

**WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH
SHORTER CATECHISM**

**LESSON # 13 (Q1LES13) - CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?
QUESTIONS# 16, 17, 18 & 19**

1. Prayer

2. Bible reading: Genesis 6: 1 - 22

3. Review: We are discussing sin. In our last lesson, covering SC questions 13, 14, and 15, we learned that Adam & Eve fell from the estate of innocence wherein they were created, by sinning against God. We defined sin as any want of conformity unto, or transgression of the Law of God. Man, created by God with a will, had the capability to do both good and evil. After the fall, man can do no good in the sight of God, and has the will only to do evil, until saved. While the act of A&E's sin was eating of the forbidden fruit, the actual sin was disobedience to God, among others.

4. Introduction: This lesson will continue our discussion of sin, covering SC questions 16 through 19. These questions cover the inclusion of all mankind in Adam's first sin, and where this sin by our first parents has left us.

5. Questions:

Question 16: **Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?**

Answer: **The covenant, being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.**

Question 17: **Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?**

Answer: **The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.**

Question 18: **Wherein consist the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?**

Answer: **The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin, together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.**

Question 19: **What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell?**

Answer: **All mankind by their fall lost communion with God, are under his wrath and curse, and so made liable to all the miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.**

6. ALL MANKINDS FALL

- a. **“The covenant, being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity” What is meant by this phrase?**

That God’s original covenant of works made with Adam, not only applied to Adam but to all mankind.

- b. **How is it that man is held responsible for the sins of Adam & Eve?**

1. **(Rom 5: 12 – 19) *“(12)Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, an death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (13)(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. (14)Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adams transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. (15)But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. (16)and not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgement was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. (17)For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ..) (18)Therefore as by the offence of one judgement come upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. (19) For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”)***

2. Romans 5: 12 notes that Adam and Eve are our first parents, and therefore, we are all their descendants by natural generation, so all that proceed from them are conceived and born in sin. Man born with a sinful nature. **(Gen 5:3 “And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called him Seth.”)**

This includes the sin nature, as when God created man **(Gen 1:27)**

3. and Rom 5:19 notes that all mankind is guilty in Adam’s first sin by imputation (association), just as the righteousness of Christ (the second Adam) is

imputed to all the spiritual seed, (all believers), so the sin of the first Adam is imputed to all the natural seed which came from him.

4. Because the covenant of works, where life was promised upon condition of obedience, was made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity, therefore, had Adam not sinned, all his generations would have stood with him, but as he sinned, they all fell with him.
5. God created Adam, and God is perfect in all ways, therefore his selection of Adam as our representative was just.

The WCF, c6p3 says, *“They (our first parents) being the root of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed, and the same death in sin and corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation.”*

c. What is meant by “descending from him by ordinary generation”?

1. Those men descending from Adam by normal reproductive methods.
2. How many men have descended from Adam by other than normal reproductive methods?

Only Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the action of the Holy Ghost to a virgin. **(Matt 1:18 ^{“(18)}Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.”)**

3. Jesus Christ is perfectly free from both original and actual sin. **(Heb 7:26 “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens**

7. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

- a. This is question 23 in the LC. The SC and LC questions are identical, as are the answers.
- b. As per question 17, the fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery. **(Rom 5:12)**

8. Wherein consists the sinfulness of man?

- a. What are the types of sin which denote the sinfulness of man’s estate
 1. Original Sin
 2. actual sin (transgressions)

- b. What is original sin? That sin which man inherited from Adam. Not just the eating of the forbidden fruit, but the entire sinful nature resulting from Adam's rebellion. It is the sin debt we inherit at birth.

SC q18 says original sin consists of the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature.

1. The guilt of Adam's first sin.. As discussed above all mankind fell with Adam.
2. The want of original righteousness

a) Man's lack of true spiritual knowledge in the mind. **(1 Cor 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.")**

b) discussion of the first sin last lesson. God created Adam with the will to do good and evil, and be influenced by Satan. **(Rom 7:18 "for I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me: but how to perform that which is good I find not.")**

3. Corruption of his whole nature.

a) The universal depravation which is in every part of man since the fall. Since the fall, the will to do evil only.

(Titus 1:15 "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.")

b) Is God the creator of man's corruption? No, God can create no evil, and though he withholds original righteousness, he does not infuse original corruption.

4. This is the sin debt we are born with, our original sin.

- c. Actual transgressions – What are actual transgressions?

1. Where do all actual transgressions stem from?

Original sin. WCF, c6p4 says, *"From the original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions."*

2. Does the sinful nature remain in the elect?

WCF c6p5 says, *“This corruption of nature, during this life doth remain in those that are regenerated; and although it be, through Christ, pardoned and mortified, yet both itself and all the motions thereof are truly and properly sin.”*

Even though we receive God’s grace, we are still sinful man.

9. What is the misery of man?

- a. What did man lose from the fall.

Communion with God. **(Gen 3: 8, 10, 24 “⁽⁸⁾And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. ⁽¹⁰⁾And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. ⁽²⁴⁾So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”)**

- b. What are the results of this loss of communion with God?

God’s wrath and curse. God’s punishment.

- e. What punishment is man subject to because of the fall.

1. Misery in this life, to death itself
2. Pains of hell forever

- f. miseries of this life. The answer to LC q28 says, *“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.”* **(Ezek 5:17 “So will I send upon you famine and evil beasts, and they shall berave thee; and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee; and I will bring the sword upon thee. I the Lord have spoken.”)**

INTERNAL and SPIRITUAL

1. to be lead by the devil
2. hardness of heart
3. blindness of the mind
4. vile actions
5. distress and perplexity of mind, dread, and horror of spirit

EXTERNAL

1. Calamities
2. Pestilence
3. sickness
4. famine
5. sword

6. And finally, DEATH ITSELF (**Rom 6:23** *“The wages of sin is death”*)

g. What punishment is due man for sin after his death?

1. SC q19 simply ends with, *“the pains of hell forever.”* (**Matt 25:41, 46** ⁽⁴¹⁾*Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁽⁴⁶⁾And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”*)

2. What are the pains of hell forever?

- a) punishment of loss of God’s presence forever.
- b) shutting out of heaven
- c) horror and anguish of torment in hell forever.

3, LC, Question 29 asks “What are the punishments of sin in the world to come?”

It answers, *“The punishments of sin in the world to come are everlasting separation from the comfortable presence of God, and most grievous torments in soul and body, without intermission, in hell-fire for ever.”*

h. And WCF, c6p6 ends the chapter on The fall of man with this, *“Every sin, both original and actual, being a transgression of the righteous law of God, and contrary thereunto, doth, in its own nature, bring guilt upon the sinner; whereby he is bound over to the wrath of God, and curse of the law, and so made subject to death, with all miseries spiritual, temporal, and eternal.”*

10. Next lesson we will get into the good news.