

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC15 “The Fall as Covenant-Breaking”

**Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 15—especially explaining how complex were the sins involved in the fall, but that the fall itself came by the sin that broke the covenant of life.**

Q15. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created? ***The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created was their eating the forbidden fruit.***

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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Catechism question this week is number 15. What was the sin by whereby? Our first parents fell from the estate where they were created? The answer is the sin. Whereby, our first parents fell from the estate where they were created was their eating the forbidden fruit.

And the answer is the sin. Whereby, our first parents fell from the estate where and they were created. Was there eating the forbidden fruit. Now, this is important for us. Because we are considered in our first parents, Remember. Uh, this first parent's language about Their continuing in the estate where they were created.

All leading up to our being in Adam. The covenant being made with him, not only for himself but for his posterity. So this view of Adam and the woman under him and we in him all being in covenant with god is very important for understanding. What's happening? In genesis 2 and 3.

Because the estate were in there created was not just knowledge and righteousness but holiness a consecration unto God that comes from a covenant with god. In which god had bound. Us to himself in adam. There are many sins involved in the complexity. Of the event of the fall. Even though the woman was not deceived, she did receive as a teacher.

Uh, of and explainer of god's word. Another creature than her husband. Uh, whom the lord had brought her to. He had not brought her to the serpent. It brought her to the man. And the man was the one who had the words of god for her. Uh particularly the words of god, concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And so there were already. Uh, since although Uh, not so Willful and impudent as atom's sin? Yeah, there were sins of the woman along the way. Even. Uh, not deferring to her husband. For instance, or Uh, accepting some Uh, sort of Twist on god's word. The woman was deceived.

But first, Timothy 2 tells us Adam was not to saved and so there were more and more willful sins on Adam's part. But the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate where they were created. The sin whereby, our first parents brook covenant with god and forfeit it.

The blessing of the covenant, which was life? Remember, The catechism is very intentionally. Uh, chosen the language, he entered into a covenant of life with them. Because there's a focus here, not so much on. How the covenant would be maintained. In which we would call it the covenant of works.

Um, But the focus is on. The estate. In into which the covenant was designed to bring us. From a time of. Probation into. The time when this life would be secured and sealed forever. So, Or in a covenant of life, the state that they were in was not just knowledge and righteousness but holiness.

And the sin, then the sin whereby. Our first parents fell from that estate. Was they're eating the forbidden fruit. Uh, even the language they the catechism answer does not say they're eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Although that is true, isn't it?

That's what fruit it was. But our catechism very specifically says, the forbidden fruit to remind us that this was the singular great term of the covenant of life in the garden. That God had entered into. A covenant of life with them. Upon condition of the perfect of perfect obedience.

Forbidding them to eat. Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil upon the pain of death. And so He had forbidden them to eat and they ate the forbidden fruit and we in them. And so, this estate Uh, into which we were created to be. Being bound to god.

In a covenant that would eventually bring us into everlasting and unloosable life in him and with him and fellowship with him. This was what we fell from. It's not just that we fell. Into sin and misery. But it's that we fell into sin against god and we fell into misery.

Uh, from Um, the offense. Uh, given against god, the misery of being. Having broken covenant with god, brought ourselves under Covenant curse and we'll we'll have sand and misery. Uh, soon and the catechism. Um, but then By comparison, of course, christ has brought us into a new estate. Not just a state of being forgiven.

Praise god. Yes, that's true. Not just in a state of being able to think and speak and do righteously and eventually, um, Only righteously. Yes, that's true but especially in a state of being bound to god and objects of his blessing by virtue of Christ has done. What an amazing thing.

The covenant of grace is, it's Um, it is a covenant of life, even more than the original covenant of life. Uh, had been And so, Uh, Catechism answer. 15 is teaching us and reminding us to see. Our sinning. As belonging to. That estate into which adam brought us. So that so that when we come to be in christ, we will a be grateful for what we have been brought out of but b.

Because there is that which remains in us, From our original nature, it has not our nature anymore. There is not a sinful nature inside the christian i heard that recently. It's important to repeat. There is not a sinful nature inside the christian we have to follow. Romans 7:17 roman 7 verse 20 and say it is not i But sin that dwells in me.

There are sin dwelling in me but i and you if you're a christian And even if you're not a Christian, you only have one nature at a time, but if you're not a christian, you don't want the nature that you do. Have you want to view one? But if you are a christian, It is important to recognize.

That which comes from your former nature that which remains or dwells in you. From your former nature. So that you can identify it as a hostile and take it out. Uh, which is what he describes. Uh, not only in. The last half of Romans 7, but especially for the first third or so.

Of romans, eight. And part of that is recognizing the covenantal nature. Of our sin. Uh, that sin is a transgression of a breaking of Um, that we send specifically in the transgression of and the breaking of The covenant of life. So what was the sin whereby? Our first branch fell.

From the estate where they were created. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the years. The state when they're created was they're eating the forbidden fruit.