

**DEFENDING THE
REFORMED FAITH :**

**A COLLECTION OF SHORT
ESSAYS AND TRACTS**

TEACHER'S MANUAL

Edited by J. Parnell McCarter

”Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” - I Peter 3:15

Dedicated to Dr. Francis Nigel Lee, who has most ably defended the reformed and Biblical Christian faith.

Compiled and edited by J. Parnell McCarter

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The Puritans’ Home School Curriculum

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EDITOR'S PREFACE AND GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This Teacher's Manual is intended to help a parent better utilize the book *Defending the Reformed Faith : A Collection of Short Essays and Tracts*. The purpose of *Defending the Reformed Faith* is explained in the preface of that book:

Christians are commanded to “***be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you.***” While this does not mean every reformed Christian must have an exhaustive knowledge and defense on every issue of the Christian faith, it does imply every Christian should have a reasonable defense of the chief issues of the faith. This collection of short essays and tracts is intended to provide such an arsenal. It by no means addresses every issue that the Christian will encounter, nor is it an exhaustive treatment on the issues it does address, but hopefully it responds in broad strokes to some of the burning objections to the historic reformed faith as it is excellently summarized in the original Westminster Standards and Three Forms of Unity.

Included in this Teacher's Manual for each essay or tract found in *Defending the Reformed Faith* is a test. We recommend that the student be provided a copy of this test even while reading the essay or tract. In this way the student will know the main ideas he should take from the essay or tract. Then later, without being able to see the essay or tract, the student should be given the test.

Another method some educators may want to use is simply to allow the student to read the essay or tract, and then later to administer the test without the advantage of having the essay or tract in front of him.

Each parent can thus decide how best to administer the tests provided in this Manual in their specific circumstances.

J. Parnell McCarter
Editor

SECTION ONE :
MARRIAGE AND PARENTING

TEST ON ‘THE CREATION MODEL FOR MARRIAGE’

1. Prove from at least 3 New Testament passages that the model for marriage which was set for Adam and Eve is still applicable today?

2. List the 7 features of the Creation Model for Marriage noted in the essay, and for each of them prove from scripture that they are valid:

SECTION TWO :
THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE

TEST ON 'NO COMPROMISE WITH GOD'S GRACE'

1. By what acronym can we remember the 'doctrines of grace' (also called the Five Points of Calvinism)?
2. List the 'doctrines of grace' (or Five Points of Calvinism) and cite one scripture proof text for each point.
3. List at least 3 reasons we should not deny the doctrines of grace.

SECTION THREE :
***THE REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE
OF WORSHIP***

TEST ON 'GOD'S ETERNAL MORAL LAW AND THE REGULATIVE PRINCIPLE OF WORSHIP'

1. Prove from scripture that God's moral law is eternal and is eternally binding upon all mankind.
2. Prove from scripture that God's eternal moral law is summarily comprehended in the Ten Commandments.
3. Provide at least one scriptural example of how one of the Ten Commandments has a broader, implicit application than its more narrow, explicit application.
4. What is the larger implication of the Second Commandment regarding worship?
5. Give an example of a specific detail of worship which has changed from one covenant to the next.

TEST ON ‘WERE THEY RIGHT ABOUT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN PUBLIC WORSHIP?’

1. During the first 12 centuries of Christian history, what was the practice concerning musical instruments in church public worship?
2. What should be our rule by which we know whether an element should be incorporated in worship?
3. What was the practice regarding musical instruments in the Tabernacle/Levitical worship?
4. What was the practice regarding musical instruments in the synagogue worship?
5. Are musical instruments commanded for the New Testament church worship?

**TEST ON 'CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF THE APOSTLES'
CREED IN PUBLIC WORSHIP: A PRACTICE TO BE KEPT OR
DISCARDED?'**

Explain why we should not say or incorporate congregational affirmations of the Apostle's Creed in public worship.

TEST ON 'AGE-SEGREGATED SUNDAY SCHOOL: AN 'F' GRADE'

List at least 5 reasons why Christian churches should reject age-segregated Sunday Schools.

TEST ON 'REFORMING FORMS'

List at least four reasons noted in the Westminster Directory for Public of Worship to warn us against adopting uninspired forms and form prayers.

