

New City Catechism Class

Week Twenty Six

Q26: What else does Christ's death redeem?

A26: Christ's death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of every part of fallen creation, as he powerfully directs all things for his own glory and creation's good.

Colossians 1:19–20 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Discuss the question:

- What else needs to be redeemed?
- Why is it important to ask this question?
- Is there anything we should be cautious about as we try to answer this question?
- Read Romans 8:18-25... In what sense is creation "groaning" (verse 22)?
- What evidence do you see that creation has been affected by sin & is in such pain?
- How is it possible that Adam's sin brought such brokenness to all of creation?
- Why would the redemption of creation and the restoration of the brokenness we see be connected to our redemption and all that Christ accomplished on the cross?
- Why use the picture of childbirth to describe the way creation is in pain? (John 16:19-22)

Discuss the Scripture:

- What is meant by the statement "the fullness of deity" dwells in Jesus? (vs 19)
- Why is this significant?
- What is the means by which all things are reconciled to God? (vs 20)
- By "all things", does Paul mean *all* things?
- Do things in heaven need to be reconciled to God? (vs 20)
- What does it mean that the Father was *pleased* to reconcile all things to Himself through the shed blood of Christ on the cross?
- How does the blood of Christ make peace? (vs 20)
- Do the implications of this peace extend beyond our relationship with God?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- Why would we say that Christ's death is the *beginning* of redemption & renewal?
- What's included in "every part of fallen creation"?
- Read revelation 21:1-5 and Revelation 22:1-3...
 - Why is the restoration of all things essential the Gospel?
 - How can we find hope & be encouraged in this without making it man-centered?
- God is at work now as He "powerfully directs all things for His glory and creation's good" ...
 - How does this affect our response to the brokenness of creation now?
 - How should the Church respond to knowing that God's sovereign direction is pointing to our glorification and the future fulfillment of the restoration of all things?