



Foundations Class- 2019

Introductions & Overview of PCA History

Beginnings (WCF 1-5)

The Problem and The Plan (WCF 6-8)

The Order of Salvation (WCF 9-18)

Law & Liberty (WCF 19-22)

Ecclesiology & Eschatology (WCF 23-32)

Beginnings (WCF 1-5)

Chapter 1. Of the Holy Scriptures (*Formal Principle of the Reformation*)

1. Has God revealed Himself to man? How? (WCF 1.1, Psalm 19)

2. What is general or natural revelation?

- a. What does general revelation reveal about God? (Romans 1:18-20)
- b. Who receives general revelation?
- c. What is the effect of general revelation?

3. What is special revelation? (Deuteronomy 29:29, John 20:31)

- a. What does it reveal about God?
- b. Who receives special revelation?
- c. What is the effect of special revelation?

4. Does God reveal his will outside of Scripture? (Hebrews 1:1-3, 1 Corinthians 13:8-10)

5. What is the Apocrypha? Why do our Bibles not contain these books? (WCF 1.3)

Council of Trent, Catholic Counter Reformation 1564, Session 4-CHAPTER 1.

“And it has thought it meet that a list of the sacred books be inserted in this decree, lest a doubt may arise in any one's mind, which are the books that are received by this Synod. They are as set down here below: of the Old Testament: the five books of Moses, to wit, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy; Josue, Judges, Ruth, four books of Kings, two of Paralipomenon, the first book of *Esdras*, and the second which is entitled *Nehemias*; *Tobias*, *Judith*, Esther (*with long ending*), Job, the Davidical Psalter, consisting of a hundred and fifty psalms; the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, the Canticle of Canticles, *Wisdom*, *Ecclesiasticus*, Isaias, Jeremias, with *Baruch*; Ezechiel, Daniel (*with 4 additional episodes contained*); the twelve minor prophets, to wit, Osee, Joel, Amos, Abdias, Jonas, Micheas, Nahum, Habacuc, Sophonias, Aggaeus, Zacharias, Malachias; *two books of the Machabees*, the first and the second.”

6. What does it mean that the Bible is:

Authoritative (2 Timothy 3:16)-

Upon what does the authority of the Scriptures depend?

CCC 120: It was by the apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books.

Inerrant (John 7:18 & 17:17)-

Infallible (Number 23:19, Hebrews 6:18)-

Inspired (2 Peter 1:21)-

7. Is the Bible the only rule of faith and life that I need? What about the things that aren't set down expressly in Scripture? (WCF 1.6-1.7)

8. What is the "infallible rule of interpretation"? (WCF 1.9)

CCC 113: According to a saying of the Fathers, Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records, for the Church carries in her Tradition the living memorial of God's Word, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives her the spiritual interpretation of the Scripture ("... according to the spiritual meaning which the Spirit grants to the Church"⁸¹).

9. What is the "supreme judge" by which all truth is to be determined and all controversies are to be settled?(WCF 1.10)

CCC 82: The Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, "does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence."

Chapter 2. Of God, and of the Holy Trinity (*Psalm 139, Exodus 34:6-7*)

1. What is God? (John 4:24-26) What is God like? (WCF 2:1, Psalm 139, Exodus 34:6-7)
2. Is God dependent upon anything in any way? (WCF 2:2)
3. How many persons are there in the Godhead? Who are those persons? What passages of Scripture support your answer? (WCF 2:3)
4. What is a contradiction? What is a paradox? Is the doctrine of the Trinity a contradiction or a paradox? Explain.

Chapter 3. God's Eternal Decree (*Acts 2:22-23, 4:27-28*)

1. What is the difference between foreknowledge and predestination? Does God *foreknow* the future or does he *predestine* the future? (WCF 3:1-2)
2. What has God decreed? Has God decreed/predestined the eternal fates of men? (Rom 9:10-24, Ephesians 1:3-10, Acts 13:48)
3. Why does WCF 3:8 urge that this doctrine “be handled with special prudence and care”?
4. How does God execute his eternal decrees? How does he bring his will to bear?
5. How does God execute his eternal decrees? In other words, how does he bring his will to bear?

Chapter 4. Of Creation (*Genesis 1-2:4, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 11:3*)

1. Are the three persons of the Trinity active in creation? How? (WCF 4:1)

2. What did God create? How did God create? Why did God create? (Psalm 33:6-9)

3. How should we read Genesis 1&2?

Parabolically? Consider the features of Luke 15:1-7.

Allegorically? Consider the features of Ezekiel 16:1-8.

Poetically? Consider the features of Song of Solomon 4:1-4.

