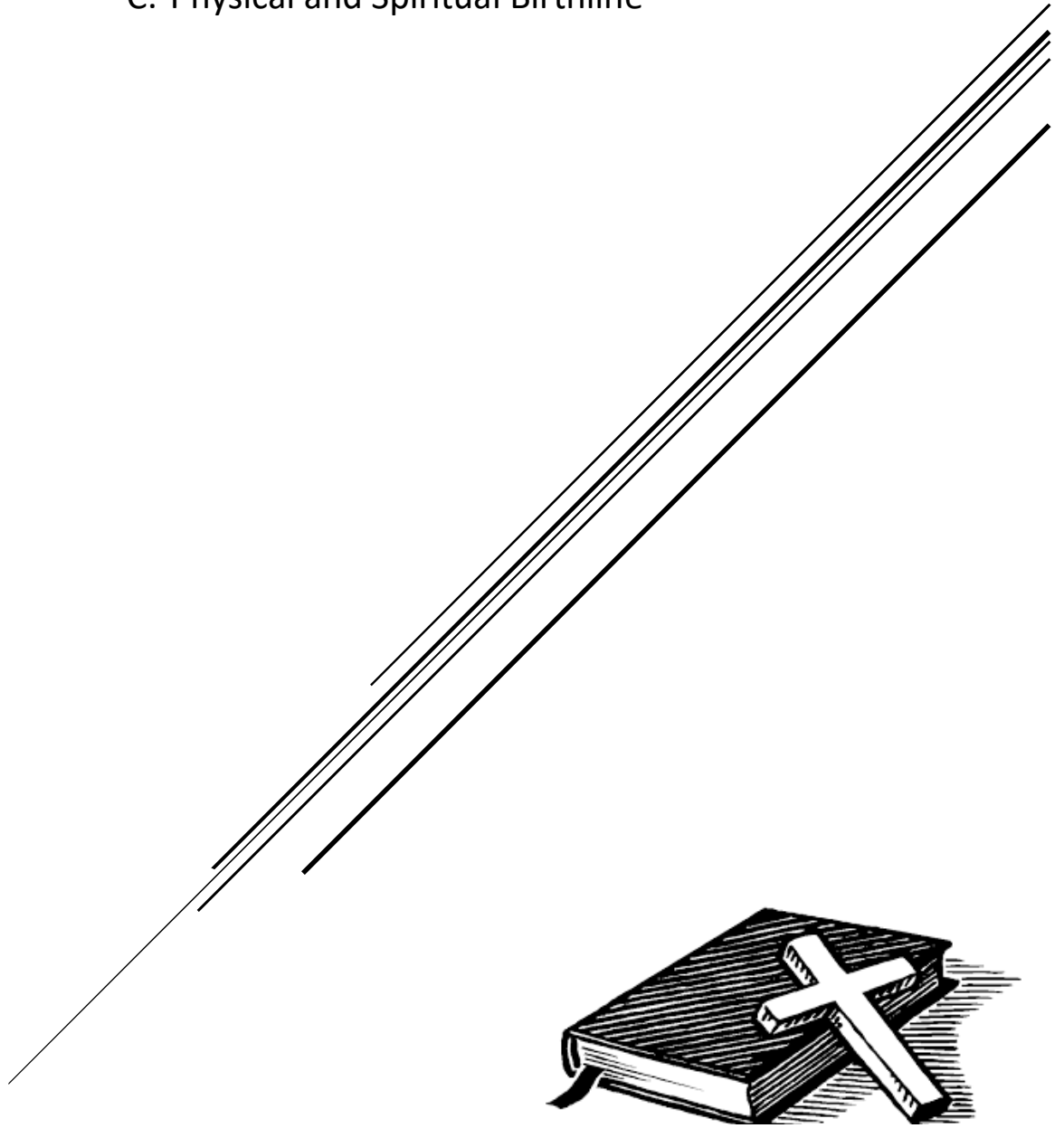


A Study Of The Ordo Salutis (Order Of Salvation) and Man's Relationship With Sin

- A. Of Free Will
- B. Order of Salvation
- C. Physical and Spiritual Birthline



A Study of the Ordo Salutis (Order of Salvation) and Man's Relationship with Sin

A. Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter IX (9), Of Free Will

1. God hath endued the will of man with that natural liberty, that it is neither forced, nor, by any absolute necessity of nature, determined to good, or evil.
2. Man, in his **state of innocency**, had freedom, and power to will and to do that which was good and well pleasing to God; but yet, mutably, so that he might fall from it.
3. Man, by his fall into a **state of sin**, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation: so as, a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.
4. When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the **state of grace**, he freeth him from his natural bondage under sin; and, by his grace alone, enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so, as that by reason of his remaining corruption, he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil.
5. The will of man is made perfectly and immutably free to good alone, in the **state of glory** only.

Truth Table for WCF Chapter IX (9)

Period	State of ...	Man's Will		Man's Relationship with Sin
		Liberty (Freedom)	Power (Ability)	
Before Fall	Innocence	Free Forced	Ability to do Good Ability to do Evil	Sin is not present. We are: <u>Able to not sin (to please God)</u> <u>Able to sin (to displease God)</u>
After Fall (Spiritually Dead)	Sin	Free Forced	Ability to do Good Ability to do Evil	Sin is present. We are: <u>Not able to not sin (to please God)</u> <u>Able to sin (to displease God)</u>
After Fall (Born Again)	Grace	Free Forced	Ability to do Good Ability to do Evil	Sin is present. We are: <u>Able to not sin (to please God)</u> <u>Able to sin (to displease God)</u>
Eternity (New Creation; Christ returns)	Glory	Free Forced	Ability to do Good Ability to do Evil	Sin is not present. We are: <u>Able to not sin (to please God)</u> <u>Not able to sin (to displease God)</u>

