

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

CHAPTER 6.-*Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment thereof.*

II. By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God,¹ and so became dead in sin,² and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body.³

Question 1.—*Did our first parents, by their first sin, fall from the estate of original righteousness?*

Answer.—Yes. Eccles. 7:29. This original righteousness is sometimes termed the divine image, by which we do not understand the gifts man received from God while he continued upright, Gen. 1:26, 27; nor do we account those certain remnants of that image existing in the mind and heart of man after the fall, Gen. 9:6; Jas. 3:9. Rather we understand it strictly of that principal part of that image which consisted of holiness and wisdom, Col. 3:10. This image of God was lost by the fall, Rom. 3:23. This is confirmed by the fact that the image of God is restored in regeneration, 2 Cor. 5:17. Whatever is restored was once lost, and whatever is given was not previously in possession, Eph. 4:23, 24. Although Paul, contrasting the quickening Spirit which believers receive from Christ, with the living soul which Adam was created, 1 Cor. 15:45, commends the richer measure of grace bestowed in regeneration, he does not, however, contradict the statement, that the end of regeneration is to form us anew in the image of God, Ps. 51:10.

Question 2.—*Did our first parents, by their fall, lose communion with God?*

Answer.—Yes. Gen. 3:8, 24. The nakedness of fallen men denoted the loss or privation of goods in which they before rejoiced, Gen. 3:6-8. And the sense of that nakedness and shame proved that there was something in man to be ashamed of, such as could not be thought of in a work of God without casting disgrace upon the Creator, Job 23:15. This was not so much a nakedness of body, as a nakedness of soul, Rom. 3:23; Gen. 3:10.

Question 3.—*Did this, their first sin, result in their being dead in sin?*

Answer.—Yes. Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1. So, too, all those who are estranged from the religion of the one God, however admirable they may be regarded on account of their reputation for virtue, not only deserve no reward but punishment, because by the pollution and spiritual deadness of their hearts they defile God's good works, Heb. 11:6. Righteousness before God is restored, not through the works of the law, but by the grace of God, 2 Tim. 1:9. Thus when we are illumined by Him in the knowledge of who He is, he is said to revive us from death, John 5:25. Furthermore, when He calls us to be believers, He is said, by the Apostle Paul, to bring the dead to life, Rom. 4:17. Thus, man since the Fall has suffered not only a privation of good before received, but also the positive super induced evil—blindness of the mind and bondage of the will; hence he is called not only blind, but also blindness and darkness itself, John 1:5.

¹ Gen. 3:6-8; Eccles. 7:29; Rom. 3:23.

² Gen. 2:17; Eph. 2:1.

³ Tit. 1:15; Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18.

Question 4.—*Did our first parents, by their fall, become wholly defiled in all the faculties of both soul and body?*

Answer.—Yes. Tit. 1:15; Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18. We divide the faculties of man into those moral and those physical, Matt. 10:28; Eccl. 12:7. The moral involve the guilt and pollution of the soul, Ps. 51:5; 53:1-3. The physical effects are the miseries of all kinds and death itself (both temporal and eternal), Rom. 5:12, 17. By the former, man incurred the curse and wrath of God together with his posterity, Rom. 3:10-18; by the latter, he contracted universal corruption and impurity for himself and his, 1 Cor. 15:22. Thus, by way of moral guilt and pollution, sinners, before the grace of God, are described in dismal terms, Tit. 3:3; Matt. 15:19; Gal. 5:17. Indeed, Scripture affirms the moral impotency of sinful flesh, John 3:6; and therefore the door of life is closed to all until they are reborn, John 3:5. Physically, by the fall into sin, our first parents brought death, Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27; disease, Deut. 28:15, 22, 35; and toil and pain, Gen. 3:16-19. These shall be removed from God's people on that Last Day, Rev. 21:4.