Ministry: Essays by the Faculty of Westminster Seminary California* (P&R); John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Eerdmans); Michael Horton, *Putting Amazing Back Into Grace* (Baker); John Murray, *Redemption, Accomplished and Applied* (Eerdmans); B. B. Warfield, *The Inspiration and Authority of the Bible* (P&R); E. J. Young, *Thy Word is Truth*, (Banner of Truth); B. B. Warfield, *The Plan of Salvation* (Simpson Pub. Co.)
- ☆ Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans); John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 2 vols. (Westminster John Knox); John Murray, *Collected Writings of John Murray*, 4 vols. (Banner of Truth); Richard Gaffin, Jr., *Resurrection and Redemption* (P&R); Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit* (IVP); Meredith G. Kline, *Images of the Spirit* (Wipf & Stock)

✪ Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 4 vols. (Baker); Horton, Michael S. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way* (Zondervan); K. Scott Oliphint, *Justified in Christ: God's Plan for Us in Justification* (Mentor); Herman Ridderbos, *Paul: An Outline of His Theology* (Eerdmans); Cornelius Van Til, *Introduction to Systematic Theology: Prolegomena and the Doctrine of Revelation, Scripture, and God* (P&R)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND CALLING

★ W. Robert Godfrey, *Unexpected Journey* (P&R); J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (IVP); B. B. Warfield, *The Religious Life of Theological Students* (P&R)

☆ Edmund Clowney, *Called to the Ministry* (P&R)

✪ Charles Bridges, *Christian Ministry* (Banner of Truth); Charles Spurgeon, *Lectures to My Students* (Christian Heritage)

PREACHING, WORSHIP, AND THE CHURCH

★ Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Preaching and Preachers* (Zondervan); Chad Van Dixhoorn, *The Theology for Ministry: How the Doctrine Affects Pastoral Life and Practice* (P&R); Guy Prentiss Waters, *Well Ordered, Living Well: A Field Guide to Presbyterian Church Government* (Reformation Heritage); Gerber, Jacob, *Parliamentary Procedure for Presbyters: A Beginner's Guide* (GRN)

☆ Michael Horton, *A Better Way* (Baker); D.G. Hart and John Muether, *With Reverence and Awe: Returning to the Basics of Reformed Worship* (P&R); Dennis Johnson, *Him We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* (P&R)

✪ Edmund Clowney, *The Church* (IVP); Samuel Logan, ed., *The Preacher and Preaching* (P&R); Stuart Robinson, *The Church of God as an Essential Element of the Gospel, the Idea, Structure, and Functions Thereof. A Discourse in Four Parts* (Committee on Christian Education of the OPC); James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ*; Guy Prentiss Waters, *How Jesus Runs the Church*; Thomas Witherow, *I Will Build My Church: Selected Writings on Church Polity, Baptism, and the Sabbath* (WSP)

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

★ Ernest Reisinger, *Today's Evangelism: Its Message and Methods* (P&R); R. C. Sproul, *What is the Great Commission* (Reformation Trust); Michael Horton, *The Gospel Commission: Recovering God's Strategy for Making Disciple* (Baker)

☆ J. I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (IVP); John Piper, *Let the Nations be Glad* (Baker)

✪ R.B. Kuyper, *God-Centered Evangelism* (Banner of Truth); Johan H. Bavinck, *An Introduction to the Science of Mission* (P&R); Harvie M. Conn, *The Urban Face of Missions* (P&R); Harvie M. Conn, *Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace* (Zondervan)

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

★ David Powlison, *Seeing With New Eyes: Counseling and the Human Condition through the Lens of Scripture* (P&R); Tim Lane and Paul Tripp, *How People Change* (New Growth Press)

☆ Ed Welch, *Blame It on the Brain*, (P&R); Alfred Poirier, *The Peacemaking Pastor: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Church Conflict* (Baker); Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* (P&R)

✪ David Powlison, *The Biblical Counseling Movement* (New Growth Press)

CHURCH HISTORY

- ★ W. Robert Godfrey, *Reformation Sketches* (P&R); Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church* (Penguin); Robert Louis Wilken, *The Spirit of Early Christian Thought: Seeking the Face of God* (Yale University Press); Carter Lindberg, *The European Reformations* (Oxford); D. G. Hart and John R. Muether, *Seeking a Better Country: 300 Years of American Presbyterianism* (P&R); D.G. Hart, *Deconstructing Evangelism: Conservative Protestantism in the Age of Bill Graham* (Baker Academic); D. G. Hart, *Defending the Faith: J. Gresham Machen and the Crisis of Conservative Protestantism in Modern America* (P&R)
- ☆ Paul Johnson, *A History of Christianity* (Scribner Book Co.); J. N. D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines* (Harper San Francisco), Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition* (University of Chicago Press); Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (Viking Adult); Mark A. Noll, *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* (Oxford University Press)
- ✪ Bengt Hagglund, *History of Theology* (Concordia); Philip Benedict, *Christ's Church Purely Reformed: A Social History of Calvinism* (Yale University Press); Richard A. Muller, *Post-Reformation Dogmatics: The Rise and Development of Reformed Orthodoxy Ca. 1520 to Ca. 1725*, 4 vols. (Baker Academic); Sydney E. Alstrom, *A Religious History of the American People* (Yale University Press); James C. Livingston, Francis Schussler Fiorenza, Sarah Coakley, and James H. Evans, Jr., *Modern Christian Thought: The Twentieth Century* (Fortress Press)

CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL ISSUES

- ★ J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism* (Eerdmans); Michael Horton, *Where in the World is the Church?* (Crossway)
- ☆ David VanDrunen, *Living in God's Two Kingdoms: A Biblical Vision for Christianity and Culture* (Crossway); D. G. Hart, *The Lost Soul of American Protestantism* (R. Laurence Moore); Carl Truman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution* (Crossway)
- ✪ R. Scott Clark, *Recovering the Reformed Confession: Our Theology, Piety and Practice* (P&R); John Piper and Wayne Grudem, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* (Crossway)

CLASSICS

- ★ James T. Dennison, *Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation: Volume 1, 1523-1552* (Reformation Heritage Books); Augustine, *Confessions* (New City Press); Martin Luther, J. I. Packer and O. R. Johnston, *The Bondage of the Will* (Revell)
- ☆ Anselm, *Anselm of Canterbury: The Major Works* (Oxford University Press); John Owen and W. H. Goold, *The Work of John Owen* (focus on volumes 6 and 10) (Banner of Truth)
- ✪ Augustine, *The City of God* (Penguin Classics); Jonathan Edwards, *The Religious Affections*. (Yale University Press)

RESEARCH AND WRITING SKILLS

- ★ William Strunk and E. B. White, *The Elements of Style* (Allyn and Bacon); Mortimer Adler and Charles Van Doren, *How to Read a Book* (Simon and Schuster)
- ☆ William Zinsser, *On Writing Well* (Quill Press) Joseph Williams, *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace* (Longman); Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* (Gotham)
- ✪ Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (University of Chicago)



Licensure Exams

Practical Bible | PCA BCO (Preface and Part 1) | The Westminster Standards | Sermon



