

Week 5 Man's Wickedness

Memory Verse: Romans 5:12

Q17 What came into the world because of Adam's sin?

A. Death came into the world because of Adam's sin. Romans 5:12, 17-19

Q18 Who was the first murderer?

A. The first murderer was Adam's son Cain, who killed his brother Abel.

Gen. 4:1-8

Q19 How wicked did man become after Adam's sin?

A. Man became so wicked that he always did evil. Genesis 6:1-5

Q20 How did God feel about man's wickedness?

A. He felt so sorry that he made man that He decided to destroy him. Gen. 6:5-7

Tips for using this catechism and devotional:

1. Read all the questions and answers on Monday, so that the scope of the week's concepts will be introduced.
2. Each day begin with the memory verse for the week. Read it, and take a moment to work on memorizing it. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized with a little effort.
3. Read the Scripture reading for the day.
4. Ask the Question for the day, and read the answer. Memorize the answer, so that when the question is asked, the answer comes automatically.
5. Read the commentary. If you have young children, you may need to either explain the "Thinking Deeper" section, or skip it and come back to it when the children get older.
6. Each day review the catechism questions that have been learned from the previous days of the week. On Friday, review all of the questions.
7. Close with prayer

Week 5 Monday (Man's Wickedness)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12 KJV)

Q17 What came into the world because of Adam's sin?

A. Death came into the world because of Adam's sin.

Bible Reading: Romans 5:12, 17-19

“Mommy, hug me. Mommy, hug me!” The little boy had been in the hospital for weeks, and couldn't understand why his mother wouldn't hug him. What he didn't know was that the doctor had told his mother that if she touched him, she would get the disease from him. And there was no cure. If she hugged him, she would die, too. But her heart was too full of love for him to keep ignoring his pleas. She hugged him. The smile on his face was worth a million dollars. His mother loved him and was with him, even though he was sick. A few days later he died. And then, just as the doctor had warned, she got the same awful disease. Yet, she was glad she had hugged her son. It was a mother's love.

When Adam sinned, death came into the world. We who are descended from Adam face death. Even though man had fallen into sin, God loved the world. He wanted to save the world, so He sent Jesus, His Son, into the world. But coming into the world as a human being meant Jesus would have to die. He would face the result of sin. He would die on a cross. God sent Jesus into the world even though He knew Jesus would die. It was the Father's love. (John 3:16)

Thinking Deeper

Some skeptics object to Christianity because they blame God for not caring about man. If God is love, why does he allow suffering in the world? Why is there disease and deformity? If He is powerful, why doesn't He do something about injustice?

These questions stem from the view of God promoted by the Deists, who believe God created the world and then became uninvolved. There are no miracles, no salvation, no divine intervention. If Jesus existed, he certainly wasn't God, because God does not interfere with man. We are on our own. Practically, this is the same as atheism.

But this is not the Christian view of God. God is involved in the world, and has been since creation. God was involved with man in the Garden, and after the Fall. He showed His care by giving them clothes when they were naked, and by driving them out of the Garden so they wouldn't eat of the tree of life and live forever in their state of sin (Gen. 3:22). God was involved when He prophesied that a redeemer would come to save the world, and He was involved when He sent His son to die for the sins of mankind. He is involved now in extending His love to “whosoever will...take the water of life” (Rev. 22:17).

Week 5 Tuesday (Man's Wickedness)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12 KJV)

Q18 Who was the first murderer?

A. The first murderer was Adam's son Cain, who killed his brother Abel.

Bible Reading: Gen. 4:1-8

Danny and David were having an argument when David became so angry that he grabbed a hammer and started after his brother. Fortunately, Danny was quick enough to get away before something terrible happened. When their mother learned what had happened, she took David into her bedroom. "What is in your heart is what makes people murderers," she said with a concerned tone in her voice. "You need to ask God to take that out of your heart." David went to his knees, realizing that she was right.

Cain was so angry with his brother that he killed him. That was the first of many murders. Because of Adam's sin, people are born with a sinful nature. It is important for even children to seek God's cleansing in their hearts. Without God's grace, all people are capable of doing evil things. King David, the Psalm writer, understood that. He wrote, "*Create in me a clean heart, O, God, and renew a right spirit within me*" (Ps. 51:10).

Thinking Deeper

Both Islam and Calvinism believe in predestination. For Islam, men's actions are fore-ordained. For Calvinism, some people are predestined to be saved and others to be lost. In both cases the wicked actions of sinful people are ultimately traceable to God because He supposedly ordained them to be sinners. If that is the case, then the fall of man must also have been foreordained. By way of contrast, others reject such a view of predestination. Instead, they look at man as really responsible for his actions, and justly culpable for his sins. That means that the decisions of man regarding either obeying or disobeying God's laws have very significant effects. They are life and death matters, like Cain's killing of Abel. For Cain, sin really did lie at the door.

Sin in a person's heart is something that he was born with, but that he is responsible for seeking God to remedy. Each one of us is born in sin and incapable of escaping its clutches and deception on our own. But there is good news. We are not condemned by some kind of predestination to continue living in sin. There is an open invitation for all men to come to Christ. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Mat 11:28 KJV). When we trust in Jesus Christ, we no longer live by our own strength, but by God's power "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Rom 6:22 KJV).

Week 5 Wednesday (Man's Wickedness)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12 KJV)

Q19 How wicked did man become after Adam's sin?

A. Man became so wicked that he always did evil.

Bible Reading: Genesis 6:1-5

After God made man in the Garden of Eden God said that all of His creation was very good. That means that man was also very good. God was pleased. But after Adam sinned and left the Garden, he was no longer good. In fact, man became so bad that by Noah's day, man thought only evil thoughts and did evil things.

