

**Christ Presbyterian Church**

**Officer's Training**

Lesson #4

# AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION OF FAITH

## Lesson #4

### Chapter VI: Of The Fall of Man, Of Sin, And Of the Punishment Thereof

#### Introduction: (see Chapter IV, ii, “Of Creation”)

Adam and Eve as created were holy and happy, but they were created with the possibility of sinning.

The probationary commandment of God was that they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil upon pain of death.

#### VI: i, ii

The Fall of Adam and Eve (*Genesis 3:1-19*)

##### A. They sinned.

1. They were tempted by Satan. (*II Corinthians 11:3*)
2. It was their will to sin.
3. They ate the forbidden fruit.
  - a. Thus disobeying God’s Commandment
  - b. Thus setting themselves up as gods
4. The immediate consequence of their sin. (*Genesis 2:17*)
  - a. Fell from righteousness
  - b. Cut off from God
  - c. Became dead, in sin (*Romans 5:12*)
  - d. Totally defiled (*Romans 3:10-19*)

#### VI: iii, iv

The Far-reaching Consequences of Their Fall:

##### A. All mankind fell.

1. Adam was representative and physical head of the race. (*Acts 17:26*)
2. Thus guilt was imputed to all. (*Romans 5:12-19; II Corinthians 15:21, 22*)
3. Thus corruption was inherited by all. (*Psalms 51:5; John 3:6*)

##### B. We are born in sin. (*Romans 7:18; 8:7; Ephesians 2:1-5*)

1. “Disabled”
2. “Opposite to all good”
3. “Wholly inclined to evil”

##### C. From this original corruption come all actual sins. (*James 1:14, 15; Matthew 15:19*)

#### VI: v, vi

The Permanent Consequences of Our Sin:

##### A. The saved also sin. (*Romans 7:15-25; I John 1:8-10*)

1. The corrupt nature remains.
2. Pardoned and sanctified through Christ.
3. But sin is still active.

##### B. The guilt of original and actual sin deserves the wrath of God now and forever. (*Galatians 3:10; Matthew 25:41; II Thessalonians 1:7-9*)

## Lesson #4

### Chapter VII: Of God's Covenant With Man

#### Introduction:

The whole theology of the Westminster Confession comes from this chapter. We call it Covenant or Federal Theology.

#### VII: i

The Necessity of God's Covenant:

- A. Man is under obligation to his Creator.
- B. God is never to be under obligation to His creatures. (Creatures are those beings which are created.)
- C. In fact, the distance separating creature from creator is so enormous that man can never enjoy God's blessings. (*Isaiah 55:9*)
- D. We cannot enjoy God unless God were to lower Himself to our level.
- E. God has lowered Himself and made covenant with us men.

"Even if a man could say that he had done all the will of God, he would still be an unprofitable servant, having done only what it was his duty to do!" (*Luke 17:10*)

#### VII: ii

The Covenant of Works (or Life):

- A. Parties - Adam, as the representative of all mankind. (*Romans 5:12, 19; I Corinthians 15:22, 47*)
- B. Conditions - "Perfect and personal obedience." (*Genesis 2:16, 17*)
- C. Promise - "Life"
- D. Penalty - "Death"

#### VII: iii

The Covenant of Grace:

- A. Parties - Jesus Christ as the representative of all elect sinners. (*II Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 1:4*)  
Larger Catechism Question 31: "With whom was the covenant of grace made?  
Answer: "The covenant of grace was made with Christ as the second Adam, and in him with all the elect as his seed." However, a free offer of salvation is made to all sinners.
- B. Conditions
  1. The perfect obedience of sinners is done for us by God's Son.
  2. Faith in Christ as sin-bearer is done in by God's Holy Spirit. (*Ezekiel 36:26, 27; John 3:5-8*)
- C. Promises  
Holy Spirit is promised to the elect for faith and righteousness and eternal salvation.
- D. This Covenant went into effect immediately after the Fall.

#### VII: iv, v, vi

The Covenant of Grace Continued:

- A. This covenant called a testament or a will. Christ left this salvation upon His death.
- B. This covenant has been administered in different ways.
  1. Time of law.
  2. Under the gospel.
- C. There is One Covenant only and salvation has always been of grace by Jesus Christ.

