

**Christ Presbyterian Church**

**Officer's Training**

Lesson #7

# AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

## Lesson #7

### Chapter XII: Of Adoption

#### Introduction:

The Doctrine of Adoption belongs to Columbia Theological Seminary and the Southern Presbyterian Church in a special way. The only book exclusively devoted to the Doctrine of Adoption in all of Christendom was written by the late R. A. Webb, former professor at Columbia and Austin seminaries.

Of all the great creeds of the Church, not one contains a separate statement on adoption except the Westminster Standards.

#### XII: i

The Grace of Adoption (*Galatians 4:4, 5*)

- A. Those justified are also adopted. (*Ephesians 1:5*)
- B. They become children. (*John 1:12*)
- C. They have God's name and Spirit. (*Romans 8:15*)
- D. God becomes our Father. (*Galatians 4:6; Psalms 103:13; Hebrews 12:6*)
- E. They are never disinherited but have a great inheritance. (*Hebrews 6:12; 13:5*)

## Lesson #7

### Chapter XIII: Of Sanctification

#### Introduction:

The Shorter Catechism has an excellent definition of sanctification in Question 35: “Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.”

XIII: i, ii, iii

#### The Grace of Sanctification

- A. Those called and born again are also sanctified. (*II Thessalonians 2:13*)
- B. Sanctification happens within us. (Infused grace.) (*Ezekiel 36:27*)
- C. We die to sin. (*Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:5*)  
A radical break with sin. (*Romans 6:14*)
- D. We live unto holiness. (*Colossians 1:11; Ephesians 3:16*)
- E. This work of God is throughout the whole man. (*I Thessalonians 5:23*)
- F. Sanctification is never perfect. (*I John 1:10; Philippians 3:12*)
- G. A war rages in believers. (*Romans 7:23; Galatians 5:17*)
- H. Believers do make progress. (*I John 5:4; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18*)

## Lesson #7

### Chapter XIV: Of Saving Faith

XIV: i, ii, iii

#### The Grace of Faith

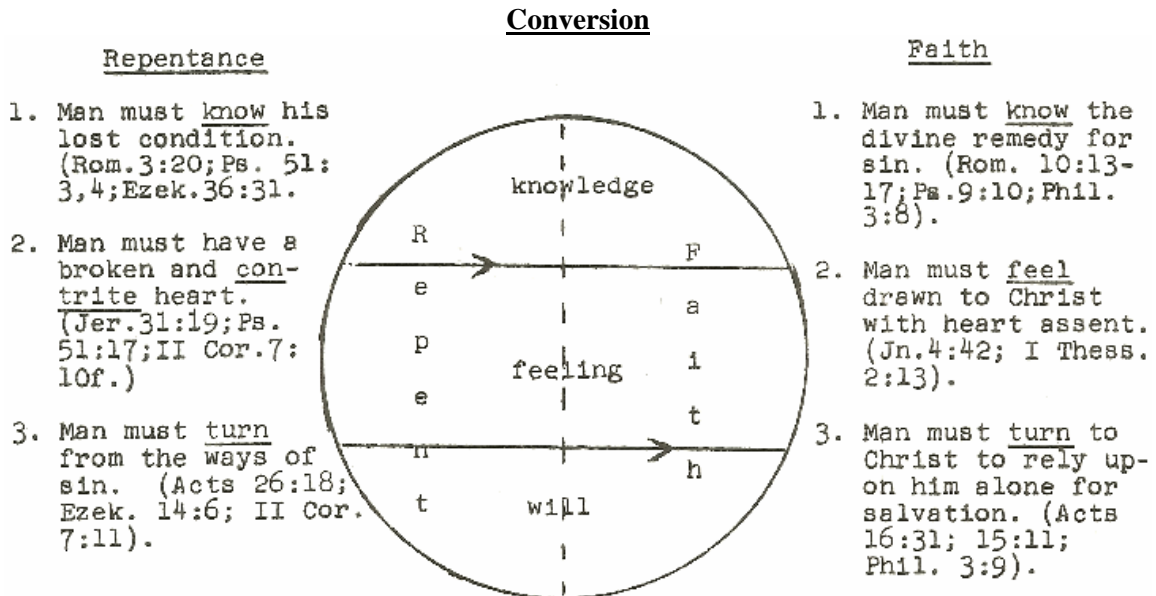
- A. Faith is a work of the Spirit of Christ in the elect. (*I Corinthians 12:3; Ephesians 2:8,9; Hebrews 12:2*)
  1. The Spirit works through preaching the Bible. (*Romans 10:14-17*)
  2. This work of the Spirit is strengthened by the sacraments and prayer. (*I Peter 2:2; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-29; II Corinthians 12:8-10*)
- B. What faith is
  1. By faith a Christian:
    - a. Believes what God says is true. (*I Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 24:14*)
    - b. Obeys God's commands, warnings, and promises.
  2. Faith is "accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone." (*John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Galatians 2:20*)
- C. Weak and strong faith
  1. Even though it may be weak, faith gets the victory. (*Luke 22:31; I Corinthians 10:13*)
  2. Faith should grow into full assurance. (*Hebrews 6:11, 12; 10:22; II Timothy 1:12; I John 5:9-13*)