Historically? Consider the features of Judges 16:23-27.

5. What is special about God's creation of man? (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, WCF 4:2)

6. Why is the theory of evolution incompatible with the biblical account of creation?

Chapter 5. Of Providence (*Genesis 50:20, Jonah 4:6-8, Acts 4:27-28*)

1. Is God *imminent* or *transcendent*? What do these words mean?

2. To what degree does God preserve and govern his creation? (WCF 5:1,4, Matthew 10:29-31, Hebrews 1:3.)

3. Has God decreed bad things to happen?

4. Does God, the First Cause, make use of means, secondary causes? (WCF 5:3) How does God work:

By means? Consider Isaiah 10:5-6.

Without means? Consider Hosea 1:7.

Above means? Consider Exodus 7:19.

Against means? Consider 2 Daniel 3:27.

5. Towards whom is God's providence specially bent? (Matthew 16:18)

6. How is this doctrine a source of comfort to the believer? (Romans 8:28, WCF 5:7)

Heidelberg Catechism 1-That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

The Problem & the Plan (WCF 6-8)

Chapter 6. Of The Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof

1. What was the sin of our first parents? How could this happen? (Genesis 3, WCF 6:1)

2. What were the consequences of their sin? How was each cursed? (Romans 8:20, WCF 6:2)

3. Does Adam's sin affect us, personally? How? (Romans 5:1-12, WCF 6:3)

Total D (Gen 6:5)-

Total I (1 Cor 2:14, Heb. 11:4)-

Chapter 7. Of God's Covenant with Man *(We'll do this section in class together)*

1. What is a covenant? What are the ingredients of a covenant?
 P-
 P-
 P-
 P-

2. Who initiates/establishes covenants between God & man? Why? (WCF 7:1)

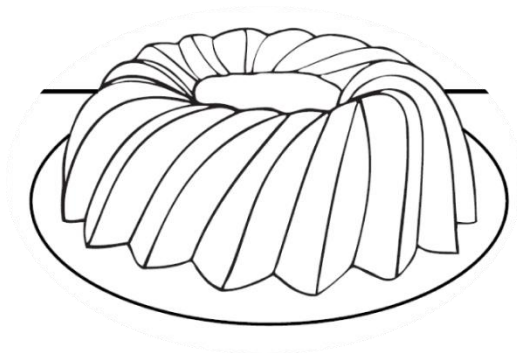
3. How many covenants are there in Scripture? How do they compare? Fill in the chart & cakes.

Fig 1. Arrangement of the Covenants

	<i>Cov. of _____.</i>	<i>Cov. of _____.</i>
<i>P</i>		
<i>P</i>		
<i>P</i>		
<i>P</i>		

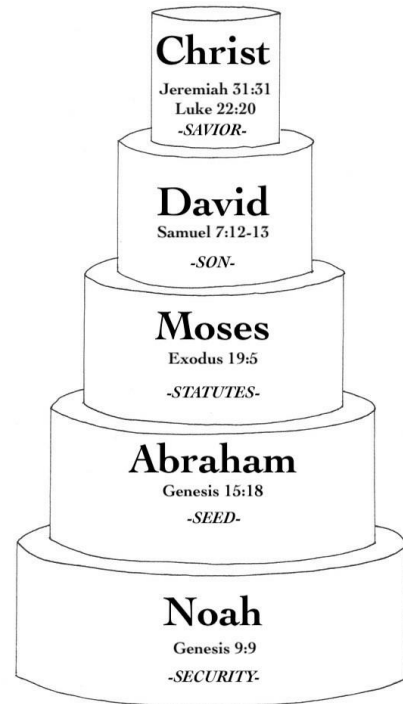
Fig 2. Administration of the Covenants

Covenant of Works



Genesis 1:28-31, 2:15-17

Covenant of Grace



Genesis 3:15

Chapter 8. Of Christ the Mediator (*Romans 5:12-21 & John:1-5*)

1. What is a Mediator? What offices does Christ fulfill as our Mediator? Describe each.

2. Was Jesus a.100% God, b.100% man, c.50/50, or d.100%/100%?

3. Why did Jesus have to be God? Why Did Jesus have to be Man?

4. How was Jesus humiliated? How was he exalted?

The Order of Salvation (WCF 9-18)

Chapter 9. Of Free Will (*Romans 3:10-18*)

1. Does man have free will? (WCF 9:1)

2. What are the four states of man? Describe each. (WCF9:2-4)

Chapter 10. Of Effectual Calling (*Ephesians 2:1-5*)