Licensure | Practical Bible

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. For all of the books in the Bible, you should be able to state (1) the key theme of the book, (2) a passage that exemplifies that key theme, and (3) how to preach Christ from that book. Be brief.
2. What passages will you use when you are called upon in the following situations?
 - a. Comfort a mourner
 - b. Lead a funeral service
 - c. Visit the sick and dying
 - d. Explain the Lord's Supper as a "means of grace"
 - e. Teach about the sanctity of life in the womb
 - f. The role of marriage
 - g. Teach marital duties
 - h. Counsel a believer struggling with same-sex attraction
 - i. Prove the once-for-all nature of Christ's sacrifice
 - j. Counsel a worrier
 - k. Counsel someone struggling with assurance of their salvation
 - l. Expound the doctrine of predestination
 - m. Encourage evangelism
 - n. Teach elders their duties
 - o. Teach the nature of Christian love
 - p. Teach on how to deal with conflict in a local church
 - q. Teach that man is unable to earn his way to heaven
 - r. Explain church discipline
 - s. Encourage someone to join the church
 - t. Teach the authority of Scripture
 - u. Teach the sufficiency of Scripture
 - v. Teach on Presbyterian Polity
 - w. Teach on predestination
 - x. Teach on sin
 - y. Teach on evil and suffering
 - z. Teach on the Covenant of Works
 - aa. Teach on the Covenant of Grace
 - bb. Defend the inerrancy of Scripture
 - cc. Explain the Gospel
 - dd. Teach on Christian Liberty
 - ee. Teach on the doctrines of grace. List Scripture references for each point

3. Locate:

- a. 10 Commandments (2 references)
- b. Lord's Prayer (2 references)
- c. NT summary of the Law
- d. OT and NT references to General Revelation
- e. 5 Levitical sacrifices, and how you would preach them as Christ-centered
- f. Reference and meaning of Passover
- g. Reference and meaning of Day of Atonement (Incorporate NT and OT refs.)
- h. The Abrahamic Covenant
- i. The Mosaic Covenant Davidic Covenant
- j. 3 Messianic Psalms
- k. 3 passages that uphold the Trinity (and explain how they do so)
- l. 3 Passages that uphold the deity of Christ (and explain how they do so)
- m. 2 Passages on the personhood and deity of the Holy Spirit (and explain how they do so)
- n. 2 Passages that deal with the tension between Law and Grace
- o. New Covenant
- p. Watchmen for the house of Israel
- q. The fall of Satan
- r. "The Just shall live by Faith" (OT and NT)
- s. Baptism of Jesus
- t. Temptation of Jesus
- u. 3 of Jesus' parables, and what they teach
- v. 3 of Jesus' miracles, and what they teach
- w. 3 of Jesus' confrontations with religious leaders
- x. "I will build my church"
- y. Correcting a sinning brother
- z. The Comforter
- aa. Great Commission
- bb. The stoning of Stephen
- cc. Paul's Conversion
- dd. Paul's sermon in Athens (Areopagus)
- ee. The Law as a schoolmaster
- ff. Fruit of the Spirit
- gg. Armor of God
- hh. 2 passages on spiritual gifts
- ii. 2 passages on Christ's return

Licensure | PCA Book of Church Order (Preface and Part 1)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- *PCA Book of Church Order* (PCA Christian Education and Publication)
- Guy Prentiss Waters, *How Jesus Runs the Church* (P&R)
- Guy Prentiss Water, *Well Ordered, Living Well: A Field Guide to Presbyterian Church Government*
- Recommended Website: Presbyterian Polity @ www.pcapolity.com
- Recommended Podcast: Polity Matters @ www.politymatters.org

NOTES

- Read The Book of Church Order through thoroughly. You must have a good basic knowledge of Presbyterian government for licensure (BCO 19-2) and a thorough knowledge for ordination (BCO 21-4).

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What are the major divisions in the BCO?
2. Why is the “Preface to the Book of Church Order” an integral part of the PCA BCO? Summarize the key points of this section.
3. Why is all church power is only ministerial and declarative?
4. How is the presbyterian form of church government different and distinctive from congregational and episcopal forms of government?
5. According to the PCA BCO, who are the members of the visible Church catholic?
6. Why is the ecclesiastical jurisdiction, a joint power, to be exercised by presbyters in courts? Why not in legislative or executive arenas?
7. What are the twofold exercises of ecclesiastical power? Please give examples according to the PCA BCO.
8. What does the PCA BCO say about the spirituality of the church?
9. Who does the particular church consists of and for what purposes?
10. What are the ordinances established by Christ, the Head?
11. According to the PCA BCO, should the particular churches without teaching elders forsake the assembling of themselves together? Why or why not?
12. What is a mission church, and how are they established ordinarily?
13. What are the three ways a presbytery may provide temporary system of government for the mission church?
14. Does the PCA BCO advocates for apostolic succession? Why or why not?
15. What are the ordinary and perpetual classes of office in the PCA?
16. Is PCA a two-office or three-office denomination? Why would some say that PCA is a two and a half office denomination?

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17. Elders being of one class of office according to the PCA BCO, what do the teaching elders and ruling elders possess together? In what areas do the teaching elders have sole authority?
 18. If you plant a church, how important is it that you get elders in place as soon as possible?
 19. Give Biblical support for the concept and practice of church membership.
 20. What is your response to those who claim to be born-again believers but refuse to associate themselves with any local church?
 21. What greater benefits for presbyters and members do you see in a rightly followed Presbyterian form of government that would not exist inconsistently followed other forms of government?
 22. How is a man called to office in the church?
 23. What are the requirements and duties of deacons?
 24. What is a candidate? What is required to become a candidate?
 25. What is a licentiate? What does the process of being licensed entail?
 26. What is an internship?
 27. A man may not be ordained until what hopefully has occurred?
 28. What does the process of being brought under candidacy consist of?
 29. What vows must the ordination candidate take?
 30. What steps must be followed in electing ruling elders or deacons?
 31. How are ruling and teaching elders alike? Different?
 32. What is meant by the “parity” of ruling and teaching elders?
 33. Describe the office of the church session.
 34. Explain the proper order of calling a pastor to a local church.
 35. Explain the Ecclesiastical Commissions.
 36. Describe the member and the quorum of the deacon's meeting.
 37. Describe the qualification of a church member.
 38. Who is the Head and King of the Church? How does he exercise his authority?
 39. What four documents comprise the Constitution of the PCA?
 40. Why is Holy Scripture not a part of our constitution?
 41. What is the visible church? Who are its members? Invisible church?
 42. What is the nature and extent of church power?
 43. Who are communicant members? Non-communicant members? What are their respective rights and privileges?
 44. How many offices are there in the church?
 45. How many church courts are there? What is the proper or original jurisdiction of each?
 46. Briefly discuss the privileges of the church courts? What can the church court do? What can church courts not do?
 47. What officers much each court have? How are they chosen?
 48. How may a congregational meeting be called?
 49. How far in advance must a congregational meeting be called?
 50. What is a quorum for a congregational meeting? Who can vote at a congregational meeting?
 51. What is a quorum at a session meeting?

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52. What is the difference between an associate pastor and an assistant pastor?
 53. How often must presbytery meet?
 54. What is a quorum at a presbytery meeting?
 55. What are the four standing committees of the PCA? What is the difference between an associate pastor and an assistant pastor?
 56. How may the PCA Book of Church Order be amended?
 57. How may the Westminster Standards be amended?
 58. What are the eight preliminary principles?
 59. Can the church “bind” men’s consciences? Why or why not?

