

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC13 “How We Fell by Free Will”

**Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 13—especially explaining how, by wrong exercise of free will, our first parents fell, and we fell in them.**

Q13. Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created? ***Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.***

**(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 13, did our first appearance continue? In the estate wherein they were created. The answer is our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will fell from the estate were and they were created by sending against god. Now, it's very important for us to note.

The form of the question and the answer. Referring to Adam and his wife. As our first parents. Because we were represented in him and we are descended from them. And so, not only. Did we federally act in him? He acted. On our behalf. And the consequences for the action come to us.

But being descended from them. We come into this world in the condition. In which they bore their children produce their children. So, when we read the story of adam and his wife, when we read the history of adam and his wife, We must not read as if we are.

Uh, unrelated. Separate observers. But rather we read it as our own story. Just as when we read of god, entering into a covenant of life with them, The estate into which he brought them. In their creation. We read of god's mercy to us in our first parents that we are those special creatures.

With whom god has covenanted himself, none of the other creatures. Uh did he bring into covenant with himself? And so the question isn't just did Um, Unrelated. Man and woman at arm's length. Continue in this estate but did our first parents and we end them

The second place we see that. The question. Of how? They fell from the estate. We're in their created, as answered by The fact that they were left to the freedom of their own will, As ecclesiastes 7 says, god made man righteous But he has sought out many schemes. They're left to the freedom of their own will.

And That. Uh, wicked. Spirit. Who is referred to as the serpent.

Genesis 3 and the ancient serpent, the devil. As he continues to be. In revelation 12. He offers another scheme. Another Way of thinking, another way of behaving and there's a genuine choice to be made. Adam, first Timothy. Chapter 2 tells us. Was not deceived. He understood the options before him.

And he, Uh, willingly chose. The option proposed by the serpent. The woman. However, Was deceived. Indicating that. Um, Sheep. Perhaps, Uh, since she had not been there and we see that Uh, possibility, and some of our answers. That do not line up with. The things that god said, do not line up exactly.

There are embellishments additions. To what god said. In her answers to the serpent in chapter 3. Uh, there are additions to what god had said to? Adam, before she was created. In chapter 2. And she either, perhaps, thought the, the serpent was filling out the scheme proposed by God or perhaps.

Uh, she Um, She even thought that the Serpent was telling her things. That god himself. Uh, fought. And said, Uh, but that her husband had not Uh, fully instructed her. She's in a decided disadvantage. And she is deceived. Indicating an implying that she even thought that she was okay.

Um, which is a great warning to us because the seeking out of many schemes And the deception of adding to what god has said, thinking that we are somehow fulfilling what god has said by our own supplement. It continues. Today, it deceives many even in the churches. Since we're here on january 1st, doing this lesson.

We've just come out of a season. For watch. Many self-deceived in the churches have added to the religion given by christ and and thinking this sincerely just as the woman Um, That they are fulfilling what god? Has given us. To do. But we must be careful as we are left to the freedom of our own will then not to as ecclesiastes.

7 says. Seek out many schemes. For if this was a way that our holy and righteous parents in the estate where in which they were at the time could fall from that estate, how much more dangerous for us Uh, being unrighteous and ungodly. And even having been redeemed, having so much remaining sin and the effects of remaining sin on.

Upon our minds. And so, there is genuine freedom in the choice that they made. Just as there is a genuine choice in every choice. That we make. The. Uh, the question is not does, man have a free will? God has given man, a free will. And Um, The reformed, the biblical.

Uh, christians. Never dispute that. What we dispute is, who is in control of the why? Of history of the, why of providence, especially the Hawaii of redemption. And we are not redeemed, because Of our will. We are redeemed because of god's will. Now, the how God, who wills our redemption brings that about of course involves our will.

He takes us who are as we deserved having fallen from the estate wherein we were created in our first parents, he takes us from the place where i were real choices. Are really wicked. Because we are wicked. And there is the bondage of the well not that the choices are somehow less real or less genuine but that they are all bad and wrong.

That is the bondage. And god and his mercy. Who has freedom even to overrule our bondage because of the greatness of his power. Out of the greatness of his love as devised by the greatness of his wisdom. He saves us. And so that is the question of The freedom of the, well, How dreadful to think that there are some who wanting to make men free enough?

To be the high of their own salvation. Would bind god and limit his free will. To save whom, he pleases. And ability. To save him. He pleases. But our fair's parents were left to the freedom of their own will. And the woman, not the woman being deceived and the man not being deceived.

They sinned. And we all consider that. Uh, later. But they fell from the estate where they were created by sending against god. Now, we are going to consider the nature of sand. We're going to consider the nature of their specifics and The thing to notice here. Is that the condition of man?

Changed entirely at that point. That god created us in this wonderful. Glorious. Generous estate. Of knowledge, righteousness, and holiness being in a covenant

of life within And that we fell in our first parents by our own devices. By our own as it were now willfulness. So that god is not to be blamed.

For our following. Even though he ordained it. For our redemption in christ. Because although god was greatly merciful and generous. To join us to himself in the first man. He created. The first atom. The purpose of all things. Comes from the love and the determination. To join those upon whom he had previously set his love from all eternity.

To join them to himself in his son made, man. The last atom. And so, when we see the Current state of man. We see what man has brought upon himself. That, which is so dreadful. To have fallen. From knowledge, righteousness, and holiness to have fallen, From covenant, with god, to have fallen.

From communion with god. And to be making earth. As much as he can, accept that the merciful almighty hand of god, restrains him in common grace, man. Now makes earth as much of a hell as he can by his sin. And so even, The continuing goodness. That we see in the world and the restraint that we see.

God, making of The reprobates in and especially Um, the great and merciful work that we see of god carrying out of his plan of redemption. Those are the things that belong to God. But the estate that we find ourselves in and we're going to In the catechism, following the scripture learn about.

The sinfulness of the estate and the misery of that estate. But the fact that we are no longer in the estate where we are created, The fact that we are now in. The conditioned in which we find ourselves, it is our own fault. In our first parents. And all of the sinful desiring thinking feeling choosing acting speaking that we do.

As an expression. Of the estate that. We came into. Even in our first parents. So, did our first parents continue in the estate when they were created. Our first parents. Being left to the freedom of their own will. Fell from the estate. Wherein they were created. By sending against God.

That dreadful truth. But an important one for us to know.