

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

westminster larger catechism

Q 78. Whence ariseth the imperfection of sanctification in believers?

A The imperfection of sanctification in believers ariseth from the remnants of sin abiding in every part of them, and the perpetual lustings of the flesh against the spirit; whereby they are often foiled with temptations, and fall into many sins,¹ are hindered in all their spiritual services,² and their best works are imperfect and defiled in the sight of God.³

1. Rom. 7:18, 23; Mark 14:66–72; Gal. 2:11–12. 2. Heb. 12:1. 3. Isa. 64:6; Ex. 28:38; Gal. 5:16–18.

Q 79. May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?

A True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God,¹ and his decree and covenant to give them perseverance,² their inseparable union with Christ,³ his continual intercession for them,⁴ and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them,⁵ can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace,⁶ but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.⁷

1. Jer. 31:3. 2. 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:20–21; 2 Sam. 23:5. 3. 1 Cor. 1:8–9. 4. Heb. 7:25; Luke 22:32. 5. 1 John 3:9; 1 John 2:27. 6. Jer. 32:40; John 10:28. 7. 1 Pet. 1:5.

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