

# **The Principles of Christian Religion**

**A Study through the Baptist  
Catechism using Benjamin  
Beddome's *Scriptural Exposition***

# Outline of the BC

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# Outline of Questions 23-43

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<b>Questions 32-43</b>	Redemption Applied	<i>Ordo Salutis</i>	By the Holy Spirit

# Outline of Questions 32-43

- Application of Redemption (Q. 32-33)
  - Effectual Calling (Q. 34)
    - Benefits in this Life (Q. 35)
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      - Adoption (Q. 37)
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      - Attendant Benefits (Q. 39)
    - Benefits at Death (Q. 40)
    - Benefits at the Resurrection (Q. 41)
    - [Unbelievers at Death (Q. 42)]
    - [Unbelievers at the Day of Judgment (Q. 43)]

# Intro to the *Ordo Salutis*

- *Ordo Salutis* refers to the distinct acts of the application of redemption and how they are related to each other.
- Traditional Order (2LCF 3.6; ch. 10-17):
  - Effectual Calling/Regeneration
  - Conversion (Faith/Repentance)
  - Justification
  - Adoption
  - Sanctification/Perseverance
  - Glorification

# Intro to the *Ordo Salutis*

- This is not necessarily a series of temporally separated acts (though there is a chronological dimension to some elements).
- Rather, it expresses the relationships of the various blessings to each other.
  - Each one depends on those that have come before it.
  - The order can't be reversed.

# Question and Answer 34

Q. 34: What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit,<sup>1</sup> whereby convincing us of our sin and misery,<sup>2</sup> enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ,<sup>3</sup> and renewing our wills,<sup>4</sup> He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to us in the Gospel.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2 Tim. 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:13,14

<sup>2</sup> Acts 2:37

<sup>4</sup> Ezek. 36:26,27

<sup>3</sup> Acts 26:18

<sup>5</sup> John 6:44, 45; Phil. 2:13

# Question and Answer 34

- Effectual Calling and Regeneration
  - Some Reformed theologians have argued that these are distinct steps in the *ordo salutis*.
  - But look at how the Catechism (and Confession: 10.1) describe it:
    - Conviction of Sin and Misery
    - Enlightening of the Mind
    - Renewing of the Will
    - Persuasion and Enablement to Embrace Christ
  - This is nothing less than life from death
    - John 11:43-44



# Question and Answer 34

## 1. External Call vs. Effectual Call

### a. The Outward Call

- There is an outward call given to all men (Prov. 8:4).
- God calls by his words of creation (Psa. 19:3).
- And by his words of providence (Mic. 6:9).
- And by his word (Matt. 22:3).
- And by the common motions of his Spirit (Gen. 6:3).
- But this call is not always effectual (Matt. 22:3).

# Question and Answer 34

## 1. External Call vs. Effectual Call

### b. The Special Call

- The special calls of the Spirit are the fruits of electing love (Rom. 8:30).
- They are attended with the mighty power of God (1 Thess. 1:5).
- And yet suitable to the nature of man (Hos. 11:4, cf. 2LCF 10.1).
- And they are always effectual (John 6:37).

# Question and Answer 34

## External Call

- Outward/General
- To all men
- Not always effectual
- By General and Special Revelation
- Isa. 55:1; 65:12; 66:4;  
Matt. 11:28; 22:14;  
Acts 17:30

## Effectual Call

- Inward/Special
- Only to the elect
- Always effectual
- By the Word and the Spirit
- Rom. 1:6-7; 8:29-30; 1  
Cor. 1:23-24; Phil.  
3:14; Heb. 9:15; 2 Pet.  
1:10-11; Rev. 17:14

# Question and Answer 34

- The Priority of Effectual Calling/  
Regeneration
  - This is a major point of disagreement between Arminians and Calvinists: which comes first, regeneration or conversion?
  - I John – Perfect Tenses
    - 2:29 – do righteousness
    - 3:9 – not able to sin
    - 4:7 – love God
    - 5:1 – believe
    - 5:4 – overcome world

