Of Repentance Unto Life

The Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 15

I. WCF 15.1–2: The Nature of Repentance

A. Which repentance are we talking about?

i. Repentance *unto Life*:

1. Broad repentance: A synonym for _____, turning to God.

2. Narrow repentance: Turning from sin & striving to obey.

3. False repentance: Grief for sin before or without _____.

ii. An evangelical grace:

1. Legal repentance comes from law, evangelical repentance from Gospel.

2. Evangelical grace means "a _____ of the Gospel."

iii. Because repentance is a gift of the Gospel, it's a necessary part of Gospel preaching

iv. But what is the relationship between repentance and faith?

1. Faith comes first, and then comes repentance.

2. Repentance unto life is part of _____.

B. What is repentance, and what does repentance do?

i. The first act of repentance is grieving for and _____ sin.

ii. Repentance goes on to turn from sin and turn to God.

iii. With God's help, repentance aims and strives to obey God's commandments.

C. What is our motivation to repent in this way?

i. First, the _____ of sin.

ii. Second, the _____ of sin.

iii. Third, the _____ that God gives in Christ to those who repent.

II. WCF 15.3–4: The Necessity of Repentance

A. Why do we need to repent of our sins?

i. Why it isn't necessary: Repentance isn't _____ for sin or cause of pardon

ii. Why it is necessary: Because none may expect pardon w/o it.

B. Repentance is necessary for _____, and every sin may be repented of.

i. There's no sin so small that it doesn't deserve damnation.

ii. Yet, there's no sin so great that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.

III. WCF 15.5–6: The Method of Repentance

A. How should we repent?

i. General repentance is repenting of my sinfulness, but not my specific sins.

ii. We must repent of our specific sins, and the _____ of our sin.

B. To whom do we need to repent?

i. We must privately confess our sins to _____, & when we do we find God's mercy.

ii. But sin has a ripple effect: However far the ripple of sin goes, we must confess.

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Chapter 15: *Of Repentance unto Life*

1. Repentance unto life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine of which is to be preached by every minister of the gospel, as well as that of faith in Christ.

2. By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of his mercy in Christ to those who are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all to God, purposing and endeavoring to walk with him in all the ways of his commandments.

3. Although repentance is not to be rested in, as any satisfaction for sin, or any cause of its pardon, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that none may expect pardon without it.

4. As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who truly repent.

5. Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.

6. As every man is bound to make private confession of his sins to God, praying for the pardon of them; upon which, and the forsaking of them, he shall find mercy; so, he that scandalizes his brother, or the church of Christ, ought to be willing, by a private or public confession, and sorrow for his sin, to declare his repentance to those that are offended, who are then to be reconciled to him and to receive him in love.