

The Principles of Christian Religion

**A Study through the Baptist
Catechism using Benjamin
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

Outline of the BC

- I. Introductory Questions: 1-6
- II. What We are to Believe: 7-43
- III. What Duty God Requires: 44-114
 - A. The Law and our Inability: 44-89
 - B. The Gospel and the Means of Grace: 90-114

Question and Answer 18

Q. 18: 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 of the forbidden fruit.¹

¹ Genesis 3:6, 12

Question and Answer 18

1. The Nature of the First Sin

- Our first parents sinned (Isa. 43:27).
- They sinned by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6).
- There was in this sin the lust of the flesh (ibid.).
- And the lust of the eyes (ibid.).
- And the pride of life (ibid.).
 - Cf. I John 2:16

Question and Answer 18

1. The Nature of the First Sin

- It was an instance of horrid rebellion against God (Gen. 3:11).
 - Murray: “The fall, then, was a complete moral revolt against the sovereignty, supremacy, authority and will of God Disobedience to [God’s command] was an assault upon the divine Majesty, repudiation of his sovereignty and authority, doubt of his goodness, dispute with his wisdom, contradiction of his veracity.”
- And of amazing folly in man (Psa. 49:11)

Question and Answer 18

2. The Role of Satan in the First Sin

- Our first parents did not fall without a tempter (Gen. 3:1).
- This serpent was the devil (Rev. 20:2).
- But he could not force their consent (Jam. 4:7).
 - Murray: “Satan tempted man to sin; this temptation was the *occasion* of man’s fall. It was not, however, the *cause*. No external power or influence can cause a rational being to sin. The sin of Adam was a movement of defection and apostasy and transgression in Adam’s heart and mind and will, and for that movement he was responsible and he alone was the agent and subject.”
- Notwithstanding he prevailed (Gen. 3:13).
In all this he aimed at their destruction (Rev.

Question and Answer 18

3. The Strategy of Satan in the First Sin

- Satan acted a subtle part in tempting (2 Cor. 11:3).
- He promised impunity (Gen. 3:4).
- He promised improvement (Gen. 3:5).
- He fed them with high thoughts of themselves (ibid.).
- He suggested to them hard thoughts of God (ibid.).

Question and Answer 18

3. The Strategy of Satan in the First Sin

- It was an instance of his policy to assault the woman first (1 Pet. 3:7).
 - Cf. I Tim. 2:14 – Are women somehow inately more prone to deception than men?
- And to assault her when alone (Eccl. 4:9, 10).
- [This is largely how Satan still operates: we would do well not to be “ignorant of his devices” and to be on guard against his tricks.]

Question and Answer 19

Q. 19: 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.¹

¹ Genesis 2:16,17; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21,22

Question and Answer 19

1. The Universal Consequences

- All mankind are descended from Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:20).
- We are all concerned in our first parents' disobedience (Rom. 5:12).
- Our nature is tainted with the filth of that sin (Job 15:14).
- The guilt of it is imputed to us (Rom. 5:18).
- We are exposed to the dreadful consequences of it (Rom. 5:12).
- And we have no power of our own to prevent all this (Rom. 5:6).

Question and Answer 19

2. The One Exception

- This was the case of Adam's immediate descendants (Gen. 5:3).
- It is the case of all those who in future ages descend from him (1 Cor. 15:49).
- But it is not the case of Christ (Luke 1:35).
- He was therefore not descended from Adam in a way of ordinary generation (Matt. 1:18).
 - How was Christ exempted from original sin?
- We should be humbled for original sin