

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #8

Prayer

Quiz: What is sin?

Part II. MAN AND SIN - Covenant of (Life) Works - cover Q. 25-29

Q. 25 Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consisteth in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of righteousness wherein he was created, and the corruption of his nature, whereby he is utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite unto all that is spiritually good, and wholly inclined to all evil, and that continually ; which is commonly called **original sin**, and from which do proceed all actual transgressions.

Rom. 5:12,19; v. 6

Rom. 3:10-19

Eph. 2:1-3

Rom. 8:7-8

Gen. 6:5

Jam. 1:14-15. Matt. 15:19

*What is the extent of the corruption of nature that resulted from the fall? Does this mean that natural man (unsaved) cannot do anything good? Is. 55:6

All men are in an estate of sin. Consists of

Q. 26. How is original sin conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity ?

A. Original sin is conveyed from our first parents unto their posterity by natural generation, so as all that proceed from them in that way are conceived and born in sin.

Ps. 51:5

Job 14:4, 15:14-16

John 3: 6

Important distinction here:

Guilt is legal liability to punishment due on account of sin. Imputed immediately.

Depravity is moral and spiritual defilement of nature . Conveyed by hereditary descent from one generation to the other.

Properly thought of as we receive our sinful nature by reason of our natural birth as a descendant of Adam.

What system of doctrine denies the Bible teaching on original sin?

Pelagianism

Semi- Pelagianism

Q. 27 What misery did the fall bring upon mankind?

A. The fall brought upon all mankind the loss of communion with God, his displeasure and curse; so as we are by nature children of wrath, bond slaves of Satan, and justly liable to all punishments in this world and that which is to come .

*Before looking at the Scriptures, what about this answer is offensive to modern man?

Gen. 3:8-10,24

Eph. 2:2-3

II Tim. 2:26

Gen. 2:17, Lam. 3:39, Rom. 6:23

Mat. 25: 41,46; Jude 7

Modern man's attitude prefers the fatherhood of God to all men, that God is all love, man is basically good, no such person as a personal devil, and defines sin in human and social terms. No man (except maybe Hitler) deserves punishment.

The next questions and answers are very hard but find their authority in Scripture.

Q. 28 What are the punishments of sin in this world?

A. The punishments of sin in this world are either **inward**, as blindness of mind, a reprobate sense, strong delusions, hardness of heart, horror of conscience, and vile affections; or **outward**, as the curse of God upon the creatures for our sakes, and all other evils that befall us in our bodies, names, estates, relations, and employments; together with death itself.

Eph. 4:18

Rom. 1:28 (also 26) ; Rom. 2:5

II Thess. 2:11

Is. 33:14, Gen. 4:13, Mat. 27:4

Gen. 3:17

Deut. 28:15-68; esp. vss. 20, 25, 28, 43, 48, 65

Rom. 6: 21,23

What are the 2 distinctions made?

We can look at each phrase.

Blindness

Reprobate

Vile affections

Strong delusion- evolution, Nazi idea of super race

What is meant by hardness of heart , and can you think of biblical examples of those given over to "hardness of heart"?

Deut. 28 (curses for disobedience). -Let's make a list of all the present evils (as evidence of God's curse- punishments for sin) we see so clearly in our world today.

- How can sin become its own punishment?

Q. 29 What are the punishments of sin in the world to come?

A. The punishments of sin in the world to come , are everlasting separation from the comfortable presence of God, and most grievous torments I soul and body, without intermission, in hell- fire forever.

II Thess. 1:9

Mark 9:44-48

Luke 16:15, 24

Rev. 14:9-12 ; 20:13-15

Mat. 5:29-30

Mat. 25:41,46 ; 10:28

What are three heresies taught that deny the doctrine of eternal punishment?

1. Annihilationism
2. Universalism
3. Restorationism - " second chance"

How should we answer the person who says that the doctrine of hell is contrary to "the spirit of Christ?"

Read Q. 30! Hope for us sinners!

Next week: begin the Covenant of Grace. Maybe we can tackle Q. 30-35!

Some possible help for discussion

- danger of picking and choosing from teachings of Jesus
- According to our own imaginations, ideas, cultural prejudices, political correctness , etc.
- leads to warped and twisted thinking and interpretations
- God is not only a God of love.

God's attribute of absolute justice finds expression in the Cross and in the eternal punishment of sinners.