

# Heritage OPC: Sunday School

## *Westminster Larger Catechism*

Q 20. *What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created?*

A. The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth<sup>a</sup>; putting the creatures under his dominion<sup>b</sup>, and ordaining marriage for his help;<sup>c</sup> affording him communion with himself;<sup>d</sup> instituting the Sabbath;<sup>e</sup> entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal, perfect and perpetual obedience,<sup>f</sup> of which the tree of life was a pledge;<sup>g</sup> and forbidding to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.<sup>h</sup>

a. Gen 2:8, 15-16

c. Gen 2:18, See Matt 19:3-9, Eph 5:31

e. Gen 2:3, Compared with Ex 20:11

g. Gen 2:9, Gen 3:22-24

b. Gen 1:28

d. Gen 1:26-29, Gen 3:8

f. Gen 2:16-17, Gal 3:12, Rom 10:15

h. Gen 2:17, Compared with Jam 2:10

### Reading the Catechisms

1. Semicolons – the ‘trees’
2. Main ideas/themes – the ‘forest’

### How was Adam Created?

1. Estate of Adam’s Sin Nature – Gen 1:31
2. Estate of Christ’s Sin Nature – Phil 2:5-11 (Vv. 5-6)
  - a. Peccability – Able not to sin
  - b. Impeccability – Not able to sin

### Adam’s Home

1. The Garden – Gen 2:8-9
2. A Place he must “work and keep” – Gen 2:15-17

### Adam as a Priest

1. Abad vs. Shamar – “to keep”
2. Comparing the Garden to other sanctuary references in scripture
  - a. God walking in glory
  - b. East – Ezk 44:1
  - c. Cherubim – Ezk 41:17-20
  - d. Life giving river – Ezk 47:1-12
  - e. Gold/onyx – Ex 25
3. Adam’s role as a gardener
  - a. Occurs BEFORE the fall - Col 3:23-24
  - b. Characterizes and clarifies Adam’s role as priest

### Adam’s Role as King

1. Royal authority granted by God - Gen 1:26-28

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- a. Dominion and rule over the created order
- b. Mankind is made in God's image
  - i. Represents royal authority – Gen 1:26
  - ii. Means to resemble who God is – Gen 1:27
2. Adam is a priestly leader with kingly authority

#### The First Marriage

1. “Not Good” - Gen 2:18-25
2. To be a “helper” is a good thing! – Jn 16:7
3. Egalitarianism vs. Complementarianism
4. Marriage – Gen 2:24-25, Matt 19:4-6
  - a. Closest of all human relationships
  - b. One Adam and One Eve

#### Sabbath Institution

1. God Rests on the seventh day - Gen 2:2-3
  - a. Day of royal rest – Isa 66:1
  - b. Holy day
  - c. Eternal day
  - d. Promise of rest – Rev 21:3-4
2. Pattern for work and worship