

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Week 1

Introduction and Background

“I believe...”

Historical Background of the WCF
Development and Use of the WCF

American Revisions in 1788

Removed power of church discipline from civil magistrate (20:4)
Removed requirement to take a “good and just” oath (22:3)
Changed power of civil magistrate in regard to the church (23:3)
Removed marriage restrictions for spouses (24:4)
Removed language calling the Pope the anti-Christ (25:6)
Changed wording so that only the church can call a synod or council, not civil magistrate (31:1, 2)

Order of Salvation (*Ordo Salutis*)

Election (Chapter 3)
Effectual Calling (Chapter 10)
Regeneration (Chapter 10)
Repentance and Faith (Chapter 15)
Justification (Chapter 11)
Adoption (Chapter 12)
Sanctification (Chapter 13)
Perseverance of the Saints (Chapter 17)
Glorification (Chapters 32 and 33)

15:1 Repentance

Different kinds of repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)
Repentance is an “evangelical grace,” i.e., it is part of our conversion
Inseparable from faith
 Not optional
 Together, repentance and faith are called conversion

15:2 What is Repentance?

In effectual calling God has renewed our wills (WCF 10:1) and that renewed will is put into effect in faith and repentance. I.e., WE repent and believe (No need to pray God give me repentance, because the grace is already given).
Turning of the whole person

Mind (sight and sense)
Emotion (filthiness and odiousness)
Will (turns and purposes)

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15:3 Is Repentance Necessary?

Repentance does not save, Jesus does! (Luke 3:3, 5; Acts 17:30)
But repentance is necessary part of salvation

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15:4, 5 Repentance in Practice

Part of confession
Particular repentance, not only general
Public sins should be confessed publicly

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