Licensure | The Westminster Standards

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- J. V. Fesko, *The Theology of the Westminster Standards: Historical Context and Theological Insights* (Crossway)
- Chad Van Dixhoorn, *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*

NOTES

- Read and re-read the Westminster Standards (*The Westminster Confession of Faith* and *The Larger and Shorter Catechisms*). Study them with their Scriptural proofs. The doctrinal portions of your examination will focus on the Westminster Standards, as will one of your vows (see BCO 19-3 or 21-5); therefore you must be very familiar with them.
- Memorize selected portions (or all) of the Shorter Catechism: Questions 1-38 will provide the theological “heart” of the Catechism. A suggested selection of key questions includes 1-4, 6-8, 14, 16-17, 20-22, 31-35, 85-89, 92, 94, 96, 98. (See Ruling Elder Exam section for catechism study guide)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Do you subscribe to the system of doctrine set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith, The Larger Catechism, and The Shorter Catechism?
2. If you do take any exceptions to any of the contents of the Westminster Confession of Faith, The Larger Catechism, and/or The Shorter Catechism, please list and explain below. These will be entered into our presbytery minutes for review for acceptability by the floor of presbytery. These exceptions will also be subject to our General Assembly oversight.
3. What role do you believe the Westminster Standards have in a confessing church like the PCA?
4. What are the two ways that God reveals himself to man? Why are both types of revelation necessary?
5. Explain the doctrine of the “sufficiency of Scripture” as described in the WCF.
6. Explain the doctrine of the “perspicuity of Scripture” as described in the WCF.
7. Explain what it means that God does not have “passions.”
8. Explain the doctrine of God’s aseity.
9. Explain the doctrine of “middle knowledge.” According to the WCF, does God base His decrees upon “middle knowledge”? Explain.
10. Explain the doctrine of “double-predestination” as described in the WCF.
11. According to the WCF, is there an “age of accountability” where God does not hold infants/newborns guilty of sin? Why or why not?
12. Explain the doctrine of the covenant of works. Who are the parties, and what are its requirements, stipulations, sanctions, and promises?
13. Explain the doctrine of the covenant of grace. Who are the parties, and what are its requirements, stipulations, sanctions, and promises?
14. Explain how the one covenant of grace is administered differently in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

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15. What does it mean that the Lord Jesus was “sanctified” and anointed by the Holy Spirit?
 16. What is the “active” and “passive” obedience of Christ?
 17. Explain the doctrine of the *communicatio idiomatum* (referring to Christ’s two natures).
 18. Fill in the blank with either: “not able”, “only able”, and/or “able” (some blanks have multiple answers).
 - A. Prefall Adam was _____ to sin.
 - B. Post-fall, unregenerate humanity is _____ to sin.
 - C. Post-fall, regenerate humanity is _____ to sin.
 19. Explain what the “ground” and the “instrument” of justification are.
 20. Do Christians still need to repent if they are justified? Why or why not?
 21. Explain the doctrine of mortification and vivification.
 22. Is repentance necessary for justification? Why or why not?
 23. Are good works necessary for a Christian? Why or why not?
 24. Can someone who is elect, temporarily fall away from the faith? Explain.
 25. Can a genuine Christian ever have doubts and lack an assurance of their salvation? Explain.
 26. Define and describe the three types of laws found in Scripture.
 27. Describe the three “uses” of the law.
 28. How are Christians to relate to the three types of laws found in Scripture? What is the function of each type of law?
 29. Describe the doctrine of Christian liberty.
 30. Describe the Regulative Principle of Worship. Give an example of an element, a circumstance, and a form/rubric of worship.
 31. Describe the difference between the visible church and the invisible church.
 32. What two attributes of God are highlighted by the final judgment. Explain.

Licensure | Sermon

GUIDELINES

- Must demonstrate PCA/reformed theological understanding
- Properly format the paper with page numbers and include relevant footnotes and bibliography. (See *Citation & Formatting Guide* below)
- Front cover: include title, name, and date
- Double-spaced, 12 point font (use Times New Roman, Cambria)
- Topic, text and title cannot be changed
- Paper length: 15-20 pages on the letter size paper

SERMON

- Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Eerdmans)
- Dennis E. Johnson, *He We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* (P&R)
- Julius Kim, *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God: Design and Deliver Gospel-Centered Sermons* (Zondervan)



Ordination Exams

*Bible Contents | PCA Book of Church Order | Church History (Including PCA History) | Greek and Hebrew
| Systematic Theology | Sacraments | Papers (Exegetical and Theological) | Sermon*



Ordination | Bible Contents

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Michael J. Kruger, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the New Testament: The Gospel Realized* (Crossway)
- Miles V. Van Pelt, ed., *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised* (Crossway)
- *Reformation Study Bible* (Reformation Trust)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Name the general divisions of the Old Testament.
2. Outline the book of Exodus.
3. Outline the book of Leviticus.
4. Outline the book of Deuteronomy.
5. What is the purpose of the books of Joshua & Judges in the history of redemption?
6. What theological lessons are learned from the book of Job?
7. Name the books of the Minor Prophets.
8. Name the books of the Major Prophets.
9. Outline the book of Isaiah.
10. Name the general divisions of the New Testament.
11. List what happened on each of the days of creation.
12. Name four epoch making men of the Old Testament.
13. Outline the section dealing with the Patriarchs in the Pentateuch.
14. List the Ten Commandments in order.
15. What is the purpose of the book of Psalms?
16. What is the purpose of the book of Proverbs?
17. What is the value of the book of Ecclesiastes?
18. Outline the book of Daniel.
19. Outline the book of Hosea.
20. Outline the book of Amos.
21. Outline the book of Malachi.
22. What are Messianic Psalms? Identify two.
23. What are penitential Psalms? Identify two.
24. Outline the book of Acts.
25. Outline the book of Romans.
26. Outline the book of Ephesians.
27. Outline the book of Philippians.
28. Outline the book of Hebrews.

29. Briefly sketch the History of Redemption from Abraham to Malachi, giving approximate dates for the key events and people.

- 1880 B.C.: God calls Abram from his home in Ur.
- 1880-1869: God makes a covenant with Abram.
- 1664: The twelve tribes of Israel descend to Egypt.
- 1448: God delivers his people from Egypt through Moses and establishes his covenant with them at Sinai.
- 1448-1408: Israel wanders in the wilderness.
- 1408: Israel enters the Promised Land under Joshua.
- 1401: The conquest of the Promised Land is “completed.”
- 1368-1050: Judges rule the Land of Israel.
- 1050-1010: The Monarchy is instituted: Saul reigns over Israel.
- 1010-971: David reigns over Israel.
- 971-933: Solomon reigns over Israel.
- 933: The Kingdom of Israel is divided.
- 933-586: The prophets carry out their ministry to the people.
- 721: The Northern Kingdom falls to the Assyrians and the people are taken captive.
- 606: Nebuchadnezzar invades Palestine and takes the first deportation of exiles into Babylon.
- 597: Jehoiachin revolts and the second deportation of exiles is taken to Babylon.
- 586: Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians.
- 536: The Decree of Cyrus is issued and the Jews arrive in Jerusalem under Ezra.
- 458: Final Jews return from Babylon.
- 450: Malachi writes his prophecy to close the Old Testament canon.