**TEST ON 'CHOIRS IN THE CHURCH'S PUBLIC WORSHIP:
TO BE OR NOT TO BE?'**

1. How did Temple worship and synagogue worship differ?

2. Is there any evidence for choirs in the synagogue worship of the Old Testament or the New Testament church worship?

SECTION FOUR :

***THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM
AND THE LORD'S SUPPER***

TEST ON 'IN RESPONSE TO OUR BAPTIST FRIENDS'

1. Why do we say that the principle of covenant headship, which entails imposing covenant claims and duties upon those under one's covenant leadership, is still in effect.

2. Why do we say that our Baptist friends wrongly assert that God would never put a sign of being born again and regenerated (which water baptism is) on someone who has not made profession of faith.

3. Why do we say that our Baptist friends wrongly assert that God would never put a sign of faith (which water baptism is) on someone who has not made profession of faith?

4. Why do we say that our Baptist friends wrongly assert that profession of faith must in ALL cases precede water baptism because of passages like Mark 16:16 and Acts 2:38?

5. Why do we say that our Baptist friends wrongly assert that God has used believers' baptism as his instrument to make a more holy people in the New Covenant administration?

**TEST ON 'PAIDOCOMMUNION: ANTI-BIBLICAL AND ANTI-
CONFESSIOAL by Dr. Francis Nigel Lee'**

1. What is paidocommunion?
2. What does the Westminster Confession teach concerning paidocommunion?
3. In the Old Testament Passover, what was required before someone was eligible to participate?
4. Which New Testament rite replaced the Passover?

SECTION FIVE :

***PRESBYTERIANISM AND
BIBLICAL CHURCH
GOVERNMENT***

TEST ON ‘WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESBYTERIANISM?’

List at list 5 principles or features of historic Presbyterianism.

TEST ON 'REFORMING ELDER SELECTION: GOD'S MEANS TO REFORMATION'

1. What are the 3 primary criteria for qualification to the eldership?

2. Name at least 2 passages in the New Testament which address qualification for eldership?

TEST ON 'NO CHOICE BUT FULL SUBSCRIPTION'

1. What is full (or strict) subscription?
2. Why do we say that every church has full subscription to some confession?
3. What is the nature of confessional subscription in most of the more conservative presbyterian churches in our land (OPC, RPCNA, etc.)?
4. What was the nature of subscription in the historic Church of Scotland?
5. Why is full subscription to a written confession the proper course?

TEST ON ‘WHAT IS YOUR *BOTTOM LINE*?’

1. Why were the reformed confessions written, and which doctrines were intended to be contained in them?
2. Are all doctrines and issues that arise in scripture of equal weight? Why or why not?
3. What should we look for in choosing a church/denomination to join?

**TEST ON ‘THE DYING MAN’S TESTAMENT TO THE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND: THE SCANDAL OF DIVISION AMONG THE GODLY By
James Durham’**

1. Why is division a bad thing in Christ’s Church?

2. What defects in the Church should not prevent union?

SECTION SIX :
CHRISTIAN CIVIL GOVERNMENT

TEST ON 'CHRISTIAN NATIONS'

What is the moral standard by which Christ rules nations (just as it is the moral standard by which He rules churches) through civil magistrates?

Why is a religiously neutral state a myth?

How should we respond to the objection to Christian nations that to impose Christianity upon people is cruel and inhumane?

TEST ON ‘A CHARGE FOR CHRISTIAN COUNCILS OF JUDGMENT’

1. What do we learn about who should judge cases among Christians from I Corinthians 6:1-8?

2. Explain how the Old Testament sanhedrins functioned.

SECTION SEVEN :
THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

TEST ON 'THE LORD'S DAY : THE CHRISTIAN'S SABBATH'

1. Why do we say that there is a Lord's Day in the New Covenant?
2. Why do we say that the Lord's Day is the Christian's Sabbath?
3. Why do we say that the Sabbath commemorates God's Creations for all mankind, and not just the Jews?
4. Why do we say that the Sabbath is commanded in the Ten Commandments, God's eternal moral law?

SECTION EIGHT :
ESCHATOLOGY

SECTION NINE :

***THE INERRANCY AND
SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE***

TEST ON 'IS THERE CONTINUING VERBAL REVELATION FROM GOD?'

Why should we believe there has been a cessation of the Apostolic office?

Why should we adhere to the doctrine of sola scriptura?

