

Discussion Questions

- What kind of words come out of your mouth? How does it indicate the condition of your heart?
- Why do we so easily add our own transgressions of the law of God?
- What kinds of things have been given to you to give you hope despite your sin?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Let's review the four ingredients that work together to make up our sinful state before God: we inherit guilt from Adam, we lack any original righteousness, our whole nature is corrupt and no longer responds to God appropriately, and as soon as we are capable we act out that nature by adding our own transgressions. That's a pretty rough start, but God's grace is so good. In the gospel, we see an answer to each of these. If we confess our sins, the Bible says God is faithful and just to forgive our sins (1 John 1:9). Justification means He declares us "not guilty." The scripture goes on to say he also cleanses us from all unrighteousness. As for our corrupt nature, the Bible says God takes out our stony hearts that are hostile toward Him and gives us hearts of flesh so that we can begin to respond and interact with Him as we ought. Finally, believers are filled with the Holy Spirit who transforms us by the renewing of our mind that we might be conformed into the image of Christ and learn how to obey the law of God. Our sinful estate is deconstructed, piece by piece, and every "ingredient" finds its antidote in Christ.

Discussion Questions

- When someone is poisoned, what may happen to them if they don't get help?
- What is the antidote in Christ? Why does it alone bring healing?
- Has your sinful estate been deconstructed?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, January 28th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #21

Q: Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A: *The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 3:10–11 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; [11] no one understands; no one seeks for God. (ESV)"

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

This week's catechism question focuses on what our sinful state actually consists of. The word *consist* means what something is made up of or composed of. For example, my cake consists of flour, sugar, butter, salt, and vanilla. The first ingredient of sin listed in the catechism answer is guilt. Guilt is the result of having violated a specific rule or law. Sometimes we know we broke a moral, ethical, or legal law and that we are guilty. Even if we did not know a line was crossed, we can still be guilty. According to Scripture we are all guilty before God, *as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;* (Romans 3:10). Sometimes, we feel the weight of this guilt. For example, 2 Corinthians 7:10 describes two different versions of guilty sorrow or grief, saying *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.* A person with worldly grief may feel bad, but Satan uses that feeling to push them away from God and convince them there is no hope. By contrast, godly grief pushes a person toward repentance and points them to God's forgiveness. Primarily, guilt is a state or condition, not a feeling. The feeling, when it comes from an accurate understanding of our guilt before God, can be helpful if it leads to repentance. The fact that a person may not "feel guilty" does not change his or her guilty status or condition. We not only inherit sin from Adam but guilt as well.

Discussion Question

- Have you ever broken a rule or law and not found out until later?
- Have you ever experienced worldly sorrow? How about godly sorrow?
- How were they different?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The second ingredient we will look at this week is the want of original righteousness. Let's break that down a little bit. The word *want* is used here to mean "to be without or lack," and *righteousness* is to be right, pure, just. So, not only are we guilty but we have a want (or lack) of original righteousness (being right with God). Adam and Eve were created in a right standing with God, but they had the ability to choose whether to sin. When they sinned, they lost their original righteousness and all their descendants have also lacked that original righteousness. It is lost. Isaiah 59:9 says that righteousness and justice are far away from sinners. Job says we can drink sin like water (Job 15:16) but our bodies and minds yearn for that original righteousness. Romans 7:18 shows that struggle, *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.* Sadly, many are deceived by Satan into thinking they can be self-righteous. If they just try hard enough, they can be right with God, but it's not possible. Only God is truly righteous, but God, through the Son and Holy Spirit, gives a gift of righteousness to sinners by faith. We are not good people in our flesh and never were, but by God's grace we can become righteous. Those who are saved by God are credited with Christ's righteousness and are given the desire to do righteous things. Our sinful state consists of inherited guilt and a lack of righteousness.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever lacked something? Share what that was.
- If you are a Christian, why do you still struggle with sin?
- If only God is righteous then how can we be made righteous?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The third ingredient that our sinful state consists of is the corruption of the whole nature. Have you ever taken flowers and cut the stems and placed them in water dyed with various colors? It does not take too long for the normally white flower for example to turn completely blue. The problem is worse with sinners in that we were never perfect or righteous to start with... we lack original righteousness. Instead, we inherited sin and guilt and that also means we start out corrupt even from the womb. We are twisted and do not even recognize what is good. God is righteous and perfect, but this corrupt nature of sin is hostile to God and his Word to us. Romans 8:7–8 *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* Think of a computer disk that has been corrupted, it no longer works properly. Instead of loving God and striving to please Him, sinners' desires are against God and only seek to satisfy themselves (Gal 5:17). Sinful man is corrupt, all the way through from the mind, body, and spirit. So, our sinful state means we are guilty, we lack righteousness, and we also have a thoroughly corrupt nature.

Discussion Questions

- What are some ways your body/mind no longer works properly?
- What would it look like for a corrupt nature to be "fixed"?
- How does Jesus do this for a Christian?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The fourth ingredient in our sinful state is what we most often think of as sin—the actual transgressions we commit. Transgressions are doing what God forbids, that is, breaking the rules and commands given to us in His Word. When you break any of the ten commandments, for example, you have transgressed the law of God. Sin was crouching at your door like with Cain in Genesis, and you decided to go ahead. Luke 6:45 tells us that *the good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.* This sin or evil flows from your heart and causes you to say and do wicked things because that is what sin produces in unbelievers. The previous verse says *that each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.* People inevitably commit outward sins because of the sin that is in our hearts. This only compounds our guilt before God. Not only do we inherit guilt, lack original righteousness, and have a corrupt nature, but as soon as we are able, we add to that with our own rebellious actions toward God. You cannot change yourself, but God can change you into a new creature by first changing your heart.