



GOOD WORKS

Supplemental reading from the Heidelberg Catechism

Q62: Why can't the good we do make us right with God, or at least help make us right with him?

A. Because the righteousness which can pass God's scrutiny must be entirely perfect and must in every way measure up to the divine law. Even the very best we do in this life is imperfect and stained with sin.

Q63: How can you say that the good we do doesn't earn anything when God promises to reward it in this life and the next?

A. This reward is not earned; it is a gift of grace.

Q64: But doesn't this teaching make people indifferent and wicked?

A. No. It is impossible for those grafted into Christ by true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude.

Q86: We have been delivered from our misery by God's grace alone through Christ and not because we have earned it: why then must we still do good?

A. To be sure, Christ has redeemed us by His blood. But we do good because Christ by His Spirit is also renewing us to be like Himself, so that in all our living we may show that we are thankful to God for all He has done for us, and so that He may be praised through us.

And we do good so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.