

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapters 1-5 Questions

Chapter 1 – *Of the Holy Scripture*

1. What is the difference between “general” and “special” revelation?

2. Upon whose testimony should we trust in Scripture? How does Scripture itself support this conclusion?

3. What is some of the “abundant evidence” which the Bible gives about itself, testifying that it is the Word of God?

4. Give examples of what is “expressly set down in Scripture” and what is “deduced by good and necessary consequence.” Why do we sometimes need to make deduction? Why do we need to be careful when we do this?

5. How might knowing that a passage of Scripture is not always clear in itself shape our study of God’s Word? How does the “infallible rule” of interpreting Scripture help us in that regard?

6. Why is the Protestant principle of *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) so important for Christians to understand and affirm?

Chapter 2 – Of God, and of the Holy Trinity

1. How does God's being a spirit affect our worship of him?
2. Briefly explain the doctrine of the Trinity?
3. What are some ways that the Bible clearly distinguishes between the creator and the creature? Why is this important? How is it helpful?
4. What do the works of God reveal about God's character?
5. What can we learn from Nebuchadnezzar about the danger of not recognizing God's sovereignty? (Dan. 4:25-35)

Chapter 3 – Of God's Eternal Decree

1. What are the Confession's three qualifiers to its comprehensive statement regarding God's decree?
2. Are predestination and free will contradictory doctrines? Explain your answer.
3. What consequences might follow from denying God's sovereignty over secondary causes?
4. What is the difference between a divine decision resting on 'foreseen faith' and one rooted in 'free grace'?
5. Explain the doctrine of *ordo salutis* (order of salvation) as it's defined in WCF 3.6. How does it encourage Christian struggling with assurance of their salvation?
6. What guidance does the confession offer to help us handle the doctrine of predestination? (WCF 3.8)

Chapter 4 – Of Creation

1. How is each of the three persons of the Trinity involved in the work of creation? Cite particular verses.
2. What particular attributes of God does creation manifest?
3. What two important points does creation ‘preach’ to the unbeliever? How can these points be useful when communicating the Christian faith?
4. How does the Bible’s creation account both humble and elevate humans?
5. How are human beings as God’s image-bearers uniquely set apart from the rest of God’s created order?

Chapter 5 – *Of Providence*

1. How does the Confession describe the extent of God's providence?
2. What attributes of God are glorified through his providence?
3. What does the Confession mean by calling God the 'first cause' who uses 'second causes'?
4. How would you describe the three types of second causes identified by the commentary? Give a biblical example of each.
5. How could studying God's providence help us to grow in contentment?
6. How is God's 'permitting' sin different from simply 'not interfering' with man?
7. How does the commentary demonstrate the concurrence of God's sovereignty and human responsibility regarding the hardening of one's heart?