Notes:

1.	In the state of Innocence , after creating man in His own image, God and man had communion and were in relationship with each other. Sin was not present.	God man
2.	In the state of Sin , man's relationship with God was severed due to his disobedience (eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil). This caused man's nature to become totally corrupt, and he not only lost all moral ability to do anything spiritually pleasing to God, but he also had no desire to please God. Thus, he could do only evil (all his motivations were to please himself rather than please God).	God man
3.	In the state of Grace , God and man's relationship is restored (for the elect) through the saving work of Christ. Although man's moral ability to please God has been restored through faith in Christ, remnants of his sinful nature still exist within him.	God man <b style="color: red; text-align: center;">Christ
4.	In the state of Glory , man's will is made perfectly and immutably free to do good alone...sin is no longer possible or desired. Praise God!	God man <b style="color: red; text-align: center;">Christ

References: 1. Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter IX, Of Free Will

2. Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes, G.I. Williamson

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B. Ordo Salutis (Order of Salvation)

The Ordo Salutis (Latin; meaning Order of Salvation) focuses on God's actions and man's response in salvation. God calls man and regenerates him so that he is able to freely respond with repentance, faith, and obedience. Behind God's divine call is His electing decree. Although the term "Order of Salvation" is not mentioned in scripture by that exact name, all of Scripture speaks to the individual attributes that comprise it. A broad overview is described in **Romans 8:29-30** (commonly referred to as "The Golden Chain of Salvation"). We do not proclaim, "I found Christ," but rather, "He found me."

