

## Theology Simply Explained — WSC1 “Why We, of All Creatures, Exist”

**Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 1—especially explaining how we exist for God’s glory like the creatures, but have been given even to enjoy God’s glory, in imaging Him Himself.**

Q1. What is the chief end of man? ***Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.***

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

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Our catechism question this week is sort of catechism number one. What is the chief end of man? And the answer is men's chief. End is to glorify god. And to enjoy him. Forever.

One of the. First things we have to realize in life. This, that god is god and we are not that. He has made all things and therefore, all things. Exist for his glory. This is. What they sing in glory? The end of revelation chapter 4, You are worthy o.

Lord to receive glory and honor. And power for, You created all things. And by your, will they exist? And we're created. Which also, In response to. God's plan for history. The end of romans, 11 says, For of him and through him, and to him. Are all things. To him to whom be glory forever.

Amen. And so the chief end of things. Is directly. Directly results from And so the chief end of things. Directly results from Their creation. And we see in genesis 1, that God did create all things. And so, all things are. For his glory. But us. He made in a special way.

Genesis 1 verse 26, he says Then god said, let us Make man. In our image. According to our likeness. So, we are creatures. And we are to glorify god. This is why. We exist. But we glorify god. In the way that god. Glorifies himself. We are created to glorify him.

By. Enjoying him. This is what we ought to have done. This is what we were created to do. And if by god's mercy, He has brought us to faith in jesus christ. This is what we have been redeemed to do. For god. Exists from all eternity. And three persons.

Enjoying. Uh, one another Adoring one, another. And fellowship with one another. A unity of love and joy. That we get a little bit of a window into In some places in scripture. Got delighting in the sun as he created things and The book of proverbs or The lord jesus.

Praying. From and unto. The pleasure that the father and the son have in one another In john 17. And this, especially, Is how we are made in god's image. And this is why the fall was so Dreadfully wicked. That the sin and rebellion against god. Was over against the purpose for which we were made.

That we would enjoy him as god that we would know him. And love him and know his knowing us and no his Loving us. That we would enjoy him himself, not just his creatures, all of his creatures. Enjoy the creative things, he has made and give him bring him glory.

By their enjoyment of his power and his wisdom and his goodness. And we see those things reflected in the creation. We see how god is glorified in those things. And we rejoice. But we alone among the creatures. Are able to know him. Are able to have fellowship with him.

This mutual delighting In one another. And so, it was dreadful when we in our first father, Adam, Chosen stead to enjoy ourselves as god. That was the temptation. Eve was deceived by it. Perhaps his first Timothy 2 interprets, genesis 3 for us. She thought that this was the way to be in the image of god.

Sadly first, Timothy 2 tells us not only that eve was deceived but very specifically. The man was not deceived. He knew. That there was a choice between enjoying myself as god. And enjoying god. Is God. And that was what he was created for to enjoy God as god. And that was what he sinned against.

Which is why the wrath of god against all those who know, not god or acknowledged. Not god. Is rightly fierce. With the greatness of his own glory. And so, the lord in his Mercy. And in his wisdom. Reserved. The fullness of the declaration of the mystery. Excuse me. The fullness of the declaration of the mystery of the godhead.

That god is not just us. As we see already in genesis 1, when he's Creating us and he says, let us Make man an hour image. But that god is very specifically father and son. And holy spirit. Here from all eternity unto all, eternity. Exists as one god and three persons.

In this mutual love and adoration fellowship. Delight. Because that was the point at which God is now not just making creatures. Who are created to enjoy him. But redeeming, sinners. Who have rejected? This enjoyment of him. And he redeems us by the sun. Who suffers the wrath that we deserve?

So that we may enter into the joy. Of the sun. And be like him and with him. Enjoying father, son and spirit. For all eternity. This is what we are redeemed unto. And god makes special disclosure of himself, special revelation of himself, and his triune nature. At the point at which he is redeeming us.

So that when we think about, What is man's chief end? Or as each of you think specifically about yourself? What is my chief end? That you don't just look at the chief end of all of the creatures. And say, well. From him and through him, and to him. Are all things to him, be the glory forever or you are worthy to receive glory.

For you created all things and by your will And for you they were created. You don't just look at the creature. You actually look at the creator. And while it is not technically correct to say god's chief end. We can say, God's great blessedness. Is in glorifying himself and enjoying himself in being himself.

And so, archief, end does not. Only according to the nature of our being creatures. But according to his intention, That we would be redeemed in the sun. And conformed to his image. And have a knowledge of god that comes. From a union with the sun and indwelling by the spirit That communicates to us.

And adopting her having been adopted by the father This is what we were created for, this is what we should enjoy. This is what we should do. So that we don't just

Work. Like we are supposed to. Which we should? And we don't just enjoy how well designed this world is for us. And we are for it. Oh well designed our work is for us. How well designed we are for the work so we don't just That's the way all the rest of the creatures.

Glorify god, and it's a right part. But that's not all that we do. That's not the great thing that we do. The great thing that we do. Is enjoy god himself and fellowship with him. And delighting in him. So what is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify god.

And to enjoy him forever.