One reason that some big cities are dangerous is that gangs of bad people do nothing but cause trouble and break the laws. It is not safe to go into some neighborhoods in the daytime or at night. There are too many bad people around. Some of them are on drugs or alcoholic drinks. Many of them steal from others. Some of them are very violent. The parents of children who love them are careful to keep away from these evil people. But in Noah's day it was dangerous everywhere. Man was very wicked. Sin causes people to keep getting worse and worse.

Thinking Deeper

Margaret Mead was an anthropologist who studied a primitive tribe in the South Pacific in the first part of the Twentieth Century. She reported that she had found a people that were happy and free in their unspoiled environment. They lived without many restraints and got along very well. Her reported research fueled the idea of the "happy savage," and gave an anthropological argument for throwing off traditional moral restraints. The idea of original sin was discarded. After all, people should not be shackled by an outmoded code of morality which stifled creativity, sensitivity and indulgence in personal pleasure.

Late in the Twentieth Century her research was called into question. It was determined that her methods were flawed and her conclusions were not valid. The way she described tribal life on that South Pacific Island was far from accurate. But she had succeeded in helping to push several generations of easily led academics into a false worldview. They condemned missionaries for "spoiling" the pristine lives of those who had never been influenced by the Christian view of morals.

Missionaries had been telling a different story all along. These tribal people were laden with occultism and fear. The Gospel, instead of spoiling them, actually set free those who accepted Jesus Christ. Margaret Mead's sub-standard research has been rightfully rejected. The concept of original sin has been substantiated, and the need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been confirmed all over the world.

Week 5 Thursday (Man's Wickedness)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12 KJV)

Q20 How did God feel about man's wickedness?

A. He felt so sorry He made man that He decided to destroy mankind.

Bible Reading: Gen. 6:5-7

A gardener planted a patch of black raspberries. The first few years the raspberries did very well. But after some time, some wild blackberries began growing among the raspberries. The blackberry bushes were very prickly. In fact, they became so prickly and thick that the gardener could not get into the patch to pick the raspberries. Soon, the raspberry patch was completely ruined. The gardener turned the patch over to a son who mowed the whole thing down with a large mower. The raspberry patch had become too overgrown to be any good at all.

Mankind became so wicked during the days of Noah that there was nothing good left. What had been so good and pure in the Garden of Eden was now evil and wicked. God saw nothing left to keep, so He decided to destroy mankind.

Thinking Deeper

Did God predetermine that man would sin and fall into wickedness? If He had determined that man would sin, God would not have been "grieved at his heart" when man did sin. We read that God was pained in his heart by the wicked imagination of man's heart. No, it was not God's plan for man to do evil. The sin of man made it necessary for God to step in with the plan of redemption. At the same time we must realize that God knew beforehand that man would sin. God knows all things, even before they happen. However, just because God knew beforehand that man would sin does not mean that God planned for man to sin. That is the difference between determinism and foreknowledge. Because of His foreknowledge, God had a plan in place to save man even before man sinned. We read in the Bible that Jesus is the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." God was not taken by surprise by what happened. He had already planned what He would do. Yet God was not unmoved by the wickedness of man. He was grieved at man's sin and decided to destroy mankind with a flood.

On a personal level, God is not surprised when we sin. He knows everything that will happen ahead of time. There is an overall eternity view that God has, which includes foreknowledge of our sins. There is also a present view of happenings that God is experiencing. He is not uninvolved. The Bible says that God is angry at the wicked every day. That is why we need to repent of our sins. We can "flee from the wrath to come" and find safety in God's Grace.

Week 5 Friday (Man's Wickedness)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12 KJV)

(Review the Week's Questions and Answers)

"I found another one!" squealed Sarah, as she picked up a small rock from the gravel parking lot. She and her friend Julie were looking for fossils. They each had a small pile of stones that had the fossilized remains of small animals that had died many years before in a flood. The girls found those fossils in Kansas, which is in the center of the United States.

Fossils can be found in many places all over the world. With a little diligence, you can sort through gravel, or rocks, and find fossils where you live. Each fossil is a record of something that had been alive. Each fossil also reminds us that something died. Before Adam and Eve, there were no fossils, because nothing had died until they sinned. When you find a fossil, remember that it was because of Adam that "sin entered into the world, and death by sin."

Thinking Deeper

Theistic evolutionists claim that God used the process of evolution over millions of years to do His work of creation. Since the evolutionary claim that the earth is billions of years old has been so engrained in our educational system and popular culture, many Christians have bought into the idea that Genesis must be viewed from that perspective. The days of creation cannot be literal days for gradual evolution to have occurred. Therefore, many have accepted evolution as fact and have tried to accommodate the Bible to that viewpoint. The trouble is, the Bible isn't that easily accommodated.

One of the necessary elements in evolutionary theory is gradual change in species. That means that animals must live and die. Eventually, through many generations, a new life form emerges. Charles Darwin believed that as archaeologists did more work, this important evidence for evolution would be found in the fossil record. He predicted that multitudes of transitional forms (animals that are between one kind and another, for example a part dinosaur, part bird) would be found in the fossils. But they are not there. It is one of the unexplainable aspects of evolution. Where are the fossils of intermediate forms? This concept also requires death.

According to evolutionists (including theistic evolutionists), millions of life forms lived and died during the evolutionary process before man ever existed. But the Bible clearly says that death came into the world by sin. Before the fall of man, God said everything He made was very good. Theistic evolutionists must believe that God was calling suffering, violence and death very good, because that is what the fossils have recorded. They must also reinterpret the relationship of sin and death. For them, death came before sin. But that contradicts the record of the scriptures. It is better to accept the presupposition that the Bible is true, than to re-interpret it to fit the very questionable and unscientific presuppositions of evolution.