30. OT Key People | Discuss briefly the life and significance of the following. Include book(s) and chapter(s).

- Adam
- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- Deborah
- Ruth
- Joshua
- Gideon
- Samuel
- David
- Solomon
- Rehoboam

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- Jeroboam
 - Elijah
 - Elisha
 - Hezekiah
 - Josiah
 - Jeremiah
 - Ezekiel
 - Daniel
 - Nehemiah
 - Malachi

31. OT Key Passages | Locate the following passages by book and chapter.

- Passover
- Ten Commandments
- Day of Atonement
- The Shema
- Watchman
- New Covenant
- “I will pour out my Spirit”
- “The just shall live by faith”
- “I am going to send my messenger”
- The Messianic Psalms

32. Key Events | Locate these events by book and chapter (and, date where asterisked*):

- Creation
- Fall
- Flood
- Babel
- Promise to Abraham*
- Sign of Abrahamic Covenant
- Jacob wrestling with the angel
- The Exodus*
- Fall of Jericho
- The anointing of David*
- Davidic Covenant
- Dedication of the Temple*
- Division of Kingdom*
- The Exile*
- The return from Exile*

33. NT Key People | Discuss briefly the life and significance of the following. Include book(s) and chapter(s).

- Herod the Great
- Herod Antipas
- Pharisees
- Sadducees
- The Apostles (name them)
- Cornelius
- Barnabas
- Stephen
- Paul
- James

34. NT Key Passages | Know books and chapters for the following New Testament passages:

- Birth of Jesus (shepherds)
- Birth of Jesus (wise men)
- Baptism of Jesus
- Temptation of Jesus
- Sermon on the Mount
- The Lord's Prayer
- "Take my yoke"
- Parables of the Kingdom
- Prodigal Son
- Caesarea Philippi
- "I will build my church"
- Transfiguration
- Mary and Martha
- Correcting a brother
- Keys to the Kingdom
- Two Great Commands
- The Comforter
- "You must be born again"
- Woman at the well
- Way, truth and life
- Feeding of the 5,000
- The Vine
- Good Shepherd
- High priestly prayer
- Triumphal entry to Jerusalem

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- Last Supper
 - Death of Christ (event)
 - Resurrection of Christ (event)
 - Ascension of Christ
 - Great Commission
 - The sermons of Acts
 - Pentecost
 - Conversion of Paul
 - Apollos
 - Jerusalem Council
 - Missionary journeys
 - Philippian jailer
 - Bereans (noble)
 - Body as temple of Holy Spirit
 - Love chapter
 - Law as schoolmaster
 - Fruit of the Spirit
 - Armor of God
 - The mind of Christ
 - Pressing toward the mark
 - Not grieving as those without hope
 - “Man of Lawlessness”
 - Fought the good fight
 - The washings of the new covenant
 - Melchizedek
 - Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves
 - The chastening of those He loved
 - Problems with unanswered prayer
 - Problems with the tongue
 - Living stones
 - That we may know...
 - The elect lady
 - The great white throne of judgment
 - The millennium
 - The Good Samaritan

35. NT Key Topics | Identify passages someone could read about:

- Atonement
- Repentance
- Deity of Christ
- Resurrection (his and ours)
- Return of Christ
- Speaking in tongues
- Spiritual gifts
- Civil government
- Work
- The ministry
- The Church
- Qualifications for church officers
- Biblical discipline
- Women in the church
- Giving
- Money
- Divorce
- Family
- Heaven and hell
- Reconciliation among believers
- Suffering
- Resurrection of the body
- Infant baptism
- Predestination
- Unity of the Church (and gifts)
- Christian Sabbath
- Ordering of Christian worship
- Christian liberty
- Significance of the death of Christ

36. Sketch briefly the life of Christ according to Matthew's Gospel.

- Jesus is born in Bethlehem to Mary, a virgin, who was betrothed to Joseph.
- The wise men come to worship Jesus.
- Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt with Jesus under the threat of Herod.
- After Herod's death, he returns to Israel.
- Jesus is baptized by John in the Jordan.
- Jesus is tempted by Satan in the wilderness.
- He begins his public ministry, calls the first disciples, and delivers the Sermon on the Mount.

- Jesus continues his public ministry, healing many, teaching in parables, and performing many miracles.
- Jesus is transfigured before Peter, James, and John.
- He enters Jerusalem riding on a colt and receiving praise from those gathered there. Jesus cleanses the temple.
- He tells parables concerning his second coming.
- He pronounces seven woes to the scribes and the Pharisees.
- Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple and instructs his disciples concerning his second coming.
- He eats the Passover with his disciples and institutes the Lord's Supper.
- Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested.
- Jesus appears before Caiaphas, the high priest, is denied by Peter, and is delivered to Pilate to be condemned to death.
- He is mocked, beaten, and crucified.
- He is buried on Friday in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea.
- On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to his tomb and find it empty, and are told by an angel that he is risen from the dead.
- Jesus appears to them and tells them to go to Galilee.
- Jesus delivers the Great Commission to his disciples.

37. Sketch the content of the Gospel of John focusing on the incarnation of Christ, the purpose of his miracles, John's use of the words "light," "darkness," and "world."

- John begins his gospel with a prologue (1:1-18) in which he lays the groundwork for the themes he unfolds throughout the rest of the book. He introduces the themes of "light" and "darkness" by mentioning that Jesus is the light who shines into a darkness which does not comprehend or overcome him (there is a word-play here that carries these two meanings). John uses the images of light and dark as ethical categories, which Jesus makes clear in his discussion with Nicodemus (3:19-21).
- The prologue also introduces the theme of the incarnation. Here, John portrays the event as the eternal Word becoming flesh. He then refers to this event throughout the rest of the gospel by continually referring to Jesus as having "come into the world," which implies his pre-existence and his divinity (cf., 3:16, 19; 12:46; 16:28; 18:37).
- John also focuses throughout the gospel on the miracles Jesus performed during his earthly ministry. John concentrates these miracles in the first 11 chapters of the gospel. While each miracle certainly has its own particular meaning, John provides a summary statement at the end of the gospel which illumines the overarching purpose common to all the miracles (20:30-31). There, John refers to the miracles as "signs," which were written down so that his readers would "believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing [they] may have life in his name." Thus, the purpose of Jesus' miracles in John's gospel is to engender and encourage faith in Christ, not as simply a miracle-worker, but as the Son of God.

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- Another prominent and unique theme in John's gospel is the use of the word "world." Primarily, John uses the term to refer to that ruined and depraved system of human existence that is opposed and hostile to God and those who love him. It is deserving of condemnation, and, thus, in need of salvation (3:17; 4:42). It is characterized as being in "darkness" (3:19; 8:12; 9:5). It hates God and those who belong to him (7:7; 14:17; 15:18). It has these characteristics because it is ruled by Satan himself (12:31; 14:30). Yet, in spite of its wickedness, John makes clear that God's purpose is to save those in the world who hate him and love the darkness in which they live (3:16; 4:42; 13:1).

Ordination | PCA Book of Church Order (Part 2 and Part 3)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- *PCA Book of Church Order* (PCA Christian Education and Publication)
- Guy Prentiss Waters, *How Jesus Runs the Church* (P&R)
- Guy Prentiss Water, *Well Ordered, Living Well: A Field Guide to Presbyterian Church Government*
- Recommended Website: Presbyterian Polity @ www.pcapolity.com
- Recommended Podcast: Polity Matters @ www.politymatters.org

NOTES

- Read The Book of Church Order through thoroughly. You must have a good basic knowledge of Presbyterian government for licensure (BCO 19-2) and a thorough knowledge for ordination (BCO 21-4).

