

# Study Guide for *The Westminster Confession of Faith*

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Extra Reading for the  
course: "Building Systematic  
Theology"

ACADEMIC  
PACKET

RESOURCES FOR GROUPS  
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS



**Study Guide for *The Westminster Confession of Faith*  
Extra Reading For the Course "Building Systematic Theology"  
Third Millennium Ministries**

**Answer the following review questions on each chapter.**

Chapter 1

1. Why is the Bible necessary?
2. What purpose do the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament serve?
3. What is the position of the Westminster Confession of Faith regarding the Apocryphal books?
4. What is the basis of the authority of the Scriptures? Why should we believe them and obey them?
5. What is it that persuades us to believe in the authority and truth of the Scriptures?
6. What is meant by the sufficiency of the Scriptures?
7. What things are clear to all in the Scriptures?
8. To what documents should we appeal to resolve controversies?
9. What is the "infallible rule of interpretation" of the Scriptures?
10. Who is the "supreme judge" to settle all controversies?

Chapter 2

1. What are some of the attributes of the true and living God mentioned in the Confession?
2. What does it mean that God is "all-sufficient"?
3. Express the biblical teaching of the Trinity.

Chapter 3

1. What are the teachings of the Confession regarding God's eternal decree?

2. What process is necessary to carry out the salvation for those whom God has elected? What does the Confession mention?

3. What practical advice does the Confession give regarding how we should handle the doctrine of predestination?

4. What benefits come from understanding the doctrine of predestination?

#### Chapter 4

1. What does the Confession say about how God created the world?

2. What attributes of man are mentioned in the Confession?

#### Chapter 5

1. What is the "providence" of God?

2. According to the Confession, God uses \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out His providence.

3. The Confession states that God is free to work without, above, and against \_\_\_\_\_ at his pleasure.

4. According to the Confession, did God plan the fall of man as part of His divine providence?

5. According to the Confession, why does God sometimes let His own children experience temptation and corruption?

6. According to the Confession, would God ever harden the heart of anybody or withdraw His grace from them? Why?

7. God's providence takes care especially of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Chapter 6

1. How does the Confession explain the fall of Adam and Eve?

2. According to the Confession, did the Fall of Adam and Eve destroy God's original plan?

3. How did the Fall affect man's ability to resist temptation?

4. How did the Fall affect mankind's guilt?

5. The Confession says that from the original corruption, man is now \_\_\_\_\_ to all evil.

6. When a person sins, what are the effects?

#### Chapter 7

1. What legal means does God use as He voluntarily condescends to bless fallen man?
2. In the covenant of works with Adam, what was demanded in order to obtain life for him and his posterity?
3. What is required in the Covenant of Grace to obtain life and eternal salvation?
4. What other name is given to the Covenant of Grace in the Confession?
5. The Confession speaks of the difference between the period of the Old Testament and the period of the New Testament as the time of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the time of the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Describe the differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament, according to the Confession.

#### Chapter 8

1. The Confession explains that God chose Jesus to be the Mediator between God and man, and from all eternity gave him a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus as Mediator is Prophet, Priest, and \_\_\_\_\_, as well as the Head of the Church, Heir of all things, and Judge of the world.
3. Explain the teaching of the Confession regarding Christ.
4. What aspects of Jesus' ministry are mentioned in the Confession?
5. What did Jesus purchase for His people by His perfect obedience and His sacrifice?
6. According to the Confession, when were the benefits of Christ's work of redemption communicated to the elect?
7. Did Jesus complete the work of redemption only in His divine nature?
8. In what ways does Christ apply to His people the redemption that He purchased for them?

#### Chapter 9

1. How does the Confession define man's free will?
2. Describe the condition of man's free will in each situation, according to the Confession: a) before the Fall b) after the Fall, but before being converted c) after being converted d) in the state of glory.

## Chapter 10

1. What is "effectual calling"?
2. What role does a person have in his "effectual call"?
3. Can someone be saved without the outward call of hearing the gospel?
4. Can some people who are not elect become elect by their sincere efforts to piety and holiness?

## Chapter 11

1. What is the meaning of justification?
2. What is the basis of our justification? What makes it possible for us to be justified?
3. What is the instrument of justification? What does man himself need in order to receive justification?
4. How does the Confession define saving faith?
5. The Confession teaches that true saving faith is accompanied by what?
6. Through His obedience and death, Christ satisfied what two aspects of God's glory, according to the Confession?
7. According to the Confession, at what moment is a person justified?
8. Were believers in the Old Testament justified in a different way from the way believers were justified in the New Testament?