1. What is effectual calling? (WCF 10:1)

2. How does God effectually call/ regenerate a sinner? (WCF 10:1)

Chapter 11. Of Justification (*Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21*)

1. What does the term *justification* mean? How is someone justified before God?

2. When did God decree to justify the elect? When did God accomplish the justification of the elect? When does God apply the justification of the elect justified? (WCF 11:4)

Chapter 12. Of Adoption (*Gal 4:1-7*)

1. What is adoption? Why is adoption a necessary & unique feature of the gospel?

2. What are the privileges of the sons of God?

Chapter 13. Of Sanctification (*Ephesians 2:8-10, Philippians 2:12-13*)

1. What does the word "sanctification" mean?

2. Is sanctification God's work? Man's Work? Or the work of both?

Chapter 14. Of Saving Faith (*Hebrews 11:1*)

1. What is faith? What are the "principal acts" of saving faith? (WCF 14:2)

2. Are there different measures of saving faith? How can weak faith be strengthened?

Chapter 15. Of Repentance Unto Life (*2 Corinthians 7:10*)

1. What is repentance unto life? (WCF 15:2)

2. How are we to repent of *particular* sins? (WCF 15:5)

Chapter 16. Of Good Works (*James 2:14-17*)

1. Fill in the blanks:

a. Good works must be in accordance with _____.

b. Good works must flow from _____.

c. Good works must be unto the _____.

2. Are any of our good works free from sin? (WCF 16:5)

Chapter 17. Of the Perseverance of the Saints (*Romans 8:31-39 & John 6:39-40*)

1. Can someone ever lose their salvation? (WCF 17:1)

2. Where does the certainty of salvation lie? Man's obedience? (WCF 17:2)

Chapter 18. Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation (*Colossians 2:2, Ephesians 1:13-14*)

1) Can I have infallible assurance of my salvation?

3) What are the 3-fold grounds of our assurance? (WCF 18:2)

Law & Liberty (WCF 19-22)

19. Of the Law of God (*Exodus 20:1-17*)

1. Is fallen man still under the Covenant of Works that God made with Adam? In other words, has the fall nullified the law of God? (19.2)

2. What are the three divisions, or classes, of the law? (19.2-19.4)

M _____

C _____

J _____

3. How does the Lord use His law in the life of the believer? Is the law contrary to the gospel? (19.6-19.7)

20. Of Christian Liberty & the Liberty of Conscience (*1 Corinthians 8*)

1. What is Christian liberty (20.1)?

2. What are principles that govern the exercise & restraint of liberty? (20.2-20.3)

3. Why is this doctrine so crucial in the cultivation of a gracious church family?

21. Of Religious Worship & the Sabbath Day (*Ex. 20:1-6, Leviticus 10:1-4, Isaiah 58:13-14*)

1. What is worship? (21.1)

2. Who is to be worshipped? (21.1-21.2)

3. How are we to worship? (21.1, 21.3, Leviticus 10:1-4)

4. When are we to worship? (21.7-21.8, Isaiah 58:13-14, Mark 2:23-3:6)

22. Of Lawful Oaths and Vows (*Isaiah 65:16, Matthew 5:33-37*)

1. What is the difference between an oath and a vow? (22.1, 22.5)

2. What is Christ forbidding in Matthew 5:33-37?

3. What are some examples of rash and unbiblical oaths and vows? Esau? Jephthah? Saul?

Ecclesiology & Eschatology (WCF 23-33)

23. Of the Civil Magistrate *(Romans 13:1-7)*

1. What is the function of government? (23:1)
2. Is there a biblical separation of church & state? Is there an unbiblical separation? (23:3)
3. What is the duty of all people towards their magistrates? Special duties of believers? (23:4)

24. Of Marriage and Divorce *(Genesis 2:21-25, Matthew 19:3-9, 1 Corinthians 7:13-16, Ephesians 5:22-33)*

1. What is a biblical definition of marriage? (24.1)
2. What are the purposes of marriage? (24.2)
3. What are the biblical parameters of a God-honoring divorce? (24.5)

25. The Church *(Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Corinthians 12:12-20)*

1. "I believe in one holy catholic & apostolic church"
One-
Holy-
Catholic-
Apostolic-
Church-
2. How is the church visible & invisible? (25.1, John 15:1-5)
3. Is there a perfectly pure church?

