



**TO GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD**  
**WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM**  
**STUDY 4**

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∞ MAN'S SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES ∞

1. *Review:*

- a. What have we learned about God?
- b. What God has done is contained within His “*Decrees*”. In your own words, what is meant by this term?

**Question 13:** *Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created? A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup> Gen. 3:6,7,8,13; Eccl. 7:29.

**Question 15:** *What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created? A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup> Gen. 3:6,12.

1. “*Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will*”.
  - a. What *limits* were upon the will of Adam and Eve?
  - b. Read Gen.2:15-17 and Hosea 6:7. What *obligations* were they under and why? (Hint: look back at Q.12.)
2. “*Fell from the estate wherein they were created ... eating the forbidden fruit*”.
  - a. Read Gen.3:1-6. How did the serpent incite them to break Covenant with God?
  - b. Read Gen.3:7-8. What were the immediate consequences of their sin?

**Question 14:** *What is sin? A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.* <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup> 1 John 3:4.

1. “*The Law of God*”
  - a. How does 1 John 3:4 define sin, and how does this definition explain our parents’ first sin?
  - b. How might such a definition help you hate sin?
2. “*Want of conformity...transgression*”
  - a. What other terms might we use to describe the ways we sin?
  - b. What is God’s standard of obedience for you as a creature in Covenant with Him?

**Questions 16:** Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression? *A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.*<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Gen. 2:16,17; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21,22

1. "All mankind...sinned in him and fell with him in his first transgression"
  - a. How would you answer someone who objected that he/she "couldn't possibly be held responsible for someone else's (i.e. Adam's) sin"?
  - b. What Scriptures could you direct them to in your discussion?

**Question 17-19:**

Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? *The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.*<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Rom. 5:12

Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate wherein man fell? *A. The sinfulness of that estate wherein man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called Original Sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.*<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Rom. 5:12,19; Rom. 5:10-20; Eph. 2:1-3; James 1:14,15; Matt. 15:19

What is the misery of that estate whereinto man fell? *A. All mankind by their fall lost communion with God,<sup>(1)</sup> are under his wrath and curse,<sup>(2)</sup> and so made liable to all miseries in this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell for ever.<sup>(3)</sup>*

<sup>(1)</sup> Gen. 3:8,10,24. <sup>(2)</sup> Eph. 2:2,3; Gal. 3:10. <sup>(3)</sup> Lam. 3:39; Rom. 6:23; Matt. 25:41,46.

1. "[What] is commonly called Original Sin"
  - a. Read the catechism's definition of our *sinful* condition. Does man commit sin because he's *sinful*, or is he sinful because he *commits sin*?
  - b. What are the implications of this doctrine for such concepts as "innocent babies" and "the age of accountability"?
  - c. Look back at Catechism Q.10. How has the Fall marred the Image of God in mankind?
2. "The misery of that estate"
  - a. Read the catechism's definition of our *miserable* condition. Why is it vital to appreciate the "badness" of the bad news?

