

Presbyterianism 101

Officer Preparation & Christian Enrichment

Review WCF 1-6

- **Scripture;**
- **God: the Holy Trinity;**
- **God's Decree;**
- **Creation;**
- **Providence;**

What is the Condition of Mankind?

- **People are basically good;** those people who do not “act good” can be “rehabilitated” through education and training (e.g. prison, etc.)
- **People are totally depraved and corrupt;** exhibited in celebrations of humanity instead of the Creator

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

Our first parents, being seduced by the subtilty and temptation of Satan, sinned, in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin God was pleased, according to His wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to His own glory.

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

• **Summary**

- Two Real People are the basis of all mankind
- Genesis 3 is an historical account, not mythical, allegorical, etc.
- The First Sin was foreordained by God

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

• **Mankind's original state not permanent**

- Probationary period for man & angels
- Reward of obedience: eternal life, permanent state of blessedness, holiness

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

• The Specific Sin

- Forbidden from eating from a certain tree
- Tempted by Satan's Subtlety
 - *What is Temptation?*
 - *How was Satan subtle (or crafty)?*

Genesis 3:1-5, *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

• The Specific Sin

- Forbidden from eating from a certain tree
- Tempted by Satan's Subtlety
- Original Sin rooted more deeply than food
- Particular sin did not originate in any *overtly* wicked desire, but a corruption of good

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

• **Enticed to Sin**

- Adam and Eve not naive simpletons, but very well-qualified representatives of all humanity
- Adam and Eve had great potential for success in their probationary period

Original Sin, God's Glory (6:1)

• **God's Glory**

- God knew Adam would fall
- God neither caused, nor approved Adam's sin, but forbade and "dis-incentivized" it
- God permitted and purposed the Fall for His own glory (justice & grace)

Consequences of Sin for Adam, Eve (6:2)

By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion, with God, and so became dead in sin, and wholly defiled in all the parts and faculties of soul and body.

Consequences of Sin for Adam, Eve (6:2)

• **Summary**

- Lost Communion with God
- Fell under God's Wrath & Curse
- Humanity totally depraved

Consequences of Sin for Adam, Eve (6:2)

• **Communion & Righteousness Lost**

- God is the source of Spiritual life:
- Sin is followed by death
- No longer righteous before God
- Dominated by anger, doubt, excuses rather than love

Consequences of Sin for Adam, Eve (6:2)

• **Morally Defiled and Corrupt**

- Every part, including (especially!) the mind, is defiled, disabled, and depraved
- Humanity is *not* as bad as possible, but has no inclination to obey: Extent vs. Degree
- Conscience condemns, but people seek approval, crave approval

Consequences of Sin for Humanity (6:3)

They 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.

Consequences of Sin for Humanity (6:4)

From this 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.

Consequences of Sin for Humanity (6:3-4)

• **Summary**

- Why humanity is totally depraved
- Actual transgressions and total depravity

Consequences of Sin for Humanity (6:3-4)

- **Facts of Fall** (cf. GI Williamson, p. 74)
 - Adam sinned, fell becomes totally depraved
 - In Adam, we sinned and fell becoming totally depraved
 - We are born in sin and are evil from our youth
 - Death reigns over all

Rom 5:12-14, *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

Consequences of Sin for Humanity (6:3)

- **Adam: the Federal Head**
 - In covenant with God, representatives for all mankind;
 - Adam is a “public person” in whom all humanity stands are falls
 - God ordains life by means of representation

Consequences of Sin for Humanity (6:4)

- **Consequences Imputed:** all his children separated from God, Holy Spirit withdrawn
- **Innate Moral Depravity**
 - Sin flows from within, unlike Adam & Eve
 - Naturally opposed to what is good
 - Fundamentally, naturally corrupted

Remaining Corruption in Xns (6:5)

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.

Remaining Corruption in Xns (6:5)

- **Summary**
 - Depravity remains although pardoned and under attack
 - Innate Depravity *and* the acts flowing from it are sin

Remaining Corruption in Xns (6:5)

• **Sin influences all people, even the redeemed**

- The New Birth alone can free someone from sin's dominion
- Burden for what we have done as well as what we are

Remaining Corruption in Xns (6:5)

• **All of Christian Life is a Battle**

- Christian must be continually watchful against sin, lest s/he fall into sin
- Satan's defeat of our First Parents should warn us about his strength
- Means of grace necessary for Christian life

Remaining Corruption in Xns (6:5)

• **Christians still sin!**

- Goes against our New Nature; must be continually confessed, repented of
- Tragedy of Sin
 - *Christians have strength unbelievers lack*
 - *Christians have motivation unbelievers lack*

Remaining Corruption in Xns (6:5)

• **God Disciplines His Holy Ones**

- All the troubles of believers in this life are designed for their benefit, not punishment
- Christians must still seek God's forgiveness and own the sins they commit

Sin Brings Death (6:6)

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.

Sin Brings Death (6:6)

• **What is Sin?**

- WLC 24, *Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, any law of God, given as a rule to the reasonable creature.*
- God demands perfection because He is holy
- We do not get worse than we deserve

Sin Brings Death (6:6)

- **Bodily, Spiritual, Eternal Death**

- 3 Kinds of Death; more than merely bodily
- Adam's sin ensure death meets us all
- All Adam's children are "spiritually stillborn"

Sin Brings Death (6:6)

- **Mankind is convinced he doesn't deserve death** (evidence of depravity!)

- People constantly devising reasons why sin is acceptable: further evidence of corrupted hearts and minds
- Society rapidly justifying sin testifies to total depravity

Sin Brings Death (6:6)

- **Grave Danger of Unbelief**

- Persisting in sin proves a person is not a Christian
- The Christian turns from sin: moral, sexual, social, etc.