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Do you have any substantive problems with the PCA polity as found in the Book of Church Order?
2. Which chapters of the Directory of Worship are considered to have constitutional authority? Why?
3. Could you please explain your view of the regulative principle of worship? Give a few examples of how you believe this view works out in practice.
4. What, if anything, do you believe a woman is restricted from doing in public worship?
5. Please explain why you believe a woman may or may not preach, teach, serve communion, read Scripture, or lead the public worship services of the church.
6. Within the PCA, there are a variety of views on the practical outworking of women's roles in the church. Concerning questions 3 and 4, if a man being examined in our presbytery held a position different from your own, could you still receive him? What views would you feel uncomfortable abiding?
7. What are the major divisions in the BCO?
8. What is church discipline? Why is it important?
9. What is the three-fold goal of church discipline?
10. What are the proper steps of church discipline?
11. In what court should charges be filed?
12. What must be done before the formal charges are brought?
13. When must a formal judicial process be pursued?
14. How many witnesses are necessary to bring charges?
15. Who is primarily responsible for disciplining non-communing members?
16. List and define church censures.
17. How should a censure be administered?
18. Can the church give censures as part of godly discipline? How?

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19. What are review and control?
 20. What is a reference?
 21. What is an appeal?
 22. How quickly must an appeal be filed?
 23. What is a complaint?
 24. How quickly must a complaint be filed?
 25. What should happen when a member moves out of the community?
 26. What should be done when a member neglects the church for a year or more?
 27. What is an associate member? What are their rights and privileges? What activities are they not allowed to participate in?
 28. What are the proper elements of public worship?
 29. What rule guides public worship?
 30. What is the purpose of public worship?
 31. In brief, how ought we to keep the Lord's Day?
 32. Who is responsible for deciding who preaches in a church?
 33. What vows do parents make at the baptism of their children?
 34. Who admits people to the Lord's Supper?
 35. What vows are made in a profession of faith?

Ordination | Church History (Including PCA History)

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Nick Needham, *2000 Years of Christ's Power*, 4 vols. (Christian Focus)
- Sinclair B. Ferguson, David F. Wright, and J. I. Packer, *New Dictionary of Theology* (IVP)
- Daniel Reid et al, *Dictionary of Christianity in America* (IVP)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Identify and briefly explain the importance of the following men and movements:

- Polycarp
- Clement of Alexandria
- Ignatius
- Arius
- Marcion
- Eusebius
- James Ariminius
- Menno Simon
- Karlstadt
- Pelagius
- Tertullian
- Gnosticism
- Ebionites
- Ulrich Zwingli
- Montanism
- John Huss
- John Wycliffe
- Martin Luther
- Philipp Melancthon
- John Knox
- John Owen
- Jonathan Edwards
- George Whitefield
- John Wesley
- John Bunyan
- Matthew Henry
- Asahel Nettleton

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- Charles Finney
 - Charles Hodges B. B. Warfield
 - Frederick III
 - Casper Olevianus
 - Zecharias Ursinus
 - Charles Augustus Briggs
 - John Gresham Machen
2. Briefly discuss the significance of the following church councils:
 - Nicea 324-25
 - Constantinople 381
 - Ephesus 431
 - Chalcedon. 451
 3. Briefly discuss the main issues involved between Augustine and Pelagius.
 4. Describe the condition of the church between 1100-1500.
 5. Identify the following movements:
 - Anabaptism
 - Puritanism
 - Pietism
 - Modernism or Liberalism
 - Fundamentalism
 - Neo-Orthodoxy
 - Evangelicalism
 - Neo-Evangelicalism
 6. Discuss the Synod of Dordt including authorship, background, setting, and purpose.
 7. Discuss the Heidelberg Confession including authorship, background, setting, and purpose.
 8. What creeds are received by the PCA as Reformed? To which do we subscribe?
 9. Discuss the formation of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms including authorship, background, setting, and purpose.
 - 39 Articles
 - Issues of liturgy
 - Directory of Public Worship
 - Regulative Principle of Public Worship
 10. Discuss the Old School/New School divisions in the American Presbyterianism.
 11. Discuss the general history and lines of the development in American Presbyterianism.
 12. What is the Auburn Affirmation?

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13. Why did Westminster Theological Seminary (PA) begin?
 14. What brought about the development of the Southern Presbyterian Church?
 15. Discuss the history of the PCA.
 16. Discuss the factors that led to the joining and receiving of the RPCES by the PCA in 1982.
 17. Identify and state the intended purpose of the following:
 - NCC
 - WCC
 - NAE
 - COCU
 - NAPARC

Ordination | Greek and Hebrew

RECOMMENDED READINGS | HEBREW

- Mark D. Futato, *Beginning Biblical Hebrew* (Eisenbrauns)
- Gary D. Pratico and Miles V. Van Pelt, *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar* (Zondervan)

RECOMMENDED READINGS | GREEK

- Clayton Croy, *A Primer of Biblical Greek* (Eerdmans)
- Daniel Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament* (Zondervan)

Ordination | Systematic Theology

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Eerdmans)
- Michael Horton, *Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on The Way* (Zondervan)
- Douglas F. Kelly, *Systematic Theology (2 Volumes)* (Christian Focus)

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. List six attributes of God with Scripture references.
 - Holiness (Isa 6:3)
 - Immutability (Mal 3:6)
 - Aseity (John 5:26)
 - Omnipotence (Ps 115:3)
 - Spirituality (John 4:24)
 - Omnipresence (Ps 139:7-10)
2. List some Scripture references concerning justification by faith.
3. List some Scripture references concerning the deity and humanity of Christ.
4. List some Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ.
5. List some Scripture references concerning the nature and extent of the atonement.
6. List some Scripture references concerning the resurrection of Christ.
7. List some Scripture references concerning the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.
8. List some Scripture references concerning the Second Coming.
9. What is your interpretation of the “man of lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).
10. Who or what is the antichrist? Is there more than one?
11. Name two passages that discuss the revelation of God in nature.
12. What is revelation? Why is revelation necessary?
13. Discuss general and special revelation. What are they? How are they related?
14. What is inspiration? What does 2 Timothy 3:16 mean by “inspiration”? (meaning of the Greek)
15. What is propositional revelation?
16. What is meant by plenary, verbal inspiration?
17. What is meant by the words, “inerrant” and “infallible”?
18. What are the “attributes” of Scripture?
19. What is the difference between inspiration and illumination?
20. Are special revelation and Scripture synonymous? Why or why not?
21. What is meant by the Reformation doctrine of *sola scriptura*?

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22. May the authority of Scripture be limited to matters of strictly theological importance? Why or why not?
 23. What passages in the Old Testament and New Testament teach that the Bible is, and was received as, the inspired Word of God?
 24. Explain the viewpoints on Scripture of the following:
 - Roman Catholic
 - Mormon
 - Barthian
 25. List and discuss the “perfections” of Scripture.
 26. If only Scripture is infallible and sufficient, why do we need confessions and creeds? What sort of authority, if any, ought a confession to have in a reformed church?
 27. Formulate the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity. What is the biblical evidence for it? What is the difference ontological and economic Trinity?
 28. Define what we mean when we speak of God’s “self-existence,” “immutability,” “infinity,” and “unity.”
 29. Define the following divine attributes: incomprehensibility, sovereignty, infinity, eternity, simplicity, wisdom, truth, holiness, love, and righteousness.
 30. What are the decrees of God?
 31. Discuss the differences between supra- and infralapsarianism. Why does this matter?
 32. Discuss the Covenant of Redemption. Who are the parties? What Scriptural evidence is there for a covenant of redemption?
 33. Discuss the biblical teaching regarding predestination.
 34. What is election? Is it based upon foreknowledge? Why is that an important question? Discuss Romans 8:29ff in this connection.
 35. Does God love the non-elect? How? To what end?
 36. What is reprobation? How is it like election? How is it different? How is it compatible with God’s love?
 37. Does God’s grace force a man to choose against his will? Discuss.
 38. If God foreordains everything that happens, why should we exert any effort? It would seem that whatever God wants will happen, whether or not we make any contribution. Are human decisions, then, unimportant?
 39. How can man be free if God foreordains everything that happens?
 40. What is the difference between fate and divine sovereignty?
 41. Discuss the spiritual world of angels including their existence, nature, and service.
 42. Is God responsible for sin? Did he decree it? Did he permit it?
 43. Distinguish between the decretive and preceptive will of God; between his secret and revealed will. Give the Scripture proofs.
 44. How does God execute his decrees?
 45. Who is the Holy Spirit? Is Holy Spirit a person?
 46. What is God’s work in creation?
 47. What is *creato ex nihilo*? Defend this doctrine from Scripture. Distinguish this doctrine from

