

Chapter 1

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What does it mean to say that both Creation accounts in the Book of Genesis are true?*

Both of them are true because they both express the religious or spiritual truths that God wanted to convey for the sake of our salvation. Each one of the Creation accounts has its own distinct set of truths about God, humanity, and all of creation, which are not necessarily found in the other.

2. *“God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good” (Genesis 1:31). What important beliefs does this verse lead us to?*

This belief in the intrinsic goodness of all of creation guides our interaction with other human beings and everything in the universe. We also must conclude that God is good because everything he creates is good.

3. *How can science and religion both be true?*

Science and religion can both be true because they address different qualities of what is true in the world. Scientific truths are based on measurable, objective phenomenon. Religious truths are based on observation, human reason, and God’s Revelation. Properly understood, these truths do not contradict each other.

4. *Explain the differences between the fundamentalist and contextualist approaches to interpreting the Bible. Which approach do Catholics take?*

A fundamentalist approach interprets the Bible based on the literalist meaning of the Bible’s words. Conclusions are made without regard to the literary genre used by the human author or the cultural background or historical setting in which the writings or teachings were first developed. A contextualist approach takes into account the various contexts for understanding. This approach looks at the literary forms, historical situations, cultural backgrounds, and a number of other things to help us better understand the intention of the human authors in expressing God’s Word. Catholics take a contextualist approach.

5. *Why do we consider longing for God to be something good?*

Our longing for God is like an empty stomach that hungers for food. Without the hunger, the body does not know to seek nourishment. This healthy yearning for God calls us to be in a relationship with him.

6. *Define Original Sin and explain the consequences that followed from it.*

Original Sin has two meanings: (1) the sin of the first human beings, who disobeyed God’s command by choosing to follow their own will and thus lost their original holiness and became subject to death, and (2) the fallen state of human nature that affects every person born into the world, except Jesus and Mary. The consequences include the loss of harmony and union humans have with one another and God; the pain and suffering we experience now; and our self-centered outlook, which distorts our sense of right and wrong.

7. *Use one of the prehistorical narratives to explain the ripple effects of sin.*

The students can use accounts of Cain and Abel, Noah, or the Tower of Babel to explain that Original Sin is inherited generation after generation and that its consequences continue.

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