

NATURAL MAN

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

Since the Fall

We can't keep the law perfectly.

We can't satisfy the law [ever]

We can't keep the law at all (without Christ)

Thus, no good works.

Impossible without Christ
Impossible without Holy Spirit

The Promise of the Law

The Law works wrath and only accuses. It terrifies consciences by the judgment and punishment of the law.

1. Despises God's judgment
2. Flees & hates His judgment
3. Contrition

Love toward God in the heart is the essence of the divine law (Deut 6:5)

The Law cannot produce love in us toward God.

We may do civil or **external works**, but that is not what the law requires. IV§18

"How can the human heart love God while it knows...his terrible wrath" IV§128

The Promise of the Gospel

Christ perfectly keeps the law in our place

Christ satisfies the law's demands

Gospel promises forgiveness of sin and works peace.

God becomes an object to be loved. IV§129

Justification

Salvation

"when he takes heart and **believes** that he has a gracious God for Christ's sake" IV§292

We think rightly about God

"He is **pronounced righteous in a forensic way**" IV§252

"Since faith brings the Holy Spirit and **produces a new life in our hearts**, it must also produce spiritual impulses in our hearts." IV§125

Sanctification

Renewal of Life which follows

We can't keep the law perfectly. We can't satisfy the law [ever]

We do keep the law.

IV§293 (with faith in Christ)

Incipient IV§125

We begin to fear and love God

We begin to love our neighbor

"The incipient keeping of the law pleases God **because of faith.**"

"All the commandments of God are kept when what is not kept is forgiven."

Augustine IV§172

"**impulses** of the heart belong to the essence of the divine law" IV§130

"Paul includes **faith and love** in presenting a **summary of the Christian life** (1 Tim. 1:5)" IV§245

"God pronounces righteous those who believe him from their heart and then have good fruits, which please him because of faith and therefore are a keeping of the law." IV§253

False Opinions about works:

Good works merit grace & forgiveness of sins, conquer the terrors of sin & death and reconcile God to us. Good works are accepted before God (without Christ) because of their intrinsic excellence.

A man is justified by love and works (without faith), or regenerated by his works (partly or wholly)

Correct Profession:

"We must **not trust** that we are accounted righteous before God **by our own perfection and keeping of the law**, but only because of Christ" IV§161

"Christ remains the mediator. We must always be sure that **for his sake** we have a gracious God in spite of our **unworthiness.**" IV§163

"But God accepts this **imperfect righteousness of the law** only because of faith." IV§163

"Even though they are a **long way from the perfection of the law**, these works please God on account of the justifying faith that for Christ's sake we have a gracious God. IV§282