

Sunday School

Second London Baptist Confession of Faith Chapter 16: Of Good Works

I. What Constitutes a Good Work (P 1)

- A. Only that which God has commanded in His Holy Word
Mic. 6:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- B. Not the inventions of blind zeal or the pretense of good intentions
Matt. 15:6

II. The Characteristics of Good Works (P 2)

Good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are

- A. The fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith Gal. 5:6; 1 Tim. 1:5; Jas. 2:14-25
- B. Manifestation of believer's thankfulness Psa. 116:12-13; Luke 7:36ff.
- C. They strengthen assurance 1 Jn. 2:3, 5; 3:18-19

"Often the way to deal with lack of assurance is not by more self-examination, but by exercising faith. Go to Christ, rest your soul in his hands, then in gratitude put your faith to work. Maybe the problem you have with assurance is that you are so into yourself that you never have the time to do anything for anybody else." Sam Waldron

- D. Edify the brethren Matt. 5:16; 2 Cor. 9:2
- E. Adorn the profession of the Gospel Matt. 5:16 (cf. 1 Tim. 6:1; Tits 2:5, 9-10)
- F. Stop the mouths of the adversaries 1 Tim. 6:1; 1 Pet. 2:15
- G. And Glorify God Phil. 1:9-11
- H. The necessity of good works - Eph. 2:10; Rom. 6:22

III. The Source of Good Works (P 3)

- A. The ability is not of themselves
But wholly from the Spirit of Christ John 15:4-5
- B. Enabled by existing graces and actual influence of the Holy Spirit
Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 2:10
Gal. 6:9-10



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But they should not be negligent, waiting for the Spirit to move
Heb. 6:10-12

IV. The Limitations of Good Works (P 4 & 5)

A. No supererogation

4. They who in their obedience attain to the greatest height which is possible in this life, are so far from being able to **supererogate**, and to do more than God requires,

4. Those who attain the greatest heights of obedience possible in this life are far from being able to merit reward by **going beyond duty** or to do more than God requires.

A RC doctrine,

B. Always fall short

C. Not meritorious (5)

Luke 17:10; Gal. 5:22-23; Isa. 64:6; Psa. 143:2

V. The Acceptance of Believer's Good Works (P 6)

In Christ our Good Works are accepted in the sight of God

Despite their mixed motives, weakness, marbled sin; God for Christ's sake accepts our good works. Heb. 6:10

VI. The Rejection of the Nonbeliever's Good Works (P 7)

A. On a human level, the unregenerate can perform works that are in compliance with God's commands/beneficial to others

B. Their deficiencies

1. Not from a heart purified by faith

2. Not done in a right manner (right motives) according to Scripture

3. Not done with the right goal, the glory of God

4. Done in sin, they cannot be pleasing to God (the missing equation is the Son!)

5. They do not qualify anyone for grace (Medieval RC, God will not withhold grace from those who do what is within)

6. YET their neglect is even more sinful and displeasing to God!

