

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

September

Week 1 (9/11)

- Read: WCF 10.1

- Memorize: Ezekiel 36:26-27

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

- Study questions:

Section 1

There are two types of calling in the experience of redemption.

External call is the proclaimed word of God in the presence of mankind. It is given without distinction and without exception to all who hear. This outward call of the Gospel is not itself effectual unto salvation.

The inward and effectual call of the Gospel is what this chapter discusses. It accompanies the external call with power and effectiveness upon the soul. This call is always effectual.

1. Who are the partakers of effectual calling?
2. What happens in effectual calling?
3. How is this call effected, or what are the means by which this call is accomplished?
4. What does it mean that “yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace”? (Other parts of the Standards refer to this with the phrase “no violence offered to the will of man”.)

Week 2 (9/18)

- Read: WCF 10.2-3

- Memorize: John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

- Study questions:

Section 2

1. What role does man play in his effectual call?

2. How is man able to answer the effectual call?

Section 3

1. Is there a difference between how an elect infant is saved and an elect adult is saved?

2. According to the Confession, are all infants who die in infancy saved by Christ?

3. Chad Van Dixhoorn writes that “the non-negotiable for salvation is not faith.” What is the non-negotiable?

4. Even if we cannot know if an infant is elect or not, where can we turn for hope, confidence, and comfort?

Week 4 (10/2)

- No reading this week.
- Catch up or work ahead on reading.
- Review memorization.

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, October 6 @ 7:00pm