**Lesson #7**  
**Chapter XV: Of Repentance Unto Life**

XV: i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi

The Grace of Repentance (*Acts 11:18*)

- A. A man must know how terrible a sinner he is. (*Ezekiel 36:31; Psalms 51:4*)
- B. He must grieve for and hate his sins. (*II Corinthians 7:11; Genesis 13:18, 19*)
- C. He must turn from his sins to God. (*Ezekiel 18:30, 31; Luke 1:6*)
- D. Necessity of repentance
  - 1. Repentance is not the cause of pardon. (*Titus 3:5; Acts 5:31*)
  - 2. No one can expect pardon without repentance. (*Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 17:30*)
  - 3. All who repent will not be damned though the smallest sin deserves this. (*Matthew 12:36; James 2:10-13; Revelation 21:8*)
- E. Repentance should be specific. (*Luke 19:8*)
- F. Confession
  - 1. Private confession to God. (*Psalms 51:4-9, 14*)
  - 2. Public confession to all those whom you have wronged. (*Joshua 7:19; James 5:16; Luke 17:3, 4*)



(The dotted line indicates that there is no hard and fast break between repentance and faith.)

## Lesson #7

### ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith,  
Read: Chapters XII, XIII, XIV, and XV.  
Read: G.I. Williamson, pages 111-119 (96-102).
2. The Book of Church Order of the P.C.A.,  
Read: Chapters 24, 25, 26.

### ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What are the benefits of adoption? (WCF, XII/I) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are God's children ever chastened by Him as by a father? (WCF, XII/I)     Yes     No
3. God is the creator of all men but is He the Father of all men? (GIW, pg 111-112)  Yes     No
4. Is sanctification a completed work in the sense that the dominion of sin is destroyed in those who are sanctified? (WCF, XIII/I)     Yes     No
5. Does sanctification mean that the believer is or may become sinless; or is it progressive with sin more and more weakened and mortified, and the believer imperfectly sanctified in this life? (WCF, XIII/I, II)     Yes     No
6. Does sanctification result in the practice of true holiness, and in overcoming the enemies of righteousness? (WCF, XIII/I, III)     Yes     No
7. May anyone ever be justified without also at the same time having victory over the dominion of sin in sanctification? (GIW, pg 114, 115)     Yes     No
8. What is the relationship between God's work and man's work in sanctification? (GIW, pg 115,116)  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Who enables the elect to believe to the saving of their souls, and what instrument is used? (WCF, XIV/I)

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

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

### Lesson #7, Questions continued:

10. By what instruments (or means) is faith increased and strengthened? (WCF, XIV/I) (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_
11. What are the principle acts of faith? (WCF, XIV/II) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
12. May faith be weak and also grow up to full assurance? (WCF, XIV/III)  Yes  No
13. What is repentance and should it be preached? (WCF, XV/I, II)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Does repentance satisfy for our sins or cause God to pardon our sins? (WCF, XV/III)  
 Yes  No
15. May any expect pardon without repentance? (WCF, XV/III)  Yes  No
16. What does it mean to repent of particular sins particularly? (WCF, XV/V) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
17. What are the two phases or parts of conversion? (GIW, pg 97)  
 (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 May they be separated?  Yes  No
18. What are the three essential elements in conversion? (GIW, pg 98)  
 (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_
19. Compare private and public confession of sins. (WCF, XV/VI; GIW, pg 101)  
 (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) \_\_\_\_\_
20. What is our primary duty in regard to sin? (GIW, pg 102) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Lesson #7, Questions continued:**

21. What manner is every church to follow in electing Ruling Elders and Deacons? (BCO, 24-1)

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Is the ordination and installation of church officers to follow a sermon? (BCO, 24-5)

Yes  No

23. Must church officers affirm the Scriptures to be the inerrant word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice? (BCO, 24-5)  Yes  No

24. What limitations are placed on trustees of a church? (BCO, 25-6; 25-7)

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

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

25. Does any superior (or higher) court of the Church have any claim whatsoever on any property of any particular church? (BCO, 25-8)  Yes  No

26. If a congregation chooses to withdraw from the P.C.A., will the denomination ever attempt to secure possession of the congregation? (BCO, 25-10)  Yes  No

27. When may a particular church withdraw, and for what reasons, from any court of the P.C.A.? (BCO, 12-11) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

28. How may the Book of Church Order, the Confession of Faith, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms be amended and how may union with any other ecclesiastic body be effected?

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

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

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