

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana  
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession  
 “Chapter 16, Of Good Works”  
 April 1, 2018

## CHAPTER 16 “Of Good Works”

- Paragraph 1 – Good Works Identified
  - Broad Definition
    - Positively, good works are only what God commands in His Word. Micah 6:8; Heb 13:21
    - Negatively, they are not what men think are good works. Matt 15:9; Isa 29:13
  - There is no Exact Definition of Good Works. Why?
- Paragraph 2 – The Nature of Good Works
  - First, notice a reiteration. It says “good works are done in obedience to God's commands.”
  - Secondly, “good works are a fruit and evidence of a true and lively faith.”
  - Third, these good works bring six blessings.
    1. “Believers manifest our thankfulness.” Psalm 116:12-13
    2. “Strengthen their assurance.” 1 Jn 2:3, 5; 2 Pet 2:5-11
    3. “They edify their brethren.” 1 Thess 5:11-15
    4. “Adorn the profession of the gospel” Matt 5:16
    5. “Stop the mouths of the adversaries” Titus 2:7; 1 Pet 2:15
    6. Finally, good works glorify God.
  - Fourth, these good works are His “workmanship, created *in Christ Jesus* thereunto.” Eph 2:8-10 Good works are Christ-centered.
  - Fifth, the end of good works is “eternal life.” Rom 6:22

- Paragraph 3 – The Source and Practice of Good Works
  - First, good works are not natural but supernatural. There are two source of these good works:
    1. They are graces of Jesus Christ. John 15:4-5
    2. The Holy Spirit applies these graces of good works. 2 Cor 3:5; Phil 2:13
  - Second, the fact that good works are “graces” does not imply “quietism.” Phil 2:12; Heb 6:11, 12, Is 64:7
  
- Paragraph 4 – The Limitations of Good Works
  - There is no possibility of doing more good works than you are required to do.
  - Scripture: Job 9:2-3; Gal 5:17; Lk 17:10
  
- Paragraph 5 – The Weakness of Good Works
  - First, we cannot merit eternal life by our good works. Rom 3:20; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 4:6. There are four reasons for this:
    1. The disproportion between our good works and God's glory.
    2. The infinite distance between us and God.
    3. These good works are unprofitable to God.
    4. These good works cannot satisfy for our former sins.
  - Second, we can never be profitable servants to God so as to give something to Him He does not have and so “merit” something from Him like an employee. Gal 5:16-26
    1. There is always a mixture of sin in all of our good works.
    2. Every bit of good is from the Spirit of God.
  - Third, our good works can never endure God's judgment. Is 64:6; Ps 143:2

- Paragraph 6 – The Acceptableness of Christian Good Works
  - God graciously accepts our good works like He graciously accepts our persons. Eph 1:5; 1 Pet 1:5
  - God is pleased to accept and reward our good works though they are accompanied by many weaknesses and sins. Matt 25:21-23; Heb 6:10
  
- Paragraph 7 – God's Rejection of Non-Christian Good Works
  - First, works done by unregenerate men may actually be commanded by God and very useful to others. 2 Kgs 10:30; 1 Kgs 21:27, 29
  - Second, the good works of lost people lack three things:
    1. They don't proceed from a heart purified by faith. Gen 4:5; Heb 11:4, 6
    2. They aren't done in the right manner according to the Word. 1 Cor 13:1
    3. They aren't done for the glory of God. Matt 6:2, 5
  - Third, as a result of these realities, the works of lost people must be viewed in two ways. Amos 5:21-22; Rom 9:16; Titus 3:5
    1. Even though they are good works, they are basically and inherently sinful.
    2. These works of the unregenerate do not qualify a man for grace from God.
  - Fourth, if lost men don't do any good works at all, it deepens their sin, and incurs God's displeasure. Job 21:14-15; Matt 25:41-43
  
- The Bottom Line: Believers always and actually do good works. They're not perfect good works, but they are really good works. Unbelievers can *outwardly* do good works, but from God's perspective, they aren't truly or inherently good, though they benefit society.