

Discussion of Westminster Shorter Catechism
Led by Steven Anderson
Questions 13, 14, & 15

Q. 13. *Did our first parents continue in the estate wherein they were created?*

A. Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Gen. 2:15-17, Gen. 3:1-8.

Ecc. 7:29.

Q. 14. *What is sin?*

A. Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

1 John 3:4.

Rom. 7:11-14.

James 4:17.

Luke 10:30-35.

Num. 22:20-22.

Jer. 44:2-6.

Eph. 4:30-5:2.

Q. 15. *What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?*

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.

Gen. 2:15-17.

Gen. 3:1-8.

Pastoral application:

Man's Four-Fold Estate, per Augustine of Hippo

<i>Latin</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>State of Man</i>	<i>Initiation</i>
posse peccare, posse non peccare	able to sin, able not to sin	Innocence	Creation
non posse non peccare	not able not to sin	Depravity	The Fall
posse non peccare	able not to sin	Redemption	Justification
non posse peccare	unable to sin	Glorification	Enter Heaven

Heidelberg Catechism
appended for comparison

Q3. From where do you know
your sins and misery?

A. From the law of God.

Q4. What does God's law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in a summary in Matthew 22:

Love the Lord your God
with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind.
This is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
All the Law and the Prophets hang on these
two commandments.

Q 7. From where, then, did man's depraved nature come?

A. From the fall and disobedience of our first parents,
Adam and Eve, in Paradise,
for there our nature became so corrupt
that we are all conceived and born in sin.