

Christ Presbyterian Church

Officer's Training

Lesson #6

AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Lesson #6

Chapter X: Of Effectual Calling

Introduction:

Before this chapter, the WCF has taught salvation from the standpoint of what God has done for us. Now we begin to look at salvation from the standpoint of what God does in us. It must also be applied to or in us.

X: i. ii

God's Effective Call to Sinner: (New birth)

- A. Who is called? All the elect are called. (*Romans 11:7; 8:30; II Thessalonians 2:13, 14*)
- B. When? In God's "appointed and accepted time."
- C. Who calls men? The Holy Spirit only. Through the Word the Spirit makes those who were dead come alive. (*II Timothy 1:9; Romans 9:11; I Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:5*)
- D. The Effect of the Spirit's Call.
 1. Men come out of sin and death (*Romans 8:2*)
 2. Men come into grace and salvation
 - a. Spiritually enlightened (*Acts 26:18*)
 - b. New heart (*Ezekiel 36:26*)
 - c. Renewed wills (*Philippians 2:13*)
 - d. Drawn to Jesus Christ
- E. The Free Agency of Man.
 1. This call is God's sovereign work of grace
 2. Yet men come freely, made willing by God's grace (*Romans 6:16-18; John 6:37*)
*I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew,
He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me;
It was not I that found, O Saviour true;
No, I was found of Thee.*

X: iii

The Salvation of Infants and Incapables.

- A. Infants are born in sin and so are under the wrath of God.
- B. Infants cannot decide for Christ.
- C. Yet infants and others are saved by Christ through the sovereign, inward work of the Spirit. (*John 3:8; Acts 2:38, 39; Luke 18:15-17*)

X: iv

Others Not Saved

- A. They are not chosen (*Matthew 22:14*)
- B. They will not truly come to Christ.
- C. They may hear the call of the Bible. (*Matthew 13:20, 21*)
- D. They may have the Spirit deal with them. (*Hebrews 6:4-6; Matthew 7:22, 23*)
- E. They may not profess to be Christians or even know of Christ. (*Acts 4:12; John 17:3; II John 9-11*)

Lesson #6

Chapter XI: Of Justification

Introduction:

This doctrine reveals the mystery of how God can remain just, and yet save sinners. The Shorter Catechism has the best definition of this doctrine in Question 33: “Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein He pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone.”

XI: i, ii

How we are justified by God.

- A. Justify - to declare “not guilty.” This is a legal court-room term. (*Romans 8:30*)
- B. We are pardoned by God because the satisfaction of Christ is imputed (accounted) to us. (*Romans 3:20-26; Galatians 3:13*)
- C. We are accepted as righteous because the obedience of Christ is imputed (accounted) to us. (*Romans 4:3-8; Galatians 3:6, 7*)
- D. This is not:
 - 1. Infused righteousness. (*Romans 4:22-25*)
 - 2. Not because of anything we have done or will do. (*Galatians 3:11*)
- E. This is for Christ’s sake only. (*Romans 3:24; 4:22-25*)
- F. The instrument of justification is faith (which is a gift from God). (*Romans 3:28; Philippians 3:9; Ephesians 2:8*)
- G. This is not dead faith. It produces good works. (*James 2:17, 22, 26*)

XI: iii, iv, v, vi

- A. Christ’s work is the basis for our justification. (*1 Peter 3:18*)
- B. This was all out of free grace. (*Romans 3:24*)
- C. These are three aspects of justification:
 - 1. Eternally decreed by the Father.
 - 2. Historically accomplished by the Son.
 - 3. Presently applied by the Holy Spirit.
- D. This forgiveness is now and forever. (*1 John 2:1; Philippians 1:6; John 1:28*)
- E. Yet sin may break fellowship with God (though not our relationship). (*1 Corinthians 11:30-32*)
- F. Justification the same for believers in all ages. (*Hebrews 11:13; Acts 15:11; Romans 4*)

Lesson #6

ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith,
Read: Chapters X, and XI
Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 88-110
2. The Book of Church Order of the P.C.A.
Read: Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Who only are effectually called by God out of sin and death to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ? (WCF, X/I)

2. By what means does God effectually call? (1) _____

(2) _____

3. What does God do in sinners when He effectually calls them to salvation? (WCF, X/I) (1)

_____ (2) _____

(3) _____ (4) _____

_____ (5) _____

4. Do they come freely? (WCF, X/I) Yes No If "yes", then how? _____

5. Is this effectual call a matter of cooperation between God and man or is it wholly of God and His free grace? (WCF, X/II) _____

6. List the seven steps of the "ordo salutis" as given by G. I. Williamson (GIW, pg 88):

(1) _____ (5) _____

(2) _____ (6) _____

(3) _____ (7) _____

(4) _____

7. To whom ought the gospel to be preached? (GIW, pg 89) Circle one:

(1) Some people (2) The elect (3) All people (4) North Americans

Lesson #6, Questions continued:

8. How is the effectual saving call of God different from the general outward call of preachers, teachers, parents, etc.? (GIW, pg 90) _____

9. Are all elect infants dying in infancy and all other elect persons who are incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the Word regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit? (WCF, X/III) Yes No
10. Why is it that others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, cannot be saved? (WCF, X/IV) _____

11. Is God sincere when He in the Gospel calls all people to come and be saved? (GIW, pg 93)
 Yes No Explain: _____

12. Can those who never hear the Gospel be saved through their own religion? Yes No
(WCF, X/IV; GIW pg 94f)
13. How does God freely justify sinners? (WCF, XI/I) Circle True or False
- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|
| (1) By infusing righteousness into them? | True | False |
| (2) By pardoning their sins for Christ's sake alone? | True | False |
| (3) By accounting and accepting them as righteous not for anything, wrought in them or done by them? | True | False |
| (4) By imputing faith itself to them? | True | False |
| (5) By imputing the obedience and satisfaction of Christ to them? | True | False |
14. Is faith the gift of God? (WCF, XI/I) Yes No
15. What is the only instrument of justification? (WCF, XI/II) _____

16. Does faith work? (WCF, XI/II) Yes No If so, how? _____

17. Is God just when He justifies (declares not guilty) those who are guilty sinners? (WCF, XI/III)
 Yes No

Lesson #6, Questions continued:

18. When those who are justified commit sin, do they fall under God's fatherly displeasure?

(WCF, XI/V) Yes No If so, how can they be restored?

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

19. Was justification of believers under the Old Testament in all these respects, one and the same with the justification of believers under the New Testament? (WCF, XI/VI)

Yes No

20. What three elements make up the calling of God by the Spirit to office in the Church?

(BCO, 16-1) (1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

21. Is it the inalienable right of God's people to elect to office those gifted by God? (BCO, 16-2)

Yes No

22. What is the essence of ordination? (BCO, 17-2) _____

23. Must a candidate for the ministry become a member of a congregation in the PCA? (BCO, 18-8)

Yes No

24. Who may be licensed for the purpose of regularly preaching the word? (BCO, 19-1)

(1) _____ (3) _____

(2) _____ (4) _____

25. What is internship? (BCO, 19-7) _____

26. Must a candidate or licentiate receive a call to a definite work before he can be ordained? (BCO, 20-1) Yes No

27. Who ordinarily signs the Pastor's call unless others are designated to do so? (BCO, 20-5; 20-7)

28. What does the congregation affirm when a Pastor is ordained and/or installed? (BCO, 21-6; 21-10) _____