

Memory Work & Checklist for Covenant Children Seeking to Make Profession of Faith

Guilt, Grace, Gratitude (Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 1)

Guilt: I know how great my sin and misery are. I know my own personal sin and need of Christ.

Grace: I belong to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. I know he lived a perfect life in my place, died for my sins, and was raised from the dead. I know he is exalted to heaven where he watches over me and intercedes for me.

Gratitude: I am thankful to God for delivering me from my sin and misery. And so I desire to obey the Lord out of gratitude.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
The holy catholic* church;
The communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting. Amen.

**"Catholic" means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples.*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

The Ten Commandments (Abbreviated)

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

The Doctrines of Grace (TULIP)

T = Total depravity. This does not mean that all people are as bad as they could possibly be. It means rather that fallen man, left to himself, is affected by sin at the core of his being, so that man (mind, heart and will) is totally corrupted by sin and in bondage to sin. Man is so ruined by sin that he cannot even seek God, unless God first seeks him. Man is dead in sin and cannot do anything to make himself alive.

U = Unconditional election. From the fallen mass of humanity, who deserved to perish eternally for their sins, God chose certain people to be saved and obtain eternal life. God's choice is unconditional, that is, it is not conditional on any quality or good works in them, including God's foreknowledge of their faith. God has mercy on whom he wills to have mercy.

L = Limited atonement. Jesus Christ did not die in order to make salvation possible but to actually save the elect. He propitiated the wrath of God toward his people by taking their judgment upon himself. By his perfect life and death, he actually redeemed the elect and reconciled them to God. A better term for it is "definite atonement."

I = Irresistible grace. Since mankind apart from God is dead in sin, God

must raise us from the dead. He does this by effectual calling. In effectual calling, God works in our hearts, regenerating us, giving us new hearts and renewing our wills so that we freely come to Christ in humble faith.

P = Perseverance of the saints. God keeps the elect from falling away from Christ. Because he preserves us, we also persevere. We persevere in faith in Christ, only because God preserves us from falling away from him.

The Vows for Professing Members

It is not necessary to memorize these. However, the pastor will inquire about the child's understanding and ability to say "I do" to all four.

1. Do you wholeheartedly believe the doctrine contained in the Old and the New Testaments, and summarized in the creeds and confessions of this church, to be the true and complete doctrine of salvation, and do you promise by the grace of God to continue steadfastly in this profession?
2. Do you openly accept God's covenant promise, which has been signified and sealed to you in your baptism, and do you confess that you despise and humble yourself before God because of your sins, and that you seek your life, not in yourself, but only in Jesus Christ your Savior?
3. Do you declare that you love the Lord, and that it is your heartfelt desire to serve Him according to His Word, to forsake the world, to put to death your old nature, and to lead a godly life?
4. Do you promise to submit to the government of the church, and, if you should become wayward in doctrine or in life, to submit to its admonition and discipline?

Memory Checklist

	Item	Date	Name of approving adult
1	The Apostles' Creed		
2	The Lord's Prayer		
3	The Ten Commandments		
4	The Books of the Bible		
5	Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1		
6	HC 2		
7	HC 21		
8	HC 26		
9	HC 27		
10	HC 28		
11	HC 60		
12	HC 65		
13	HC 66		
14	HC 69		
15	HC 74		
16	HC 75		
17	HC 86		
18	HC 115		
19	HC 116		
20	Psalm 119:105		
21	John 3:16		
22	John 6:37		
23	John 10:28		
24	Romans 3:23		
25	Romans 6:23		
26	Romans 8:28		
27	Ephesians 2:8-9		
28	Philippians 4:6		
29	2 Timothy 3:16		

30	1 John 1:8-9		
31	T		
32	U		
33	L		
34	I		
35	P		