

Officer Training Study Guide:

OFFICER TRAINING STUDY GUIDE: DOCTRINE AND SCRIPTURE

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What are eight duties of an elder?

Shepherd & Judge

Ruler & Servant

Deliberator & Peace Maker

Student & Teacher

Give a chapter outline of 1 Corinthians.

1-4: Detrimental influence of worldly wisdom on the ministry of the Word

5: Excommunication

6: Lawsuits and Adultery

7: Marriage

8: Christian liberty

9: Ministerial liberty

10: Israel's bad example and the Lord's Supper

11: Headship and the Lord's supper

12: Spiritual gifts

13: Love

14: Church order

15: Resurrection

16: Collection and personal greetings

I. Of the Holy Scripture:

How does the principle of sola scriptura relate to the Reformed tradition? (What the Bible does not prescribe is forbidden in the areas of doctrine, worship, and government.)

1 Cor. 4:6 "not to exceed what is written"

Col. 2:22 "commandments and teachings of men"

Lev. 10

II. Of God, and of the Holy Trinity:

What four statements comprise the essentials of the doctrine of the trinity? (one God, three persons, each person fully God, order in the Godhead.)

Deut. 6:4 "the Lord your God is one"

Matt. 28:19 "in the name of the Father and the Son, and the HS"

2 Cor. 13:14 "of the Lord JC... love of God... fellowship of the HS"

What are God's four incommunicable attributes? (independent- not subject to anything outside of himself; unchangeable- not subject to change; infinite- not subject to limitation in time or space; simple- not subject to division in his divine nature.)

Rom. 11:33-36 "Who has first given to him...?"

III. Of God's Eternal Decree:

Explain God's decree in relation to man's sin. (1. God ordains sin [Acts 2:23 the crucifixion; Eph. 1:11 all things]. 2. Sinners commit sin [Acts 2:23 "you nailed to the cross"]. 3. God is not evil for predestining sin [Jn. 1:5 "God is light"]. 4. Sinners are responsible for committing the sin God ordained [Acts 2:38 "Repent"]. 5. God purposes sin for good reasons [Acts 2:24 "to put an end to the agony of death"; Gen. 50:20 "you meant it for evil"].)

Acts 2

Eph. 1:11

Jn. 1:5

IV. Of Creation:

List the different views on the days of creation held by men in the OPC, and explain two principles with which to evaluate positions. (normal day, day age, literary, agnostic; scripture interprets scripture, and the simple passage controls the complicated passage).

Gen. 1:1

V. Of Providence:

What are three aspects of God's providence? (Preservation- being, Concurrence- actions, Government- end)

Col. 1:17 "in him all things hold together"

VI. Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof:

Explain two things that happened to all mankind as a result of Adam's first sin. (Imputed guilt, inherited corruption).

Rom. 5 "as through one transgression"

VII. Of God's Covenant with Man:

Explain the distinguishing features of Covenant Theology. (covenant of redemption, works, grace, old, new, covenant and the visible church, covenant and the invisible church).

Gal. 3:29 "If you are in Christ"

What is a covenant? A relationship God sets up under sanctions.

Lev. 18:5 "do this and live"

VIII. Of Christ the Mediator:

Explain the relationship between Christ's two natures (united, distinct, unmixed).

Jn. 1:1, 14 "and the word was God.... and the word became flesh"

What are Christ's three offices and two states? (prophet, priest, king; humiliation, exaltation).

Deut. 18:18 "I will raise up a prophet"

Heb. 3-8 "we have a great high priest"

Ps. 110:1 "sit at my right hand"

What is the difference between active and passive obedience? (obedience to the law's precepts, suffering under the law's sanctions)

2 Cor. 5:21 "to be sin on our behalf... the righteousness of God"

What is TULIP? (total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, perseverance of the saints).

Eph. 2:1 "dead in your trespasses and sins"

Rom. 9:16 "it does not depend on the man who wills... but on God"

Jn. 10 "I lay down my life for the sheep"

Jn. 10 "My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me"

Rom. 8 "Neither height nor depth"

IX. Of Free Will:

Explain the fourfold state of man (innocence- able to not sin; nature- not able to not sin; grace- able to sin; glory- not able to sin).

Gen. 2:17 "in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"

Gen. 6:5 "only evil continually"

1 Jn. 2:1 "If anyone sins"

1 Jn. 3:2 "we will be like him"

X. Of Effectual Calling:

What is the logical Order of Salvation? (election, effectual calling & regeneration, union with Christ, faith, justification, adoption, repentance, sanctification, glorification).

Rom. 8:29-30 "those whom he predestined he called"

Explain the difference between effectual calling and the external call. (internal work of the Spirit on the elect; external invitation of the preacher to everyone)

Matt. 22:14 "many are called but few are chosen"

XI. Justification:

What is the instrument and ground of justification? (faith alone, Christ's work alone)

Rom. 4:25-5:1 "raised for our justification.... having been justified by faith"

Explain the three acts of imputation. (Adam's guilt credited to us, our guilt credited to Christ, Christ's righteousness credited to us)

Rom. 5:18 "As through one man's disobedience... so through the obedience of one"

XII. Adoption:

Contrast justification with adoption. (judge, father)

Rom. 8:15 "Abba! Father!"

XIII. Sanctification:

Contrast justification with sanctification. (imputed work vs. infused work; pardoned sin vs. subdued sin; perfect and complete vs. growing) see LC 77.