The individual attributes of the Order of Salvation can be represented by the acronym **EERJASPG**:



E	Election (predestination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF Ch. III (3) • WCF-LC Q.12-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 8:28-29 (elect) • Eph 1:3-14 (elect) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 9:6-24 (un-elect) • 1 Pet 2:7-8 (un-elect) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jude 4 (un-elect)
<p>Overview: God's foreordained eternal plan to elect (predestine) some men and angels to everlasting life, while also foreordaining others to everlasting death.</p> <p>God's Eternal Decree: His foreordained eternal plan. It is:</p> <p>Wise [Eph 3:8-10] although we may not always understand it. Eternal [Eph 3:11] founded in the depths of eternity. Effectual [Isaiah 46:10] everything comes to pass. Unchangeable [Luke 22:22] faithful and true. Unconditional [Acts 2:23] does not depend on man's action, but actually renders such actions certain. All-inclusive [Gen 50:20] embraces both the good and wicked actions of man. Permissive (regarding sin) [Rom 9:23] to make the riches his glory known.</p> <p>Who is active? God is active. Man is passive.</p> <p>Who receives? Some men and angels.</p> <p>Receives what? The Elect receive everlasting life (approbation, or commendation); The Un-elect receive everlasting death (reprobation, or condemnation).</p> <p>When? Before creation (before the foundation of the world was laid).</p> <p>Why? For the manifestation of God's glory.</p>					

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E	Effectual Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF Ch. X (10) • WCF-LC Q.67-68 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 8:30 • Acts 13:48, 16:14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Thes 2:13 • John 10:3-4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke 18:16 • John 3:8
<p>Overview: God (by his word and Holy Spirit) savingly enlightens a sinner's mind (illuminates) to willingly and freely answer His call unto salvation in Jesus Christ. Illumination is the application of God's revealed truth to the mind and heart (inward application). Unlike the external call that all hear and some reject or ignore, effectual call is an internal call to a sinner's mind and heart that is from God, and it is freely embraced. This illuminating internal call is what allows a sinner to repent and believe.</p> <p>Two types of call: External call is universal (to both the elect and the un-elect). Internal call is the external call made effectual by the Holy Spirit to the elect.</p> <p>False arguments (categories of people that do not exist):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The righteous sinner who desires to be called (saved) but can't be because they are not one of God's elect. • That person elected by God who does not want to be called (saved). • That person who claims the Gospel was never presented to them, and were therefore not allowed to be called (saved). <p>Who is active? God is active. Man is passive.</p> <p>Who receives? The elect.</p> <p>Receives what? Enlightening of their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God.</p> <p>When? At God's appointed and accepted time.</p> <p>How? By His word and spirit.</p> <p>Why? For His glory (His will; mystery; his free and special love to his elect).</p>					
R	Regeneration (& conversion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF Ch. XIV (14), XV (15) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF-LC Q.72,73,76 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 10:3-4 • 2 Cor 5:17-18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Pet 1:23
<p>Overview: God changes the heart (e.g. from dead to alive; from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh). Because the new heart desires God, a sinner is able to freely repent and believe (conversion). (Note: Where effectual calling is the word illuminating and penetrating the heart/mind by the Spirit's power, regeneration is the actual changing of the heart from dead to sin to alive in Christ).</p> <p>What is restored that was previously lost? Moral ability to do good (ability to not sin).</p> <p>Who is active? God is active. Man is essentially passive, but is active in that he is enabled to freely answer God's call.</p> <p>Repentance: Looks back; deals with the negative (sin).</p> <p>Faith: Looks forward; deals with the positive (faith in Christ).</p>					
J	Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF Ch. XI (11) • WCF-LC Q.70-71 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 3:24 • Rom 5:1-5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 8:30 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Cor 5:21
<p>Overview: God legally pardons a sinner and accepts them as righteous for Christ's sake.</p> <p>Who is active? God is active. Man is passive.</p> <p>Receives what? Two things: 1) pardon of sin and 2) accepted as righteous for Christ's sake.</p> <p>Double imputation: The believer's sins are imputed to Christ, and Christ's righteousness is imputed to the believer.</p> <p>On what basis does God justify us? Faith in Christ (repent and believe – see Regeneration).</p>					
A	Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF Ch. XII (12) • WCF-LC Q.74 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gal 4:4-7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 1:12-13 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rom 8:15-17
<p>Overview: Based on God's justification, a sinner becomes an adopted child of God.</p> <p>Who is active? God is active. Man is passive.</p> <p>Who receives? All those who are justified.</p> <p>Receives what? Liberties and privileges of the children of God.</p> <p>What are the received liberties and privileges? Have His name put upon them, receive the spirit of adoption, have access to the throne of grace with boldness, are enabled to cry, Abba, Father, are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by Him as by a Father: yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption; and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.</p> <p>Is adoption part of our legal sonship or moral sonship? Legal sonship. It takes place outside of the sinner in the tribunal of God. It is an act that is complete and once for all time. Moral sonship takes place in man (e.g., sanctification).</p>					

