

## Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

### Women's Thursday Bible Class #17

Prayer Last week Q. 67-71, so today continuing with **justification**.

Discussion of why all the opposition to this doctrine. History-

#### **Q. 72 What is justifying faith?**

A. Justifying faith is a saving grace,

- wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and the Word of God, whereby he,
- Being convinced of his sin and misery, and of his disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition,
- Not only **assenteth to** the truth of the promise of the gospel;
- But **receiveth and resteth** upon Christ and his righteousness; therein held forth, for pardon of sin and for the accepting and accounting of his person as righteous in the sight of God for his salvation.

As we discuss some questions, think about how important it is that the true gospel be preached, shared, etc.

Note it is a gift, by the Word and Spirit- Heb. 10:39 and Rom. 10:13-14,17

Note words convinced, assent, receive, rest- Acts 2:37 and 16:30,; John 1:12, Phil. 3:9

- in addition to pardoning sin, what else does God do for the person who has justifying faith?
- What other kinds of faith could there be that are not justifying or saving faith? Parable of sower, "the Devils believe and tremble..."

#### **Q. 73 How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?**

A. Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those graces which do always accompany it (faith), or of good works that are the fruits of it (faith), nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, were imputed to him for his justification; But only as it (faith) is an instrument by which he receiveth and applieth Christ and his righteousness

Gal. 3:11, Rom. 3:28

Rom. 4:5 and 10:10

Phil. 3:6-11

Gal. 2:16

Misunderstood often: we are justified by faith or through faith **but not** on the account of faith.

What is the error of the Roman Catholic Church concerning faith? What are other common errors of Protestants concerning faith?

**WSC Q#86** what is faith in Jesus Christ? A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel. (memorize!)

**Q. 74 What is adoption?**

A. Adoption is an act of the free grace of God, in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, whereby all those that are justified

- are received into the number of his children
- Have his name put upon them,
- The Spirit of his Son given to them
- are under his fatherly care and dispensation,
- Admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God,
- Made heirs of all the promises, and fellow heirs with Christ in glory.

I John 3:1

Eph. 1:5, Gal 4:4-6

John 1:12

II Cor. 6:14-18

Ps. 103:13, Prov. 3:11-12, Mat. 6:32

Heb.12:5-7 and Rom. 8:15-17

Helpful to understand the difference in justification and adoption. What is it?

Can we forfeit or lose our feeling or consciousness that we are God's child? Explain.

**Q. 75 What is sanctification? For reference WCF , Chapter XIII.**

A. Sanctification is a work of God's grace, whereby they whom God hath, before the foundation of the world, chosen to be holy , are in time, through the powerful operation of his Spirit applying the death and resurrection of Christ unto them,

- renewed in their whole man after the image of God
- Having the seeds of repentance unto life, and all other saving graces,
- Put into their hearts, and those graces so stirred up, increased, and strengthened , as that they more and more die unto sin, and rise unto newness of life.

Eph. 1:4; 3:16-19; 4:22-24 ( process of put on, put off)

I Cor. 6:11-12

I Thess. 2:13 ( 5:23)

Rom. 6:1-14

Acts 11:18

Heb. 6:11-12 and II Pet. 1: 3 ff and James 1:4 ( goal - we are to grow up and mature!)

Col. 1:10-11

We must define **sanctify**.

We must **distinguish** between two usages of word .

1. Positionally - set apart
2. Personally - progressive process

What are some serious errors, heresies, confusions relating to sanctification?

1. Perfectionism and on opposite end antinomianism
2. Sanctification by works
3. 2nd blessing

Sanctification in this life is imperfect. We will address this in Q. 78, but first helpful to answer Q. 76, which is the attitude that is implanted at conversion that is the seed of desire and action of holiness, i.e. Sanctification.

### **Q. 76 What is repentance unto life? (WSC # 87)**

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace

- wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God,
- Whereby out of the sight and sense, not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins,
- and upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ to such as are penitent,
- he so grieves for and hates his sins,
- as that he turns from them all to God,
- purposing and endeavoring constantly to walk with him in all ways of new obedience.

Acts 11:18-21, II Tim. 2:25

II Cor. 7:11-12

Joel 2:12-13

Ezek. 18:28-32 and 36:31-32

Jer. 31:18-19

Ps. 119: 6, 59, 128

How can we test the genuineness of repentance?

Vos - "the only sure test of any religious experience is its fruits" Same could be said of true faith. Do you agree?

Why is there so little preaching and practice ( emphasis ) on repentance today in modern evangelicalism / Protestantism?

- modern emphasis on love of God
- ( God loves me no matter what I do- really?)
- Modern de emphasis on the law of God

**Next week:** Next Q. 77 absolutely IMPORTANT! Q. 78-81 dealing with the imperfection of our sanctification and how relates to assurance of salvation. Read and study Scripture references for your edification!