

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC16 “Sinned-For in Him with Whom We Fell”

**Pastor walks his children through** Westminster Shorter Catechism question 16—especially explaining how federal headship is the key to understanding our own participation in the fall.

Q16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression? *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.*

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Catechism question this week is shorter, catechism, number 16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression. And the answer is 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.

Now, it's important that we see that. The sin was not just Away by which Adam kind of broke. His innocence, it was a transgression of the Covenant of Uh, violated the terms of the Covenant, there were actually a great complex of sins. As we heard, uh, last week in the sin where by our first parents fell, Uh, Uh, sins on the woman's part.

Uh, she listened to the voice of the serpent. Instead of Uh the voice of God as had been relayed to her by the voice of her husband in the past. Uh, there was also, of course, Adam's sin that he didn't speak in the present. That he didn't intervene. Uh but God having assigned her to the man brought her to the man and having brought her into Covenant with himself, mediated through the men in whom she was in Covenant with God and making Adam her head.

Uh, she ought. Uh, to have listened to the one that the Lord had assigned to her by which she would have been spared. From being deceived. Uh, so yes, as far as eating the fruit goes, she was deceived. But there were already sins involved, not following God's order. And therefore already not following God's order, she was more susceptible.

Uh, Uh, modification. Of God's word and also of course, Adam Uh, did not do his duty. Uh, a husband. To intervene between. Her and the serpent, to protect her from the serpent first of all, and uh, and the Serpent's ideas. And second of all, to teach her, Better to intervene also as her teacher.

And the scripture tells us that Adam was not deceived, he knew exactly what was happening. Uh, and yet he was willing and hopeful. Uh, giving himself even to the same sin by which the serpent fell. And we remember, That in all of these things, he was our head. He was Uh, representative.

That's Dreadful. Uh, to think that we have in each of us, Uh, the same sinfulness that imitates that by, which Lucifer fell. That we would be like God and knowing Good and Evil determining it for ourselves. Displacing God. Uh, and so there are many sins but the sin by which They fell.

Uh, was eating the Forbidden fruit.

Uh, the woman ate first. And she did become a transgressor. Uh, by her eating, as first Timothy 2 also says being deceived. She ate and became a transgressor. I think New King James says, Uh, fell into transgression. But it's an atom that we send, and it's an atom that we died.

Uh, according to Romans 5. Uh and so this shows us that it's not just that we are. Uh, descended. From Adam, it's that he was the Covenant head because we're also descended from the woman And yet, the representation the sinning as a representative person or Um, As a larger catechism has it as a public person that belonged to Adam.

Uh, and not the woman who had come to Uh, called Eve by him when he believed the gospel that the Lord had pronounced with reference to her. And it's interesting. That when he is giving the curses, he doesn't tell the woman. Uh, that she is cursed for her sin.

In fact, the implication is that she is cursed, especially for Adamson not that, she didn't sin, not that she didn't even deserve. Hell she did. But to the serpent, he says, because you have done this. You are cursed blah, blah blah. To the man to Adam in verse 17 of Genesis, 3 says, because you have heeded, the voice of your wife, this overturning of the order that the Lord had given them.

And have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you saying you shall not eat of it broken. Uh, the terms of the Covenant of Cursed as the ground for your sake. Now, with the woman, he doesn't use the word cursed. And he doesn't tell her because of what you have done.

Rather her curse. Uh, comes in connection with the man. Says, I will multiply greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception. In pain, you shall bring forth children. Uh, and so She is going to have, The sorrow of conceiving children as a sinner. With another sinner. And thus, children whom she conceives and bears, then will be Sinners because their father, Is a sinner.

And so, shall be a sinful mom of sinful children, who are born of a sinful father And that has been one of the great sources of Sorrow in people's lives. Ever since. Uh, but it's it's important for us to see That it is, especially Adam's sin. By which this came upon his wife.

And upon all of his children. And of course, Uh, the the difficulty that would come in their marriage as well as Uh, would now continually desire to rule. Uh, over her husband but he would dominate her. Uh, not lead her. And we remember, of course, the Um, The use of the same sort of phrase in Genesis 4 verse 7.

Just a few verses later. So, Adam sins. Uh, as A public person and the catechism recognizes this because it asks did our first parents Continue in this state. Uh, and then the the answer is that our prayer left to the freedom of their own will. Our first parents fell from the estate, but then the next question is not did all mankind fall in our first parents, transgression.

