



Catechism: Foundations of the Faith

My Only Comfort (Part 1)

Key idea:

Knowing all of these things, what is your only comfort in life and death? That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, has fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, from this day forth, to live unto him.

Key text:

Romans 14:7–9

For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

Romans 8:31–39

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Key points:

1. We belong to God, not only because He created us, but because He bought us with the blood of Christ.
2. Because of the sacrificial death of Christ, we are assured that God is fully for us as His people.
3. The sacrificial death of Christ has fully satisfied God's justice for all of our sins and we stand before Him counted as fully righteous!
4. The sacrificial death of Christ has fully delivered us from all the power of the Devil to accuse, persecute, or even put us to death.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: this is BRCC Catechism Question 98. It is the final question in our catechism and is intended as a summary response to all that has preceded it.
2. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
3. As I read through the question and answer (see the theme above), what is my initial response? What stands out to me the most in this answer?
4. How does this answer stress the all-encompassing nature of Christ's Lordship? How does it stress the all-encompassing nature of the salvation I have been given in Christ? What words or phrases drive home the universal Lordship of Christ and the comprehensive nature of the salvation He has provided for me?
5. In what ways does the Scripture teach that I belong to Jesus? In what sense do all humans belong to God? In what special sense do I belong to Jesus as a Christian?
6. How is the death of Christ for our sins a secure foundation for comfort? How does it answer the accusations of Satan regarding my sin? How should I respond to Satan's accusation against me?
7. Does the salvation that Christ provided mean that I will never face difficulty or suffering? Why or why not?
8. The Coronavirus pandemic has brought an increased awareness of death. How does this catechism question and Romans 8:31-39 provide comfort in the face of this pandemic? How can I find comfort in the face of my own mortality?

9. What other things am I tempted to use as a source of comfort when I face difficult times? Why are these not real sources of comfort? How can I use difficult times to point me to Christ as my only comfort?
10. Bret encouraged everyone to actually memorize this catechism question and answer. What is the benefit of memorizing something like this? Is it really worth the effort? Have I started memorizing it yet?
11. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?

Preview of next week: My Only Comfort (Part 2)