## Chapter 12

1. The Confession explains that all those that are justified are also \_\_\_\_\_ and receive all the privileges of the family of God, including His love and protection, as well as the inheritance of eternal salvation.

## Chapter 13

1. What is sanctification?
2. Describe the view of the Confession regarding the possibility of gaining perfect holiness in this life.

## Chapter 14

1. What is the usual instrument God that uses to bring someone to saving faith?
2. Explain saving faith.
3. Can saving faith vary in degrees of strength?

#### Chapter 15

1. What is the meaning of repentance?
2. Can we expect forgiveness without repentance?
3. Are there some sins that do not deserve condemnation?

#### Chapter 16

1. The Confession teaches that true good works are the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Should a believer be passive in the process of his sanctification? Explain.
3. What does the Confession teach about the purity of even the best works of any person, believers and unbelievers?

#### Chapter 17

1. Can someone lose their salvation?
2. Does sin bring temporal judgments, even upon Christians?

#### Chapter 18

1. Is it wrong to be assured of your salvation?
2. Can a true believer be sure of his salvation, then later temporarily lose his assurance of salvation?

#### Chapter 19

1. Did Adam have the ability to keep the law?
2. The first four of the Ten Commandments describe our duty to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The last six of the Ten Commandments describe our duty to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Describe each aspect of the law: moral, ceremonial, judicial.

5. Which aspect of the law is forever obligatory and binding on all people, according to the Confession?

6. What are the uses of the law mentioned in the Confession?

#### Chapter 20

1. Describe the aspects of true Christian liberty.
2. Describe the Christian's duty toward civil authorities.

#### Chapter 21

1. Explain the teachings of the Confession regarding the Sabbath Day.

#### Chapter 22

1. What does the Confession say about taking an oath?

#### Chapter 23

1. What is the purpose of the civil magistrates?
2. What relation should the civil magistrates have with the Church?
3. What is the duty of people with regard to the civil magistrates?

#### Chapter 24

1. How does the Confession define marriage?
2. What is the purpose of marriage?
3. Who should a Christian marry?
4. For what reasons does the Confession allow for divorce?

#### Chapter 25

1. What is the "invisible" Church?
2. What is the "visible" Church?
3. What does the Confession mean when it speaks of the "catholic" Church?

#### Chapter 26

1. What does the Confession mean when it speaks of the "saints"?
2. What does the Confession mean when it speaks of the "communion of the saints"?

#### Chapter 27

1. What are the characteristics of a sacrament?
2. What makes a sacrament effective?
3. What sacraments were ordained by Christ?

#### Chapter 28

1. What does baptism represent, according to the Confession?
2. Who should be baptized, according to the Confession?

#### Chapter 29

1. What is the main purpose of the Lord's Supper?
2. What is the meaning of transubstantiation?
3. What does the Confession teach about whether Christ is spiritually received by the participants?
4. Who should be allowed to participate in the Lord's Supper?

#### Chapter 30

1. Why do we need "church censures"?
2. What are the three levels of "censure" mentioned in the Confession?

#### Chapter 31

1. What does the Confession teach about the need for synods and councils?
2. What does the Confession teach about whether the synods and councils of the Church should meddle in civil affairs?

#### Chapter 32

1. What happens to believers when they die?
3. What happens to unbelievers when they die?



## Chapter 33

1. Will only unbelievers be judged on Judgment Day?
2. Will only believers live for eternity?

### **General questions:**

1. Do you agree with the general system of doctrine taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith?
2. Are there any teachings about which you have reservations or disagreements? Explain which ones and explain your reservations or disagreements.
3. Are there any teachings of the confession that seemed new to you? Which ones?

### **Application Questions:**

1. What teachings of the confession have made the biggest impact on you? Explain why?
2. What differences do you think the study of the confession will make in your life? What specific, practical changes do you hope to make in your life as a result of this study?

For example, what changes do you hope to make in:

- a. Your relationship with God. Think of how you worship God, how you pray, how you seek to glorify Him.
- b. Your relationship with your wife and family. Think of how your understanding of marriage, as taught in the confession, might help you be a better husband, wife, father or mother.
- c. Your participation in the Church. Think of your role in helping other people, and your role in helping the Church grow.
- d. Your use of the Scriptures. Think of how you will study the Bible and share its teachings with others.
- e. Your relationship with non-believers. Think of how you could share the gospel, as you now understand it, with others.
- f. Think of any other ways this study will help you in your Christian life.