# Question and Answer 34

- The Monergistic Nature of Effectual Calling/Regeneration
  - Regeneration is not a joint effort.
    - Total Depravity and Inability – Jer. 13:23; John 3:6; Matt. 7:16
    - Imagery of Birth – John 1:13; 3:3 ff.
    - Imagery of Resurrection – Rom. 6:13; Eph. 2:5
    - Sovereignty of the Spirit – John 3:8

# Question and Answer 34

## 2. The Elements of the Effectual Call

### a. Conviction (Of Sin)

- All that are effectually called are convinced of sin (Rom. 7:9).
- They are convinced of sin in the heart (1 Kings 8:38).
- And of sin in the life (Job 13:26).
- They are especially convinced of gross and leading sins (1 Tim. 1:13).

# Question and Answer 34

## 2. The Elements of the Effectual Call

### a. Conviction (Of Sin)

- They see sin in the glass of the law (Rom. 3:20).
- And in the glass of the divine perfections (Job 42:5, 6).
- And in the glass of Christ's sufferings (Zech. 12:10).
- They see sin to be exceeding sinful (Jer. 2:19).
- And exceeding hateful (Psa. 119:104).
- And exceeding hurtful (Eccl. 7:26).
- And such a conviction is the fruit of the Spirit

# Question and Answer 34

## 2. The Elements of the Effectual Call

### a. Conviction (Of Misery)

- All such are convinced of their misery (Isa. 6:5).
- And of the equity of God's judgments (Dan. 9:7).
- And of their helplessness in themselves (Ezra 9:15).
- Such a conviction will produce horror (Acts 16:29).
- And shame (Jer. 3:25).
- And humble silence (Lam. 3:29).
- And earnest enquiry (Acts 9:6).



# Question and Answer 34

## 2. The Elements of the Effectual Call

### b. Enlightenment of the Mind

- Such a conviction is necessary (Matt. 9:12).
- But it is not all that is necessary (Hos. 6:1).
- The same Spirit then that has begun the work carries it on (Psa. 138:8).
- He enlightens our minds (2 Cor. 4:6).
- He particularly enlightens them into the knowledge of Christ (ibid).
- And of the things of Christ (John 16:14, 15).

# Question and Answer 34

## 2. The Elements of the Effectual Call

### b. Enlightenment of the Mind

- That knowledge which the Spirit affords is inward and experimental (Prov. 2:10).
  - It is attended with the greatest certainty (John 6:69).
  - It is an operative and effectual knowledge (Col. 1:6).
  - It is an abiding knowledge (1 John 2:7).
  - It should therefore be earnestly coveted and sought after (Phil. 3:8).
- How?

# Question and Answer 34

## 2. The Elements of the Effectual Call

### c. Renewal of the Will

- This illumination of the understanding is attended with a determination of the will (Luke 1:17).
- The perverse will is rendered pliable (Ezek. 11:19).
- And the rebellious will obedient (2 Cor. 10:5).
- This also is the work of God (Phil. 2:13).

# Question and Answer 34

## 3. The Results of the Effectual Call

- The soul thus awakened and enlightened ventures itself upon Christ (John 6:45).
- And that immediately (Matt. 9:9).
- And resolutely (Job 13:15).
- Christ is proposed in the word as an able Saviour (Heb. 7:25).
- And as a willing Saviour (Luke 15:2).
- And the actions of faith in the soul answer to the discoveries made of Christ in the word (1 Cor. 15:1).

# Question and Answer 34

- Excursus: Is there a delay between effectual calling and faith?

# Question and Answer 34

## 4. The Nature of the Effectual Call

- The whole work of grace in conversion is represented by a call (1 Cor. 1:2).
- This is a secret call (Luke 17:20).
- And a mysterious one (Eccl. 11:5).
- And a personal one (Isa. 43:1).
- And a free and gracious one (James 1:18).
- God should therefore have the glory of it (Psa. 115:1).

# Question and Answer 35

Q. 35: What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

A. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification,<sup>1</sup> adoption,<sup>2</sup> sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Romans 8:30

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 1:5

<sup>3</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:30