Phil. 2:13 "it is God who is at work in you"

Ezek. 36:26-27 "cause you to walk in my statutes"

XIV. Of Saving Faith:

What are the three elements of saving faith? (knowledge, assent, trust)

Matt. 13 the parable of the sower

XV. Of Repentance:

What is the character of true repentance (motivated by a sorrow for offending God)

2 Cor. 7:10 "the sorrow that is according to the will of God"

XVI. Of Good Works:

What are five types of good work in the Bible? (meritorious, imputed, symbolic, civic, fruit of the Spirit)

Is the fruit of the Spirit necessary for eternal life? (Yes.)

James 2:17 "faith, if it has no works, is dead"

XVII. Of the Perseverance of the Saints:

What two things support this doctrine? (directs statements from scripture; inference from other doctrines)

Rom. 8 "who will separate us"

XVIII. Of Assurance of Grace and Salvation:

Is assurance a duty? (yes)

2 Pet. 1:10 "be diligent to make certain"

What might cause someone to lose assurance? (WCF 18:4)

James 2-3

XIX. Of the Law of God:

List the ten commandments in order and the two greatest commandments. (God, image, name, day, authority, murder, adultery, theft, lying, coveting)

Ex. 20; Deut 5; Matt. 22

What is the difference between God's secret will and God's revealed-preceptive will? (decree and moral law)

Deut. 29:29 "the secret things belong to the Lord"

List three aspects of the Mosaic law (ceremonial, civil, moral)

Rom. 13:9 "and if there is any other commandment"

XX. Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience:

What is adiaphora? (where the Bible is silent the believer is free to act according to the liberty of his conscience without the intrusion of church authority)

1 Cor. 10:23 "all things are lawful"

Does the principle of sola scriptura protect Christian liberty or restrict it? Explain. (this protects Christian liberty because it restricts church power in the areas of doctrine, worship, and government)

XXI. Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day:

Explain and defend the regulative principle of worship. (what is not commanded is forbidden; 2nd commandment, Deut. 12:29-32, severity of God's judgment in places like Lev. 10, idolatry of man's heart, nature of the covenant, church power, Christian charity, faith, creator-creature distance)

Lev. 10 Nadab and Abihu

What are elements, circumstances, forms, rubrics? (parts, time and place, content, manner)

What are some guiding principles of worship? (centrality of God, God's Word, dialogical, simple and spiritual, reverent, joyful, orderly).

Read Sunday School Reviews 2, 3, 5, 14

Support a NT holy day of rest and worship? (see your notes).

4th commandment

Rev. 1:10 "the Lord's day"

1 Cor. 16:2 "on the first day of every week"

What exceptions may be made for working on the sabbath? (mercy and necessity)

XXII. Oaths and Vows:

Explain the difference between an oath and a vow. (to man, to God)

XXIII. Civil Magistrate:

What four duties are required of Christians towards the state? (pray, honor, pay, obey)

1 Tim. 2:1-2 "on behalf of all men"

Rom. 13 "Render to all what is due them"

What church-state model is taught in the Confession? (separation)

XXIV. Of Marriage and Divorce:

What five types of marriages are forbidden in the Confession? (homosexual, polygamous, non-consensual, religiously mixed, incestuous)

What two conditions allow for divorce? (adultery, desertion)

Matt. 5; 19 "except for adultery"

Rom. 7 "not under bondage in such cases"

XXV. Of the Church:

Who are the members of the invisible church and the visible church? (the elect, professors of faith and their children)

Matt. 13 parable of the wheat and tares

What are the two-three offices in the church? (teaching elder, ruling elder, deacon)

1 Tim. 5:17 "who rule well... especially... preaching and teaching"

XXVI. Of the Communion of the Saints:

What two main duties are Christians bound to perform for each other? (spiritual and temporal service according to their gifts and abilities)
Eph. 5:21 "be subject to one another"

XXVII. Of the Word and Sacraments:

Why do we baptize infants? (circumcision parallel)
Acts 2:39 "for you and your children"

What do the scriptures principally teach? (law and gospel)
2 Tim. 3:16 "all scripture is inspired and profitable"

Explain the differences between the Catholic, Lutheran, Calvinist, and Zwinglian belief about the presence of Christ's body in the Lord's Supper. (actual presence- elements transformed, local presence- elements not transformed, spiritual presence, representation only)

What is sacramental language? (speaking of the sign as if it were the thing itself)
Gen. 17:10 "this is my covenant"
Matt. 26:26 "this is my body"
Acts 2:38 "be baptized for the remission of your sins"

XXX. Of Church Censures:

What are the six goals of church censure? (reclamation, deterrent, purification, vindication of Christ's honor, vindication of the church's testimony, prevention of God's punishment)
1 Cor. 5 "so that his spirit may be saved"
2 Cor. 2 "reaffirm your love for him"
Matt. 18 "as a Gentile and a tax collector"

XXXI. Of Synods and Councils:

Explain the presbyterian form of government. (broadening system of appellate courts composed of elders)
Acts 15 "the apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter"

XXXII. Of the State of Men After Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

What is the difference between the intermediate state and the final state? (without the body- with the body)
Lk. 23:43 "today you will be with me in paradise"

Lk. 16 the rich man and Lazarous

1 Thess. 4:16 "and the dead in Christ shall rise"

How does the LC differ from Pre-millennialism? (general resurrection of the dead- #87)

Matt. 25 sheep and goats

XXXIII. Of the Last Judgment

Defend the doctrine of eternal punishment.

Rev. 14:11 "the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever"

Rev. 20:10 "tormented day and night forever and ever"

Matt. 25:46 "eternal punishment"

1 Cor. 15:32-34 "let us eat drink and be merry"