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48. Are Genesis 1-3 to be understood as historical chapters? Why or why not?
 49. What are God's works of Providence?
 50. Discuss man in the image of God. In what way is man in the image of God? To what extent?
 51. What is sin? Discuss the essential nature of sin. Discuss the origin of sin. What is included in original sin? What is the penalty for sin?
 52. Describe the manner in which the following groups view original sin:
 - Roman Catholic
 - Pelagian
 - Reformed
 53. What is the difference between original sin and actual sins?
 54. What is guilt? What is the extent of guilt in the human race? What is the corruption/pollution of sin?
 55. What is the law written on the conscience? What is its function?
 56. What happened to Adam as a result of the Fall? How much of his being was affected? How was his will affected? Touch upon concupiscence.
 57. Discuss the effects of the fall on God's image in man.
 58. Explain "total depravity."
 59. What do you believe will be the eternal state of those in this age who die without ever hearing the gospel?
 60. What is common grace? Who were/are some of the proponents and detractors of this view?
 61. What is a covenant?
 62. What is the Covenant of Works? Who are its parties? Where is the scriptural proof for it?
 63. Is there a present validity to the Covenant of Works (also known as the Covenant of Life)? What is it?
 64. What is the Covenant of Grace? Who are the parties?
 65. What Scripture teaches the Covenant of Redemption?
 66. How does covenant theology differ from Dispensationalism?
 67. What does Norman Shepherd teach about the Covenant of Works? Why is it important to know his position?
 68. What is Shepherd's view on grace before and after the fall? What difference does it make?
 69. What place does the Covenant of Works play in the work of Christ?
 70. List some significant Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Christ.
 71. How many natures does Christ have? What is the relationship between His humanity and His deity?
 72. Do you believe in the deity of Christ? Give scriptural support for Christ's deity.
 73. How did Christ become a man?
 74. Discuss the Virgin Birth and Scripture references for it.
 75. Philippians 2 is sometimes taken to mean that Jesus "emptied himself" (Kenotic Theory) of all or some divine attributes while on earth. How would you reply to such a claim? Give Scriptural proofs.
 76. What are the various "stages" in the humiliation of Christ?

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77. What does the Bible mean by the term Mediator? What is the nature and the extent of the atonement?
78. What are the states of Christ's exaltation?
79. Define the following terms:
- Atonement
 - Expiation
 - Propitiation
 - Reconciliation
 - Redemption
 - Sacrifice
 - Substitution
 - Penal
 - Active obedience
 - Passive obedience
 - Satisfaction
80. Why is belief in the bodily resurrection of Christ important?
81. How is the Word of God made effectual to salvation?
82. What is the *ordo salutis*? Do you believe that it is a biblical concept?
83. Define the following terms:
- Effectual calling
 - Union with Christ
 - Conversion
 - Regeneration
 - Faith
 - Repentance
 - Justification
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification
 - Perseverance
 - Glorification
84. Explain the significance of each of the following viewpoints:
- Faith precedes regeneration
 - Regeneration precedes faith
85. Is faith a gift of God? Prove your answer from Scripture.
86. Distinguish truth faith from false faith, true repentance from false repentance.
87. What is the "ground" of justification?

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88. Why is justification by faith, rather than by some other human act? What is justification by grace through faith? If justification is by grace, then how can faith, a human act, have anything to do with it?
 89. Can anyone be justified without repentance? Without good works? Describe carefully the relation between works and Justification, doing justice to both Paul and James.
 90. Explain how the righteousness of Christ is imputed to believers.
 91. What are the marks, which accompany salvation? Give Scriptural references.
 92. Describe and defend the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints.
 93. If someone professes faith, then apostatizes, does the doctrine of perseverance assure us of his eventual salvation? Discuss.
 94. Does belief in the perseverance of the saints lead to careless living?
 95. Is perfectionism a biblical doctrine? Discuss.
 96. Are there rewards for living obediently before God? Of what kind? Is it selfish to work with those rewards in view?
 97. Why are good works necessary for a Christian?
 98. What is the law of God/moral law? What is the believer's relationship to the law of God?
 99. What is your position on the Sabbath? Is it required for New Testament believers? If so, how ought it to be observed?
 100. Distinguish between the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit.
 101. What does the term "tongues" mean in Acts? In Corinthians?
 102. What is the "gift of tongues"? Does it exist today?
 103. Define the New Testament gift of prophecy. Does it exist today?
 104. It is correct for a Christian to have a private prayer language in tongues?
 105. What do you believe concerning the "holy laughter" and "slain in the Spirit" concepts?
 106. Does God raise up "faith healers" today?
 107. What is Christian Liberty? Give scriptural support for your views.
 108. How does one distinguish between liberty and license?
 109. What is the Church?
 110. When did the church begin? Discuss the relation of the church to Old Testament Israel. Discuss the claims of the dispensationalists in this connection. Name two prominent dispensationalists.
 111. What is the invisible church?
 112. What is the visible church?
 113. Who is the Head of the Church?
 114. What are some of the biblical names for the Church?
 115. What are the marks of the true Church?
 116. What are the means of grace? Explain.
 117. Describe the uses of the word "church" in the New Testament.
 118. May a woman ever speak in church? Teach men? Be ordained to the diaconate? The eldership?
 119. What is eschatology?
 120. What is death? How is it related to sin?

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121. What is the state of man after death?
 122. Does Scripture teach a further probation (Purgatory) following death? "Soul-sleep?" Discuss.
 123. Prove from Scripture that the bodies of believers will be raised on the last day.
 124. What will be the final destinies of mankind? Do you believe that eventually all will be saved?
 125. What is the final judgment?
 126. Discuss the Kingdom of God in the light of Bible passages. What is its present reality? What is its future perfection? Why do we pray, "Thy kingdom come?"
 127. Discuss the Biblical usage of the term, "last days". Give scriptural proofs.
 128. What is Amillennialism?
 129. What is Postmillennialism?
 130. What is Premillennialism?
 131. What is the difference between dispensational premillennialism and covenantal premillennialism?
 132. Is the Church a "parenthesis?" Explain. Where does this notion come from?
 133. Will there be a "rapture" of the Church followed by any significant events? Explain. What other views are there on this?
 134. What is important for you to teach regarding the death of an individual?
 135. What is important for you to teach regarding the Second Coming of Christ and the end of the world?
 136. What difference should knowledge of the end of all things make in the lives of believers?
 137. What is God?
 138. What is an Amyraldian view of God's decrees?
 139. Evaluate biblically these theories of evolution: Naturalistic Evolution and Theistic Evolution
 140. How would you explain the problem of evil? Give Scripture proofs.
 141. What is the sin of omission? What is the sin of commission?
 142. Discuss the relationship between the old and new covenants. Defend from Scripture.
 143. What is "extra Calvinisticum"? Why is it important?
 144. What is the doctrine of ubiquity?
 145. What is "theonomy"? Evaluate it biblically.

