



Sermon Discussion Guide

A Good Confession

Perseverance

Warm-Up Questions:

- Have you ever worried that you won't make it to the end? Why or why not?

Read John 6:37-40; 10:27-30

I. Perseverance Defined (John 6:37, 10:27-29)

- Read John 6:37, 10:27-29, WCF 17.1. What is the biblical teaching of perseverance?
- Read Matthew 7:15-23, 13:1-10, 13:24-30. According to these verses, does everyone who **professes** faith actually **possess** faith? What is the evidence of true faith? Where have you seen this evidence in your own life?
- Perseverance does not depend on us but on the immutability of God's choice. We are not strong enough to fall away when God has his hold on us. What is your gut-reaction to this doctrine? Is it comforting? Seem to good to be true? Unsettling? Why do you think that is?
- How might you respond to someone who calls perseverance a dangerous doctrine that leads to careless living?

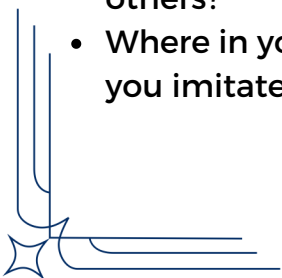
II. Perseverance Applied (Romans 8:38-39)

- What things would change in your life today if you actually believed this? What truly grasping perseverance change in your own heart? How might it impact how you relate to others?
- Where in your life (or with whom) might God be calling you imitate his persevering love for you?

Going Deeper:

Read and discuss chapter 17 of The Westminster Confession, along with some of the Scripture proofs. Then, as a group:

- Spend time summarizing/re-wording the question and answer
- Discuss how the Scripture proofs support the answer



Sermon Discussion Questions--Leader's Copy
A Good Confession: Perseverance
March 19th and 20th, 2022

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I. Perseverance Defined (John 6:37, 10:27-29)

- Read John 6:37, 10:27-29, WCF 17.1. What is the biblical teaching of perseverance?

The biblical teaching of perseverance means that when God sets his love on someone and chooses to redeem them, he will see it through to completion. God finishes what he starts. He perseveres to the end in saving us.

- Read Matthew 7:15-23, 13:1-10, 13:24-30. According to these verses, does everyone who **professes** faith actually **possess** faith? What is the evidence of true faith? Where have you seen this evidence in your own life?

These passages show that profession doesn't equal possession. Some seeds grow for a short time before being choked. We won't really know until the final harvest who is in and who is out, but trees are known by their fruit. Fruit is the evidence of faith, specifically the fruit of the spirit. Sometimes, it can be hard for us to see our own growth. So if there are those who are struggling and worried if they are truly believers, ask them if they or those they are close to have seen them grow in love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

- Perseverance does not depend on us but on the immutability of God's choice. We are not strong enough to fall away when God has his hold on us. What is your gut-reaction to this doctrine? Is it comforting? Seem to good to be true? Unsettling? Why do you think that is?

Those from different church backgrounds might be less familiar or comfortable with this doctrine.

- How might you respond to someone who calls perseverance a dangerous doctrine that leads to careless living?

Fear doesn't produce secure, obedient children. Love motivates obedience.

II. Perseverance Applied (Romans 8:38-39)

- What things would change in your life today if you actually believed this? What truly grasping perseverance change in your own heart? How might it impact how you relate to others?

Ray mentioned two: we would be motivated to persevere (grit) and that it would give us security.

- Where in your life (or with whom) might God be calling you imitate his persevering love for you?