

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC17 “The Demise of Our Chief End”

**Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 17—especially explaining how the sin and misery into which we fell is the opposite of glorifying God and enjoying God.**

Q17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind? ***The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.***

**(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))**

---

Catechism question this week. Number 17 into what estate did the fall? Bring mankind? And the answer is the fall brought mankind into And a state of sin and misery.

Now, this language should. Immediately remind you of The question. Did our first appearance. Continue in the estate when they were created. And that estate was one in which God had enacted a special Act of Providence towards them. Entering into a covenant of life with them. Sadly. They did not continue in the estate of the Covenant of life.

But the Covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but Uh, no.

Sadly, they did not continue in this state or and they were created but our first parrots being left to the freedom of their own will fell from the estate. Wherein they were created by sinning against God. So, this estate into which the fall brought mankind, is set over against the estate, wherein they were created is set over against the Covenant of life.

Now, in the Covenant of God did not Covenant to. Give them to just like continue breathing and continue thinking and continue existing. Now life is the condition of glorifying and enjoying God. The chief end of man, the purpose, the substance, the essence of his life is to glorify God and to enjoy God.

But, Whereas God had bound himself to continue providing this for man in the Covenant of Man by sinning and we in our first father, Adam sinning in him. Fell from that estate into an estate not of glorifying. God. But of sitting against God, Not of enjoying, God having him as our joy.

But of misery, So when it says that the fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and not just that he was a sinner, not just that he commits sins. But that now man, having fallen short of the glory of God lives for himself exists, for himself is uh, as we put it totally depraved.

That. Uh, his very existence and attitude and purpose and pleasure and principles. Are all full. Of sin. And so, Whereas men's Chief end is to glorify God. And the Covenant of, In the Covenant of life. God gave us to glorify God. We fell from that estate. Into an estate of sin.

And whereas man's Chief end is to enjoy God.

And the Covenant of life was. Uh, an estate wherein we were enjoying God. The misery of the estate into which we fell in Adam. As one of not enjoying God, in fact of continuing to know even though Romans 1 teaches us that we push down on this knowledge, that God is the great being the Creator.

Uh, the one upon him, all things depend and for whom all things exist. And we now know him to be. Against us. So that Uh, the Lord Jesus of course doesn't fall into either. The sin or the misery. Properly, speaking that part of the misery, that is Uh, failing to enjoy God.

He and his righteousness. Enjoys God fully. Uh, and yet. He did suffer many of the miseries. That belong to our fallen condition God in actual mercy and kindness. Makes us to feel by inflicting upon us our neediness, the various difficulties that our consequences of our sin and then things that he put into the creation in the curse.

So that We will even though in our sinfulness, we don't Delight in him. Even the things that we do try to find joy in, he makes to fail us continually, as, as we're pushing us away from finding our purpose, in worldly, things finding our pleasure in worldly things and so There are miseries that God gives us in kindness.

And the Lord Jesus was subject. To those miseries he was hungry. He was thirsty. He needed sleep. Uh, he took upon himself our infirmities. Uh, and so was subjected already during his life, although He was not miserable under those miseries, was he? He was joyful and content, the things that grieved him.

Um, Uh the sins of the people around him and their bondage to sin. We see him grieved on many occasions by those things. But, He did suffer the greatest. Misery. That there is And that he who, His whole life, long delighted in God and knew God smile upon him.

He who had heard. Announced literally from Heaven. This is my beloved Son. With whom I am. Well pleased. He actually suffered the Wrath and curse of God on the cross. Uh, and so Uh, for us who Are often sinning and not enjoying the Delight of God. And his being pleased with us and so forth.

It is actually more severe for Christ to go. From the level of contentment and Delight in the Lord and knowing that the Lord delighted in him. Uh, in which he lived his whole life long. Uh, to suffering. For our sakes and crying out my God. My God, why have you forsaken me?

Uh, and to know, even though there is no break in the Trinity, God does not stop loving his son. On the cross. And in fact, Jesus says, before he goes to the Cross for this reason, my father loves me that I lay down my life for the Sheep, that never was the Lord, Jesus more, lovely to his father.

Than when he was on the cross offering that perfect obedience. Um, and yet The Lord Jesus knew all of God's holy hatred and wrath. Against sin and sinners. Uh, Are all of the sins. Of all of the Sinners. For whom he was dying. He knew that all at once.

And indeed the misery then at the cross is even greater. Than all the misery in hell. Because the misery in hell will never be completed. But the Lord Jesus. Took completely. The hell that we deserved on the cross. Uh, and so Our sin was imputed to him. And he did suffer.

A misery that we will never experience that we cannot begin. To imagine. But, The ultimate answer to the catechism question. And to what state did the fall bring mankind, is that the fall brought us into an estate, that is the opposite of our Chief end. And the opposite of the blessedness in God.

Uh, that the Covenant of Had given to Adam and to his wife with. And under him. Namely as the answer says, the fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and

misery.