

The thirteen baptismal vows

For the candidate's examination, in a single session: the 13 vows in their official order, linked in five steps.

OPENING · THE EXAMINER

“What you are about to confess is not a checklist of conditions, but your response to the love of a God who sought you first. Answer with all your heart.”

STEP 1

Who is God, and what has He done for me?

- 1 Do you believe there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons?
- 2 Do you accept the death of Jesus Christ on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for your sins and believe that by God's grace through faith in His shed blood you are saved from sin and its penalty?
- 3 Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour, believing that God, in Christ, has forgiven your sins and given you a new heart, and do you renounce the sinful ways of the world?
- 4 Do you accept by faith the righteousness of Christ, your Intercessor in the heavenly sanctuary, and accept His promise of transforming grace and power to live a loving, Christ-centered life in your home and before the world?

TRANSITION

“You have just confessed the God who saves you. Whoever is saved does not stay still: he sets out to walk with his Lord. Let us see how.”

STEP 2

How do I walk with God?

- 5 Do you believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, the only rule of faith and practice for the Christian? Do you covenant to spend time regularly in prayer and Bible study?
- 6 Do you accept the Ten Commandments as a transcript of the character of God and a revelation of His will? Is it your purpose by the power of the indwelling Christ to keep this law, including the fourth commandment, which requires the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath of the Lord and the memorial of Creation?
- 7 Do you look forward to the soon coming of Jesus and the blessed hope when “this mortal shall ... put on immortality”? As you prepare to meet the Lord, will you witness to His loving salvation by using your talents in personal soul-winning endeavor to help others be ready for His glorious appearing?

TRANSITION

“Walking with God is not walking alone: He has given you a people. Let us see your place in His Church.”

STEP 3

What is my Church?

- 8 Do you accept the biblical teaching of spiritual gifts and believe that the gift of prophecy is one of the identifying marks of the remnant church?
- 9 Do you believe in church organization? Is it your purpose to worship God and to support the church through your tithes and offerings and by your personal effort and influence?

TRANSITION

“Belonging to this people engages your whole life, down to the most concrete of daily living. Let us see how grace transforms the way you live.”

STEP 4

How do I live day by day?

10

Do you believe that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and will you honor God by caring for it, avoiding the use of that which is harmful, abstaining from all unclean foods, from the use, manufacture, or sale of alcoholic beverages and of tobacco in any of its forms, and from the misuse of or trafficking in narcotics or other drugs?

11

Do you know and understand the fundamental Bible principles as taught by the Seventh-day Adventist Church? Do you purpose, by the grace of God, to fulfill His will by ordering your life in harmony with these principles?

TRANSITION

“This new faith and life, you are ready to seal them publicly. Let us see your commitment.”

STEP 5

My public commitment

12

Do you accept the New Testament teaching of baptism by immersion and desire to be so baptized as a public expression of faith in Christ and His forgiveness of your sins?

13

Do you accept and believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church of Bible prophecy, and that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship, and do you desire to be a member of this local congregation of the world church?

CLOSING · THE EXAMINER

“On this confession, and before this assembly as witness, we receive you with joy.”

The official order of the vows (1 to 13) is kept in full; the five steps and the transitions are teaching markers, not separate questions. Before an actual baptism, the examiner must put the exact wording of the 13 vows as it appears in the Church Manual in force in their union: this document is a faithful formatting of them, but the official wording prevails.

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