

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 66. What is that union which the elect have with Christ?

A The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace,¹ whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband;² which is done in their effectual calling.³

1. Eph. 2:6–7. 2. Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor. 6:17; John 10:28; Eph. 5:23, 30; John 15:5; Eph. 3:17. 3. 1 Pet. 5:10; 1 Cor. 1:9.

Q 67. What is effectual calling?

A Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace,¹ whereby (out of his free and special love to his elect, and from nothing in them moving him thereunto²) he doth, in his accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by his Word and Spirit;³ savingly enlightening their minds,⁴ renewing and powerfully determining their wills,⁵ so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer his call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein.⁶

1. Ezek. 37:9, 14; John 5:25; Eph. 1:18–20; 2 Tim. 1:8–9. 2. Titus 3:4–5; Eph. 2:4–5, 7–9; Rom. 9:11; Deut. 9:5. 3. John 3:5; Titus 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:20; 2 Cor. 6:1–2; John 6:44–45; Acts 16:14; 2 Thess. 2:13–14. 4. Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 2:10, 12; 2 Cor. 4:6; Eph. 1:17–18. 5. Ezek. 11:19; Ezek. 36:26–27; John 6:45. 6. Eph. 2:5; Phil. 2:13; Deut. 30:6; Isa. 45:22; Matt. 11:28–30; Rev. 22:17.

Q 68. Are the elect only effectually called?

A All the elect, and they only, are effectually called;¹ although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the Word,² and have some common operations of the Spirit;³ who, for their willful neglect and contempt of the grace offered to them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.⁴

1. Acts 13:48. 2. Matt. 22:14; Acts 8:13, 20–21. 3. Matt. 7:22; Matt. 13:20–21; Heb. 6:4–6. 4. John 12:38–40; Acts 28:25–27; John 6:64–65; Ps. 81:11–12; Heb. 10:29; 1 John 2:19.

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