

Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC) 2020-2021

Women's Thursday Bible Study #4

Prayer with Dawn Trull using Valley of Vision (by Arthur Bennett)

Westminster Standards - our moorings

Why is it so important to begin with the authority and doctrine of Scripture and God?

Review last lesson - Q. 6-8 Nature of God

Today's lesson - Q. 9-11 The Trinity

Introductory thoughts:

1. We are letting the Scriptures speak.
2. Human language (finite) is limited by its nature.
3. In regards to the Trinity, we need to beware of comparisons, analogies, word pics, etc. which ultimately fall apart and are inadequate, often misleading.
4. We owe a great debt to the church fathers who fought for the truth to be held on these foundational, essential doctrines of the faith.

????? Apparently from history, it was important to set down in clear, precise language this truth. Why?

Questions we will attempt to tackle:?

What is the doctrine of the Trinity?

Why is it **important**?

Lastly, why is it **important to me**?

Q. 9 How many persons are in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.

- imp. To note that distinguishing (making distinctions) is not dividing.

Scripture says:

Mat. 28:19. IICor. 13:14

I Cor. 8:6

Jn. 1:1. / 10:30 / I Jn. 5:20

Acts 5:3-4

I Cor. 8:4 / Ex. 20:3

Mat. 11:27 / Heb. 1:3

Jn. 1:18 / 15:26

- imp. To note same God, yet distinct persons

As we move on, be thinking - "**why does it matter?**"

Q. 10 What are the personal properties of the three persons in the Godhead?

A. It is proper to the Father to beget the Son , and to the Son to be begotten by the Father, and to the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father and the Son from all eternity.

Heb. 1:5-8

Jn. 1:14,18;

Jn. 15:26 /Gal. 4:6

Jn. 17:5,24

Why do you think I suggested that you read John 14-17??

Much heresy has surrounded this over years. The Westminster Standards are grounded in Nicene orthodoxy.

The Nicene Creed from the Council of Nicea in 325.

To combat Arianism. (Arias was excommunicated.)

Changes and additions were made by councils in 381,451,and 589.

Listen as I read it.

The word "**Trinity**" does not appear in Scripture but the teaching of it underlies, shapes and informs all that the Bible teaches about God and salvation.

Q. 11 How doth it appear that the Son and the Holy Ghost are God, equal with the Father?

A. The Scriptures manifest that the Son and the Holy Ghost are equal with the Father, ascribing unto them such **names, attributes, works and worship** as are proper to God only.

Is. 6:3-8

Compare with Jn. 12:31 and Acts 28:25

I Jn. 5:20

Acts 5:3-4

Jn. 1:1, Is. 9:6, Jn. 2:24-25

I Cor. 2:10-11

Jn. 1:3 / Col. 1:15-19

Gen. 1:2

Mat. 28:19, II Cor. 13-14

Head spinning yet?

Discuss – **why does it matter to me?** Prayer

Next week: Topic: God's Decrees - read Q. 12-14 with all the Scripture proofs