

Theme: Using a catechism is a tried and true method of receiving and passing on the faith once for all delivered to God's people.

I. Intro – Story or Topic

- A. Americans best sprinters in world (overall)
- B. American problem w/ passing baton in relays
- C. Both men and women dropped baton in Beijing
- D. Same thing can happen to Christianity
- E. To survive, we must pass the baton

II. Jude's Message

- A. A change in plans (v3a)
 - 1. Apparently planned to write a different letter
 - 2. Felt compelled to write this one now
- B. Key - contend for the faith once for all delivered
 - 1. "The faith" - not belief, but Gospel, essential truths
 - a. v3b; Gal 1:23; Acts 6:7; 1 Tim 4:6
 - 2. This faith once for all entrusted to the saints
 - a. Received & Delivered - v3b; 1 Cor 15:3; Gal 1:9
 - b. Traditions - 1 Cor 11:2; 2 Th 2:15
 - c. Deposit guarded - 1 Tim 6:20; 2 Tim 1:14
 - d. Saints - all believers - v3b; Eph 1:1/Phi 1:1
 - e. Always true - Psalm 78:2-7; Psa 145:4

3. Will require intense effort - positive & negative

- a. Contend - v3b; 2 Tim 4:7; Col 1:28-29
- b. Defend against error by positive instruction

C. Reason - false teachers distort the faith

- 1. v4; Acts 20:29-30
- 2. Distort doctrine & ethics (ethics primary here)

III. Our Plan At BRCC

A. BRCC concerned to contend for faith

- 1. We know the commands of God to do this
- 2. We know the dangers all around
- 3. We know statistics on generational drop-off

B. Our plans of contending for the faith

- 1. Serious teaching of the faith
- 2. Investment in Garey & now Jer
- 3. My work with interns at NCC Arnold
- 4. Our work with our kids - KS, 2B, youth group
- 5. Our encouragement of parental involvement

C. A new tool - BRCC catechism

- 1. Under each chair
- 2. Still in development

3. Will begin using in KS, 2B soon
4. Encourage everyone to use as tool for growth

IV. A Quick Look at the Catechism

- A. Read the introduction & how to section!
- B. The value of catechisms
 1. Time tested and proven method of instruction
 2. Really good with kids - good at memorization
 3. Good way to encapsulate the faith
 4. Provides link with Church - based on older catechisms
 5. We are passing on THE FAITH!
- C. A quick overview of our Catechism
 1. The catechism focuses on THE FAITH
 2. Note 4 key elements memorized
 - a. 1 - Biblical books; 2 - 10 Commandments
 - b. 3 - Lord's Prayer; 4 - Apostles Creed
 3. Note link w/ Westminster & especially Heidelberg
 4. Note overall structure - guilt, grace, gratitude
 5. If you don't know these things - learn them!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the need to contend for the faith?

1. The faith is under attack
 2. This is not unique - always true!
 3. We must positively teach & then defend
 4. Best time to start is with young kids
 5. Garey - testimony about Gabe
- B. Are we working to receive and pass on the faith?
 1. It has been entrusted to all the saints
 2. Do we know the basics of the faith?
 - a. Define Gospel? Know Biblical books?
 - b. Do we know key points of Christian belief?
 3. Do we realize this will take work - for us & kids?
 - C. Do we see God gives strength & resources?
 1. God gives us strength to do this work!
 2. We have rich resource of Church through ages
 3. Catechism is a great place to start to do this
 - D. Communion - Receiving God's strength & resources
 1. Reminds us Christ is our source - not us
 2. Reminds us of our communion with Church
- Receiving and Passing On the One True Faith**

Jude 1:1-4
 Psalm 78:1-7
 September 13, 2009
 Communion
 Psalm 115:14-15

They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." Galatians 1:23

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7

If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 1 Timothy 4:6

For **what I received I passed on to you** as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3

As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you **accepted (literally - received)**, let him be eternally condemned! Galatians 1:9

Now I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I delivered them to you. 1 Corinthians 11:2 ESV

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to **the traditions that you were taught by us**, either by our spoken word or by our letter. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 ESV

Timothy, **guard what has been entrusted to your care**. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, 1 Timothy 6:20

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ** Jesus: Ephesians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, **To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi**, together with the overseers and deacons: Philippians 1:1

I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- 3 what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, 6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. 7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. Psalm 78:2-7

One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, **struggling** with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:28-29

I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. Acts 20:29-30