It's an atoms, transgression. That all men fell. Now. Uh, because of the wickedness of our heart. Uh, we may be so bold and proud and arrogant as Uh, to raise our hearts and Minds against something that the Bible plainly teach us. Um, let us be very careful when we ask questions.

Uh if you ask how can this be in order to understand more because you are receiving it as true. Uh and uh trying to understand the truth of what God has said. That's one thing. But if you say, how can this be? Because you're questioning the fairness or the justness, Of a public person of a federal representative.

Then you are raising your heart and mind against God. And so be careful even how we ask the question. And of course we don't want Federal representation to be done away with because if we got rid of Federal representation where one man could sin, and all, who are federally represented in him would sin and fall and die with him.

We would lose Federal representation, where one man could obey. And one man could suffer. And all of our OB all of our guilt would be put away by his suffering. And his obedience would be counted for us as righteousness because he is a public person. And he was doing that for.

Who are counted in him? And who are then brought into him. By faith. That the spirit gives us to believe into Christ. And so, we absolutely depend. Upon the validity of federal representation. Of having a federal head who acts and we are counted, as acting in him and the Um, the consequences of what he does come to us.

Uh, in him. And so it's very important that we That we maintain this doctrine of federal representation, the Covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity, all mankind descending from him by ordinary generation. That is every man. Who was born? To a woman. By a father.

Who is a sinful federal head? Like we were just hearing about, uh, and the difficulty that would come upon the woman in Genesis 3, 16. Uh, Mary. Uh, was susceptible to all the ordinary pains and difficulties of childbirth. And conception. And, Was susceptible to all the difficulties that come from being a sinful mother.

For instance, when she's worried sick about her son, Um, because Uh, they make Um, you know, they leave Jerusalem and then they get to Uh, to camp and they look around. Um and uh and Jesus isn't there, and she has to go back. And she even reproaches him. As I'm sure her heart were approached her for doing later.

How could you do this to us? But Mary never had the sorrow. Well, not until the other kids in Jesus. Mary never had the sorrow. Of having a sinful son. He was not a part of the curse. Because he did not have a sinful father. For his federal head before God.

Now, nationally and civilly in Israel, when he's adopted by Joseph, Uh, there is Um, There is a propriety of tracing a line through Joseph, and we see that, In the gospels. But before God, He had no federal head and so he did not descend. Um, from Adam by ordinary generation.

Probably don't have to tell you. Uh, but it's important to remind you. Each of you have descended from Adam, By ordinary generation because each of you, Were conceived by a sinful. Father. As was I as well. As much as I. I love my dad. But it does. Dishonored to speak in this way.

So, we all sinned in Adam. And fell with Adam in his first transgression and the, this is taught in many places, but Most plainly. In Romans chapter 5.

Verse 12. Through one man's sin entered, the world and death through sin. And thus death spread to all men. Because all sinned. And they had sinned and died. Not by repeating sins. Uh, when the law I had not yet come but they died because of their sin in Adam which is what verses 13 and 14.

Um, Uh, argue. And then verse 15 by the one man's offense. Many died. So we sinned in him and by his sin we died and because of his sin, we die. Uh, we are Uh, Dead on Arrival. We are sinful at conception, we are spiritually dead. Uh, Adam and his wife died in the day.

Uh, that they send. Far more than they would die. Yes, some 900. Plus years later at least. At least in Adam's case. The spiritual death. Of falling from innocence of becoming a covenant breaker. Of being a sinner and living with a heart that is set against God. And then, even after coming to Faith, having that which remains of the flesh set against, uh, said against God, that is a far worse death than when our spirit leaves our body.

And our body returns. And our body returns to the ground. And so we died in him not because we were actually there. You don't pre-exist. You come into the world. When you are conceived. But the reason you are born dead is because you were federally represented in him. To send and so by the one man's offense, Many died.

Verse 17. If by the one, man's offense, death reigned Through the Verse 18. Through one man's offense. Judgment came. To all men. Verse 19 by one man's Disobedience. Many were made Sinners. So we sinned in Adam, every one of us. And we fell with him. And we died. In him and with him.

To use the language of Romans 5. So the question is, did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression, and the answer is The Covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity. All mankind descending from him by ordinary generation. Send in him. And fell with him.

In his first transgression.