

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #7

Prayer

Some review (Creation and Providence) and "mop-up" Question raised from Is. 45:7 - somewhat cleared up by context

Q. 20 -29 - next two lessons

Part I. MAN AND SIN - Covenant of (Life) Works

Q. 20 What was the Providence of God toward man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing of him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth, putting the creatures under his dominion, and ordaining marriage for his help, affording him communion with himself; instituting the Sabbath, entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal ,perfect and perpetual obedience, of which the tree of life was a pledge, and forbidding to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.

Gen. 2:3, 8-9, 15-18

Gen. 1: 28. Communion with God

Gen. 3:8, 12 (Rom. 5:14) A'- the first Adam/ A" - Christ , the second Adam

Giving of work, and dominion

Ordaining marriage-

Instituting the Sabbath -

Word 'covenant' - is it in Bible? Contents clearly present

- Parties, condition, promise, threat, specific stipulation

Q . 21 Did man continue in the estate wherein God at first created him?

A. Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, through the temptation of Satan, transgressed the commandment in eating the forbidden fruit; and thereby fell from the estate of innocency wherein they were created.

Gen. 3:6-8, 13

Eccl. 7:29

II Cor. 11:3

Rom. 5:12-21

I Tim. 2:14

- What is the significance of holding the account of the fall in Genesis 3 as a record of historical facts?
- What great mystery is involved in the Biblical account of the fall?

Q. 22 Did all mankind fall in that first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam as a public person, not for himself only, but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him in that first transgression.

Acts 17:26

Gen. 2:16-17 compared to Rom. 5:12-21

I Cor. 15:21-22

Adam was our legal head, our representative.. God appointed him thus and so this is the basis for the imputation of Adam's sin to his posterity. Both imputed guilt and corruption or depravity by heredity

Doctrine of **Original sin**

- How should we answer someone who objects to the Bible teaching that Adam, as the representative of mankind, brought sin and suffering (misery) on all of us?

Q. # 23. Into what state did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery.

Rom. 5:12

Rom. 6:23 and 3:23

Gen. 3: 17-19 curse on the world of nature because of human sin

*From a strictly Biblical view, is present day humanity 'normal', meaning like sickness, old-age, death.....experienced by all?

Q. # 24. What is sin?

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature .

I John 3:4

Gal. 3:10,12

Rom. 3:20 / 5:13

James 4:17

All men are in a state of sin. There is the guilt of Adam's sin, the loss of original righteousness, thus the image of God is effaced (not erased) , spiritually defiled throughout whole nature, out of which all actual transgressions flow.

We sin because we are sinners, not - we are sinners because we sin.

How inadequate the world's view of sin!

Back to definition. Two sides - want or lack of (negative) and transgression or breaking of (positive)

Diagram

What summary of God's law especially stresses the positive side of transgressions?(Hint: Exodus 20)

What summary of God's law especially stresses the negative side of want or lack of conformity? Mat. 22:37-39

Next week :We will continue Q. 25-29 , **Part II. Man and Sin** - particularly zeroing in on the extent of the effects of sin. Here lies a foundational doctrine that so many others depend on.

Also the punishments of sin.

All this prepares us for what follows - the Covenant of Grace!