

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH SHORTER CATECHISM

LESSON # 15 (Q2LES2) - GIFT OF REDEMPTION QUESTIONS# 21, & 22

1. Prayer

2. Bible reading: Romans 5

3. Review: In the last lessons, we began our study of redemption, with a study of God's second covenant, the covenant of grace. We learned that God entered into the covenant of grace with mankind after Adam and Eve's fall left us in an estate of sin and misery, without any chance of salvation. God's covenant of grace has always been the same, requiring faith in Jesus Christ as the rule of acceptance. However, it was administered in differently in Old Testament times than in New Testament times. For our faith, God has agreed to provide us with a redeemer.

4. Introduction: In this lesson we will begin our discussion of the foundation of the covenant of grace, God's redeemer. Who is this redeemer who is both God and man? Where did He come from. What does God's Word tell us of Him. Today we will discuss SC q's 21 and 22.

5. Questions

Question 21: **Who is the redeemer of God's elect?**

Answer: **The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.**

Question 22: **How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?**

Answer: **Christ, the Son of God, became man by, taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.**

6. The WCF, LC, and SC

The WCF contains a rather lengthy chapter on Christ the Mediator. It covers the material contained in SC questions 21 through 30. The WCF and the LC use the term "Mediator" instead of the term "Redeemer" used in the SC. The LC has two

questions equivalent to SC questions 21 and 22, LC q's 36 and 37. The LC contains an additional 5 questions which provide further information on Christ, our redeemer.

7. The Redeemer of God's elect?

- a. Who is the redeemer of God's elect? (SCq21)

Lord Jesus Christ. The WCF, c8p1 says in part, *"It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man,..."* (John 3:16 ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."***)

- b. The answers to both SC q21 and LC q36 begin with a statement that Christ is "the only" Redeemer/Mediator. Can there only be one way to salvation?

Yes. WCF c8p2 says, in part, *"Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5 ***"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"***)"*

God is telling us "My way or the highway". Christ is our only route to salvation.

- c. The WCF, SC q21 and LC q36 all note that Jesus Christ is the son of God. LC q36 adds, *"of one substance and equal with the Father"*. How is it that Christ and God are one and the same, yet God is the Father, Jesus the Son?

God's Word says so. In a previous lesson, we discussed SC q6 which asks, *"How many persons are there in the Godhead?"* It answers, *"There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory."* (John 1:1 ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."***)

- d. Why was it required that the redeemer be God? This is Q 38 of the LC.

- 1) That he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death. (Acts 2: 24 – 25 ***"⁽²⁴⁾Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it..⁽²⁵⁾For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:"***)
- 2) Give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience and intercession. (Heb 7: 26 – 27 ***"⁽²⁶⁾For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; ⁽²⁷⁾Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice,***

first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”)

- 3) Satisfy God's justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, and give his Spirit to them. (Rom 3: 24 – 26 ^{“(24)”}*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ: ⁽²⁵⁾Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; ⁽²⁶⁾To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”)*
- 4) Conquer all their enemies (Luke 1: 71, 74 ^{“(71)”}*That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; ⁽⁷⁴⁾That he would grant unto us, that we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,”)*
- 5) Bring them to everlasting salvation. (Heb 5: 8 – 9 ^{“(8)”}*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁽⁹⁾And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”)*

e. Why was it required that the redeemer be Man? This is Q39 of the LC.

- 1) That He might advance our nature. (Heb 2:16 *“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.”*)
- 2) Perform obedience to the law perfectly. (Gal 4:4 *“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”*)
- 3) That he could suffer death for them (as God he could not). (Heb 2:14 *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”*)
- 4) Have a feeling of our infirmities. (Heb 4:15 *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*)
- 5) We might receive the adoption of sons. (Gal 4:5 *“To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*)
- 6) Have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace. (Heb 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*)

f. Why was it required that Christ be God and man, in one person? (LC Q40)

- 1) LC Q40- “It was requisite that the Mediator, who was to reconcile God and man, should himself be both God and man, and this in one person, that the proper works of each nature might be accepted of God for us, (Heb 9:14 *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from*

dead works to serve the living God.”) and relied on by us, as the works of the whole person. (1 Pet 2:6 “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay I Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”)

- 2) He could not have performed, as man, perfectly as required under the covenant of works. (held up under God’s wrath)
- 3) Sufferings would have been finite, extent, and so could not have made satisfaction to God’s infinite justice, which is offended by sin.

g. Will this union of the divine and human natures of man ever be dissolved?

No. (Heb 7:28 “⁽²⁸⁾**For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmities; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.”)**

8. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

a. By taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul.

1) What is meant by a true body?

A body like ours. (Heb 10:5 “**Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.”)**

2) What is meant by a reasonable soul?

A real and rational soul (divine nature did not supply the place of his soul.) (Isaiah 53:10 “... **when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin,...**” and Matt 26:38 “**Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here and watch with me.**”)

Jesus, when faced with his imminent death, had a human soul which, faced with the crucifixion, was sorrowful.

3) The WCF, c8p2 says, in part, “*The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon Him a man’s nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof,...*”

b. Was Christ’s conception and birth like man’s?

- 1) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost. (**Matt 1:18** *“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.”*)
- 2) He was born of a virgin. (**Luke 1: 26 - 27** ^{“(26)} *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ⁽²⁷⁾to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.”*)

The WCF, c8p2 says, in part, *“being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance.”*

Remember SC q16 says, *“The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity, descending from him by ordinary generation.”* Jesus is the one exception.

c. Was Christ born into sin like other man?

- 1) No, While he had mans nature, and many human infirmities, he was free from sin. (He had to be to fulfill his covenant of grace with God.)
- 2) The WCF, LC and SC all emphasize that Christ was born without sin. (**Heb 4:15** *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*)

9. Our Redeemer

Our Redeemer, or Mediator, is the Son of God, Jesus Christ , and Jesus Christ alone. He is both God and man, as is required that he might fulfill the requirements of the covenant of grace. In the next lesson we will look at the offices which Christ fills, as our Redeemer.