26. Of The Communion of Saints (*1 Peter 2:9-10, Hebrews 10:24-25*)

1. What is the foundation of the communion of the saints? (26.1)

2. What are the mutual obligations of believers belonging to the same church? (26.2)

27. Of the Sacraments (*1 Cor. 11:23-26, Matthew 28:19*)

1. What is a sacrament? (27.1)

2. What is the *sacramental union* between the sign and the thing signified? (27.2) (*1 Peter 3:21, Luke 22:20, John 6:55-56*)

3. Wherein lies the power & efficacy of the sacraments? (27.3)

28. Of Baptism (*Genesis 17:7, Colossians 2:11-12, Acts 2: 38-39, 16:16-15, 1 Corinthians 7:13-14, Mark 10:13-16*)

1. If Baptism is a “sign and a seal,” what does it signify? What does it seal?

2. To whom should this sacrament be administered?

29. Of the Lord’s Supper (*1 Corinthians 11:23-33*)

1. What is happening during the Lord’s Supper? Why do we call it “communion?” (29.1)

2. What is not happening during the Lord’s Supper? (29.2)

3. How should I prepare and partake of this supper worthily? May children participate? (29.7)

30. Of Church Censures (*Matthew 16:16-20, Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5*)

1. What are the “Keys of the Kingdom?” To whom has Christ given those keys? (30.2)
2. How & when are these Keys to be employed? What is the extent of church power? (30.2)
3. What are the goals and forms of church discipline? (30.3)

31. Of Synods & Councils (*Acts 15:1-6, Galatians 2:2-10*)

1. What purpose do synods & councils serve? (31.1)
2. Can synods & councils err? (31.3)
3. Should the church engage in political activism? When/how should the church address civil affairs? (31.4)

32. Of the State of Men after Death, & of the Resurrection of the Dead (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11*)

1. What benefits to believers receive at the time of their death? At the time of Christ’s return? (32.1-32.2)
2. What happens unbelievers at the time of their death? At the time of Christ’s return? (32.3)

33. Of the Last Judgement (*Revelation 20:11-15*)

1. What does the Bible say will happen on the Last Day? 33.1)
2. Why should the living consider the Last Day? (33.3)

The Problem & the Plan (WCF 6-8)

Chapter 6. Of The Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof

1. What was the sin of our first parents? How could this have happened? (Genesis 3, WCF 6:1)

2. What were the consequences of their sin? (Genesis 3:19, 5:5, 3:24, WCF 6:2)

3. Does Adam's sin affect us, personally? How? (Romans 5:1-12, Ephesians 2:1-3, WCF 6:3-4)

Total D _____ (Gen 6:5)-

Total I _____ (1 Cor 2:14, Heb. 11:4)-

4. Are we sinners because we sin or do we sin because we are sinners? Are all sins equal? (WCF 6:5, WLC 150 on pg. 296)

5. Consider the following excerpt from the Roman Catholic Catechism in light of WCF 6:5:

“Concupiscence stems from the disobedience of the first sin. It unsettles man's moral faculties and, without being in itself an offense, inclines man to commit sins” (CCC 2515).

-What is concupiscence? Is concupiscence itself sin?

6. Are Christians still totally depraved?

Chapter 7. Of God’s Covenant with Man

1. What is a covenant? What are the elements of a covenant?

2. Who initiates & establishes covenants between God & man? Why? (WCF 7:1)

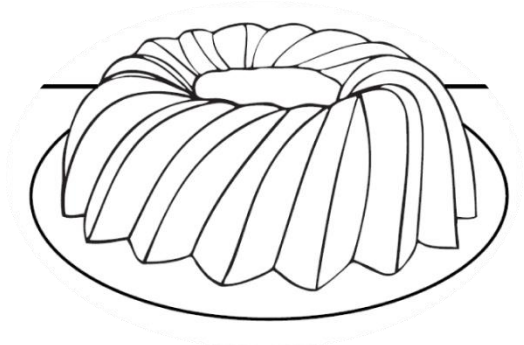
3. How many covenants are there in Scripture? How do they compare? (WCF 7:2-3, 5-6)