Ordination | Sacraments

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- J. V. Fesko, *The Theology of the Westminster Standards: Historical Context and Theological Insights* (Crossway)
- J. V. Fesko, *Word, Water, and Spirit: A Reformed Perspective on Baptism* (Reformation Heritage Books)
- Chad Van Dixhoorn, *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. What is a sacrament? How are sacraments a means of grace? Provide scripture proofs.
2. How many sacraments are there? What are the criteria for determining a sacrament? Defend your answer with Scripture proofs.
3. Does anything really happen in a sacrament?
4. Cite at least four New Testament references showing parallels between the Old Testament and New Testament sacraments.
5. Of what is baptism a sign and seal? Provide Scripture proofs.
6. How is baptism rightly administered? Defend your answer with Scripture proof.
7. Would you consider any circumstances where you would baptize someone by immersion? Explain.
8. Who is to be baptized? Defend your answer with Scripture proofs.
9. How would you deal with a family in your church who did not want their child baptized?
10. Does baptism actually save the person baptized? Describe the relationship, if any, between baptism and regeneration. Explain and defend with Scripture proofs.
11. Can a person be baptized more than once? Explain and defend with Scripture proofs.
12. How would you handle a request for baptism from a previously baptized Roman Catholic?
13. How would you handle a request for baptism from a previously baptized individual who comes from a liberal denomination/theological liberal background?
14. How would you handle a request for baptism from a previously baptized Mormon?
15. What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?
16. What "happens" in the Lord's Supper?
17. Distinguish between Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed and Zwinglian views on the Lord's Supper.
18. Is Christ in any sense present in the Lord's Supper? If so, how?
19. How should believers celebrate the Lord's Supper?
20. How is "fencing the table" practiced during communion?
21. How are sacraments related to the written and preached Word?
22. Defend the Reformed view of the mode of baptism against the Baptist view.
23. How would you respond to someone who says infant baptism is the same as infant dedication?
24. Our larger catechism speaks of improving our baptism. What does it mean by that, how are we to improve our baptism?

25. What is sacramental union?

Ordination | Papers and Sermon

GUIDELINES

- Must demonstrate PCA/reformed theological understanding
- Properly format the paper with page numbers and include relevant footnotes and bibliography. (See *Citation & Formatting Guide* below)
- Front cover: include title, name, and date
- Double-spaced, 12 point font (use Times New Roman, Cambria)
- Topic, text and title cannot be changed
- Paper length: 15-20 pages on the letter size paper

THEOLOGICAL PAPER

- Book recommendation dependent on topic (see Systematic Theology section)
- Westminster Theological Seminary, *Citation & Formatting Guide* (Center for Theological Writing)

EXEGETICAL PAPER

- Commentary recommendation dependent on pericope
- D. A. Carson, *Exegetical Fallacies, Second Edition* (Baker)
- Westminster Theological Seminary, *Citation & Formatting Guide* (Center for Theological Writing)

SERMON

- Graeme Goldsworthy, *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture* (Eerdmans)
- Dennis E. Johnson, *He We Proclaim: Preaching Christ from All the Scriptures* (P&R)
- Julius Kim, *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God: Design and Deliver Gospel-Centered Sermons* (Zondervan)



Transfer Exams

Position Papers | PCA Transfer | NAPRC Transfer | Non-NAPARC Transfer



Transfer | Position Papers and Exams

POSITION PAPERS | Please write two pages for each topic on your personal belief/view.

- Soteriology
- Trinity
- Scriptures
- Sacraments
- Millennium

PCA TRANSFER EXAM

- Position Papers (see above)
- PCA Book of Church Order (whole)

REFORMED (NAPARC) TRANSFER EXAMS

- Position Papers (see above)
- PCA Book of Church Order (whole)
- Systematic Theology
- PCA History

NAPARC MEMBER CHURCHES

ARPC, CanRC, ERQ, FRCNA, HRC, KAPC, KPCA (Kosin), OPC, PCA, PresRC, RCUS, RPCNA, URCNA

NON-REFORMED (NON-NAPARC) TRANSFER EXAMS

- Position Papers (see above)
- PCA Book of Church Order (whole)
- Licensure Exams
 - Practical Bible
 - PCA Book of Church Order (whole for Non-Reformed (Non-NAPARC) transfer)
 - The Westminster Standard
 - Sermon



Ruling Elder Exams

Bible | PCA Book of Church Order | Westminster Short Catechism



Ruling Elder | Exams

BIBLE

- Please refer to pages 17–24 above.

PCA BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER

- Please refer to pages 10-12 above.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

- Memorize selected portions (or all) of the Shorter Catechism: Questions 1-38 will provide the theological “heart” of the Catechism. A suggested selection of key questions includes 1-4, 6-8, 14, 16-17, 20-22, 31-35, 85-89, 92, 94, 96, 98.
1. Why do we have the Catechism? What values is there in the Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms?
 2. What is the chief end of man?
 3. What do we mean by saying that the true Christian life is God-centered?
 4. Do the wicked glorify God? Explain.
 5. Is it proper for a Christian to have other “ends” besides the end of glorifying God?
 6. Which is more to the glory of God: a person who preaches, or a man who works on a farm? Explain.
 7. What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?
 8. Was man’s knowledge originally supposed to come from nature alone? Why?
 9. What do we mean by saying the Bible is infallible?
 10. What do we mean by saying the Bible is clear?
 11. What do we mean by saying the Bible is sufficient?
 12. What do the Scriptures principally teach?
 13. What is God?
 14. Define these terms: infinite, eternal, and unchangeable.
 15. Why can’t we say that God is spirit?
 16. What are the two kinds of attributes belonging to God?
 17. Are the communicable attributes the same in man as in God? Explain.
 18. What does the Bible mean when it speaks of God as having hands, feet, etc.?
 19. What does the Bible mean when it speaks of God as repenting?
 20. Are there more Gods than one?
 21. How many persons are there in the Godhead?
 22. State the three essential truths that make up the doctrine of the Trinity.
 23. What do unitarians believe? What modern cult is unitarian?

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24. What do polytheists believe? What modern cult is polytheistic?
 25. Cite a text of Scripture proving that there is only one God.
 26. Is the doctrine of the Trinity taught in the Old Testament? Explain.
 27. What are the decrees of God?
 28. What does the plan of God include?
 29. What are some of the differences between our human plan and the great plan of God? When did God make his plan?
 30. For what reason did God make his plans?
 31. What are two common false inferences often drawn from the doctrine of the decrees? Another both of these false inferences.
 32. How does God execute his decrees?
 33. What is the work of creation?
 34. What two things in God's work of creation are not to be compared with the activity of humans?
 35. What does the theory of modern science teach as to the origin of the world?
 36. Why is it important to believe that when God created the world all things were "very good"?
 37. How did God create man?
 38. What do theistic evolutionists believe about the origin of man?
 39. What reasons can you give for rejecting the theistic evolution?
 40. Does man have a twofold nature (body and soul)? Prove.
 41. In your own words tell briefly what you think a prophet should be. A priest. A king.
 42. What are God's work of providence?
 43. What are some of the things that God controls that some people find hard to accept or believe?
 44. Why must we hold that God controls the "little things" as much as the "big things"?
 45. Does God exercise complete control over men even when they do wrong?
 46. Is God the author of sin?
 47. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?
 48. What is a covenant?
 49. How many covenants are there? Name them.
 50. What is the covenant of works?
 51. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?
 52. What is sin?
 53. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they are created?
 54. What are the two elements of Adam's freedom of the will? Which of these do we not have?
 55. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?
 56. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?
 57. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?
 58. What is total depravity? What is meant by "total" in total depravity?
 59. What do we mean by speaking of the extent of depravity?
 60. What do we mean by speaking of the degree of depravity?