## Lesson #4

**ASSIGNMENT:**

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith,  
Read: Chapters VI and VII.  
Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 53-68
2. The Book of Church Order of the P.C.A.  
Read: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. Besides the law of God written in their hearts, our first parents received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which while they kept it, they were happy in their communion with God (WCF, IV/II). Did our first parents keep this command and remain holy and happy? (WCF, VI/I)       Yes     No
2. Who seduced our first parents by subtlety and temptation to sin? (WCF, VI/I) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was pleased to permit their sin having purposed to order it to His own glory? (WCF, VI/I)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is the record of Genesis 3 historical, or symbolic, or mythical? (GIW, pg 53) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Into what condition did this sin bring Adam and Eve? (WCF, VI/II)  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_
6. What do we mean by man's "total depravity"? (GIW, pg 55) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When we speak of "total depravity" do we mean that man's nature is so sinful in degree that nothing "human" remains, and that he is unmixed evil, and is as bad as it is possible to be? (GIW, pg 55)       Yes     No
8. Is "every thought of the intent of (man's) heart only evil continually"? (*Genesis 6:5*) (GIW, pg 55)  
 Yes     No

**Lesson #4, Questions continued:**

9. What is the condition of all mankind who descend from Adam and Eve by ordinary generation? (WCF, VI/III)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What two words express the condition into which we were all brought by the Fall? (WCF, VI/IV) \_\_\_\_\_

11. State the basic facts concerning our lost condition. (GIW, pg 56f)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

12. How can it be that I sinned in Adam when I did not even exist yet? (GIW, pg 57)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

13. From whence proceed all actual transgressions? (WCF, VI/IV) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Does this corruption of nature remain during this life in those that are regenerated (born again)? (WCF, VI/V)  Yes  No

15. What is a transgression of the law of God? (*I John 3:4*) (WCF, VI/VI)

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16. What do original sin and actual sin bring on the sinner? (WCF, VI/VI)

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\_\_\_\_\_

17. What two errors are ruled out in WCF, VI/V and VI? (GIW, pg 59, 60)

\_\_\_\_\_

18. What one word expresses how God has condescended to enter into a relation of blessing for sinners? (WCF, VII/I) \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson #4, Questions continued:**

19. What was the first covenant God made with man? What was the promise to Adam and his posterity? What was the only condition? (WCF, VII/II)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

20. Is fallen man capable of life by the first covenant? (WCF, VII/III)  Yes  No

21. What does the Lord in the second covenant, commonly called the Covenant of Grace, (1) freely offer to sinners, (2) require, (3) promise to give? (WCF, VII/III)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

22. There are different administrations (dispensations) in the time of the law and under the Gospel of the covenant. Are we therefore to conclude that there are two (or more) covenants of grace?

(WCF, VII/V, VI)  Yes  No

23. What is the basic error of “dispensationalism”? (GIW, pg 66) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

24. Are there different grades of Elders or do Ruling and Teaching Elders possess the same authority, etc.? (BCO, 8-1, 8-9) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

25. All Elders are called to work, not just to meet. Summarize the work of the Elder. (BCO, 8-3)

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

26. What special work is given to the Teaching Elder? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson #4, Questions continued:**

27. Summarize the work of the Deacon: (BCO, 9-2) \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

28. Under whose supervision and authority are the Deacons to discharge their duties and to whom shall they regularly submit their minutes? (BCO, 9-2, 9-4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

29. Is the office of Deacon spiritual in nature? (BCO, 9-3)       Yes    No

30. Is the Pastor a member of the board of Deacons? (BCO, 9-4)       Yes    No

31. May Deacons be appointed by the higher courts to serve on committees? (BCO, 9-5)  
 Yes    No

32. What are the courts of the church and who alone are members of these courts? (BCO, 10-1, 10-2)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

33. Do these assemblies have jurisdiction in political or civil affairs? (BCO, 11-1)    Yes    No

34. Give the three boundaries of the ministerial and declarative jurisdiction of church courts. (BCO,11-2)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

35. Does each court exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over all matters specially belonging to it? (BCO, 11-4)       Yes    No