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<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">S</div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Sanctification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF Ch. XIII (13) <li style="width: 25%;">• 2 Cor 3:18 <li style="width: 25%;">• Phil 2:12-13 <li style="width: 25%;">• Rom 6:11-14 <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF-LC Q.75, 77, 78 <li style="width: 25%;">• 2 Cor 7:1
<p>Overview: From the time that God saves a sinner, until the time of their death, they continue to grow in their love for Christ (vivification) and hatred of sin (mortification).</p> <p>Who is active? God and man are both active.</p> <p>What is the external evidence of sanctification that others can see? Fruits of the Spirit (good works).</p> <p>Are we ever fully sanctified in this life? No. Why not? There is a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.</p> <p>Describe some of the attributes of sanctification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed (we are no longer slaves to sin). • Our lusts are more and more weakened and mortified. • We are more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces. • Some remnants of corruption remain. • Our sanctification remains imperfect in this life. There is a continual and irreconcilable war, the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. • Although the remaining corruption, for a time may much prevail, the regenerate part will ultimately overcome. 	
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">P</div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Perseverance of the Saints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF Ch. XVII (17), XVIII (18) <li style="width: 25%;">• Phil 1:6 <li style="width: 25%;">• 1 Cor 1:8-9 <li style="width: 25%;">• 2 Tim 1:12 <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF-LC Q.79-81 <li style="width: 25%;">• John 10:28
<p>Overview: God's elect can never lose their salvation. They will persevere until the end.</p> <p>Can someone who has been saved lose their salvation? No.</p> <p>Why Not? The immutability of the decree of election (unchangeable).</p> <p>Can God's grace be limited or withheld? Yes. Why? Sin.</p> <p>What is the result? God's displeasure, Holy Spirit grieves, heart is hardened, conscience is wounded, others are hurt and scandalized, bring temporal judgments upon yourself.</p> <p>How can we be sure of our salvation? WCF Ch. XVII, XVIII and WCF-LC Q. 79-81</p>	
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">G</div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Glorification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF Ch. XXXII (32) <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF-SC Q.37-38 <li style="width: 25%;">• 1 Cor 15:20-23 <li style="width: 25%;">• Phil 3:20-21 <li style="width: 25%;">• WCF-LC Q.82-87 <li style="width: 25%;">• 1 Cor 15:50-54
<p>Overview: Raised from this world, or from the grave, into eternity.</p> <p>What happens at death to the body? Returns to dust and sees corruption.</p> <p>What happens at death to the soul? Immediately returns to God.</p> <p>In what sense is man glorified at death? Soul passes into heaven and sin is no longer possible (perfect in holiness).</p> <p>In what sense is man not glorified at death? The body remains in the grave and sees corruption (decay).</p> <p>When is glorification fully manifested? When Christ returns, the new creation is established, man's eternal body and soul are reunited, and the final judgment is complete.</p>	

Closing Thought

Question: How should we treat this special revelation from God regarding His plan of salvation for sinners?

Answer: WCF Chapter III, Paragraph VIII, Of God's Eternal Decree

...So shall this doctrine afford matter of praise, reverence, and admiration of God; and of humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all that sincerely obey the Gospel.

Closing Prayer

May we be ever prepared to say, "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen."

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C. Physical/Spiritual Birth Line