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61. What is meant by total inability?
 62. Is man free to do good? Is man able to do good? Why?
 63. What is the misery of that estate whereinto men fell?
 64. What are the four parts of the misery of man?
 65. How can we see that man has lost communion with God?
 66. How can we see that man is under God's wrath and curse?
 67. Do believers as well as unbelievers experience misery?
 68. What is difference between the experience of believers and unbelievers in this life? At death? In the world to come?
 69. How do we know there is really a hell?
 70. If all men must die, what does the Bible mean by saying that the believer has already passed from death unto life?
 71. Does God have a good purpose in the miseries that yet must be experienced by true believers? Explain.
 72. Did God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?
 73. What is unconditional election?
 74. Why has God chosen the persons He has chosen?
 75. When has God chosen them?
 76. Is unconditional election unfair to those who are not elected? Why?
 77. How are the elect saved?
 78. Why must the elect come to Christ?
 79. Can all who want to be saved be saved? Explain.
 80. Who is the Redeemer of God's elects?
 81. What is universalism?
 82. Why is Jesus the only Redeemer?
 83. How do we know Jesus Christ is God?
 84. Give examples of denials of the deity of Christ.
 85. Is it wrong to make or use pictures of Christ? Why?
 86. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
 87. Is it proper to speak of Mary as "the Mother of God"? Explain.
 88. What does the Roman Catholic Church confuse virginity with?
 89. Why was it necessary for Christ to be born of a virgin?
 90. Prove that Jesus had both a true body and a reasonable soul.
 91. What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?
 92. Was Adam originally a prophet, priest, and king? Explain.
 93. When did Christ fulfill these offices?
 94. What are the marks of a true Church? Why are these necessary?
 95. How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?
 96. Why did the prophetic word cease to be given after Christ had come?

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97. Why were there prophets for a short time in the apostolic age?
 98. What is the doctrine of apostolic succession?
 99. How does Christ execute the office of a priest?
 100. What does the word “limited” mean in the phrase “limited atonement”?
 101. What is the teaching of absolute universalism? Conditional universalism?
 102. Explain the active and passive obedience of Christ.
 103. How does Christ execute the office of a king?
 104. What is the great error of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the kingdom?
 105. What is the difference between the Reformed and Roman Catholic view of the kingdom?
 106. In the Reformed view, in what respects are the Church and the kingdom identical? Different?
 107. Wherein did Christ’s humiliation consist?
 108. What were some of the miseries Christ experienced?
 109. What is the correct interpretation of the phrase, “he descended into hell”?
 110. Wherein consist Christ’s exaltation?
 111. What error is taught by Roman Catholics and Lutherans (although in two different ways) concerning the human nature of Christ?
 112. How are we made partaker of the redemption purchased by Christ?
 113. To whom does Arminianism teach men to look for salvation?
 114. To who does the Reformed Christian look for salvation?
 115. What are the steps in the application of redemption
 116. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
 117. What is effectual calling?
 118. Give Scripture proof that God saves men by gospel preaching.
 119. What is offered to those who hear the gospel? Is it offered to all?
 120. What is faith in Jesus Christ?
 121. What is repentance unto life?
 122. What is conversion? Its two essential parts? Its three necessary elements?
 123. How can we be sure that we have been converted?
 124. How are we to seek assurance that we are elect and called of God?
 125. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?
 126. What is justification?
 127. Does justification mean that God makes sinners holy? Explain.
 128. What is imputation?
 129. Who justifies the sinner?
 130. What is the relationship between faith and works?
 131. How important is the doctrine of justification by faith?
 132. What is adoption?
 133. Why must adoption logically follow justification?
 134. What is the difference between our sonship and that of Christ?

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135. What is sanctification?
 136. How does God sanctify us? When? Where?
 137. What is the sure evidence of sanctification?
 138. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?
 139. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?
 140. What happens to the soul of the believers at death? Prove.
 141. Why doesn't God deliver us from death immediately?
 142. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?
 143. What is the duty which God requires of man?
 144. What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?
 145. What is the sum of the ten commandments?
 146. What is the preface to the ten commandments?
 147. What does the preface to the ten commandments teach us?
 148. Which is the first commandment?
 149. What is required in the first commandment?
 150. What is forbidden in the first commandment?
 151. What are we specially taught by these words before me in the first commandment?
 152. Which is the second commandment?
 153. What is required in the second commandment?
 154. What is forbidden in the second commandment?
 155. What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment?
 156. Which is the third commandment?
 157. What is required in the third commandment?
 158. What is forbidden in the third commandment?
 159. What is the reason annexed to the third commandment?
 160. Which is the fourth commandment?
 161. What is required in the fourth commandment?
 162. Which day of the seven hath God appointed to be the weekly sabbath?
 163. How is the sabbath to be sanctified?
 164. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?
 165. What are the reasons annexed to the fourth commandment?
 166. Which is the fifth commandment?
 167. What is required in the fifth commandment?
 168. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment?
 169. What is the reason annexed to the fifth commandment?
 170. Which is the sixth commandment?
 171. What is required in the sixth commandment?
 172. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

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173. Which is the seventh commandment?
 174. What is required in the seventh commandment?
 175. What is forbidden in the seventh commandment?
 176. Which is the eighth commandment?
 177. What is required in the eighth commandment?
 178. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment?
 179. Which is the ninth commandment?
 180. What is required in the ninth commandment?
 181. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?
 182. Which is the tenth commandment?
 183. What is required in the tenth commandment?
 184. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment?
 185. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?
 186. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?
 187. What doth every sin deserve?
 188. What doth God require of us that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?
 189. What is faith in Jesus Christ?
 190. What is repentance unto life?
 191. What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicate to us the benefits of redemption?
 192. How is the word made effectual to salvation?
 193. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?
 194. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?
 195. What is a sacrament?
 196. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?
 197. What is baptism?
 198. To whom is baptism to be administered?
 199. What is the Lord's supper?
 200. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper?
 201. What is prayer?
 202. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer?
 203. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?
 204. What do we pray for in the first petition?
 205. What do we pray for in the second petition?
 206. What do we pray for in the third petition?
 207. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?
 208. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?
 209. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?
 210. What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?

Bibliography

READING LIST

- Reformed Forum, *Suggested Reading List* (<https://reformedforum.org/resources/readinglist/>)
- Westminster Seminary California, *Recommended Reading List* (<https://www.wscal.edu/admissions/preparing-for-seminary/recommended-reading-list>)

EXAMS

- Consulted exams from the following PCA presbyteries: Pacific, Rocky Mountain, South Coast
- Bryan Chapell and Jim Meek, *Preparing for Licensure and Ordination Exams: Syllabus/Study Guide* (PCA Christian Education and Publications)

“The more we know of God, the more unreservedly we will trust him; the greater our progress in theology, the simpler and more child-like will be our faith.”

- John Gresham Machen

Rev. Joseph An
Stated Clerk
Korean SW OC Presbytery
(714) 726-0235
hyosungan@hotmail.com

Rev. Andrew Kim
Chair
Examination Committee
(949) 357-7052
andrew@newlifepres.org

Rev. Paul Kim
Clerk
Examination Committee
(408) 309-5787
paul@newlifepres.org