Fig 1. Arrangement of the Covenants

	<i>Cov. of _____.</i>	<i>Cov. of _____.</i>
P		
P		
P		
P		

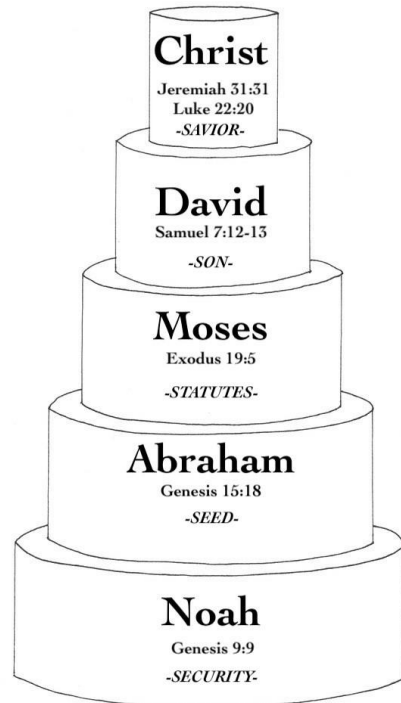
Fig 2. Administration of the Covenants

Covenant of Works



Genesis 1:28-31, 2:15-17

Covenant of Grace



Genesis 3:15

Chapter 8. Of Christ the Mediator

1. What is a Mediator? What offices does Christ fulfill as our Mediator (WCF 8:1)? Describe each.
P _____ (Deuteronomy 18:18, Isaiah 61:1-3)
P _____ (Psalm 110:1,4, Hebrews 5:6-10)
K _____ (Psalm 2:6-12, Revelation 19:11-16)

2. Was Jesus a.100% God, b.100% man, c.50/50, or d.100%/100% (WCF 8:2)? Defend your answer from Scripture.

3. Why did Jesus have to be God (WLC 38 on page 181)? Why Did Jesus have to be Man (WLC 39)?

4. How was Jesus humiliated? How was he exalted? (Philippians 2:5-11)

5. How were saints in the Old Testament saved? (WCF 8:6)

6. Read & Discuss WCF 8:7.

7. Does Jesus continue His work as Mediator even now? How so? (Romans 8:34, WCF 8:8)

The Order of Salvation (WCF 9-18)

Chapter 9. Of Free Will (*Joshua 24:15, John 17:7, Galatians 5:13, John 6:44, 15:16, Acts 2:21, Romans 8:7-8, 1 Corinthians 2:14*)

1. Does man have free will? (WCF 9:1)

2. What are the four states of man? Describe each. (WCF9:2-4)

Chapter 10. Of Effectual Calling (*Ezekiel 36:25-27, John 3:5, Acts 16:14, Romans 10:14-17, Ephesians 2:1-5, Titus 3:5*)

1. **Who** takes the initiative in man's salvation?

2. **How** does God effectually call, or regenerate, a sinner? (WCF 10:1)

3. **What** about elect infants dying in infancy? (WCF 10:3)

4. Who are those incapable of being outwardly called by the ministry of the word?

5. Can one be saved by outward calling without an inward effectual calling? (Mark 4)

Chapter 11. Of Justification (*Genesis 15: 6, Romans 1:16-17, Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21*)

1. What is righteousness?
2. What does the term *justification* mean? How is someone justified before God? (WCF 11:1)
3. What is the “instrument of justification”? (WCF 11:2)
4. How are the justice and grace of God glorified in the justification of sinners? (WCF 11:3)
5. When did God decree to justify the elect? When did God accomplish the justification of the elect? When does God apply the justification of the elect justified? (WCF 11:4)
6. Do justified people sin? Why can the justified never fall from a state of justification? Then, does sin have no consequences for the justified? (11:5)

Chapter 12. Of Adoption (*John 1:12-13, Romans 8:16-17, Galatians 4:1-7*)

1. What is adoption? Why is adoption a necessary & unique feature of the gospel?
2. What are the privileges of the sons of God? (Matthew 6:9, Psalm 103:13, Hebrews 12:7, 1 Peter 1:3-5)

Chapter 13. Of Sanctification (*Ephesians 2:8-10, Philippians 2:12-13*)

1. What does the word "sanctification" mean?
2. Is sanctification definitive or progressive? (WCF 13:1, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Hebrews 10:14)
3. Is sanctification God's work? Man's Work? Or the work of both? (Philippian 2:12-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

From the writings of Luther, 1545

I had indeed been captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans. But up till then it was not the cold blood out the heart, but a single word in Chapter 1, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed," that had stood in my way. For I hated that word "righteousness of God," which, according to the use and custom of all the teachers, I had been taught to understand philosophically regarding the formal or active righteousness, as they call it, with which God is righteous and punishes the unrighteous sinner.

Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God, and said, "As if, indeed, it is not enough, that miserable sinners, eternally lost through original sin, are crushed by every kind of calamity by the law of the decalogue, without having God add pain to pain by the gospel and also by the gospel threatening us with his righteousness and wrath!" Thus I raged with a fierce and troubled conscience. Nevertheless, I beat importunately upon Paul at that place, most ardently desiring to know what St. Paul wanted.

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, namely, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'" There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning: the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me. Thereupon I ran through the Scripture from memory. I also found in other terms an analogy, as, the work of God, that is what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.

And I extolled my sweetest word with a love as great as the hatred with which I had before hated the word "righteousness of God." Thus that place in Paul was for me truly the gate to paradise.