

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“Can We Keep God's Law?” outline**  
November 26, 2017

**HC 114-115**

*This morning we will return to our study of the Heidelberg Catechism in its effort to summarize Christian doctrine and practice. The Catechism is divided into three sections: Our Misery; Our Redemption in Christ and our proper Response. We have studied the 10 Commandments and today we will consider two questions that naturally arise. Are we, as redeemed people, able to keep God's law unto perfection? If we are not able to do this, then why deal with the Law at all?*

*The relationship between God's commandments and our salvation by grace through faith in the work of Christ presents us with certain difficulties. When we affirm that a person is saved by grace alone and not by any works he might do toward that end we do not want to say that it makes no difference as to how he lives! One cannot believe on the Lord Jesus for salvation and then live merrily ever after in a state of self-possessed debauchery! So how do our works and God's grace combine in the Christian life and profession? These two Catechism questions indicate something of how this might be answered.*

**1. Can the Regenerate person obey God's law Perfectly?**

- **The natural man and God's law**  
Rom. 8: 7-8; Jms 3: 16
  
- **The regenerate man and God's law**  
Gal. 5: 17; I Jn 1: 8 Job 9: 2-3; Jms 2: 10
  
- **Law and Love**  
Psm 119: 106; Rom 7: 22; Phil 3: 12-14

**2. If not....why teach the Law at all?**

- **The Law as a Mirror (negatively)**  
Rom. 7:7

- **The Law as a Mirror (positively)**  
Phil. 3: 12-14; Psm 119: 5-58

### **3. Lessons:**

- **Inward spiritual growth is both Possible and Expected.**  
Col. 3:9-10
- **Perfection is a long way off...but it IS our Goal, our Desire and our Destiny!**  
Col. 1: 28; Rom. 8: 1-2

### **Questions for Discussion and Reflection**

- 1. Some Christian's claim to have reached a state of perfection in their Christian life. What do we have to know about such a claim to judge it properly? Is it possible for a Christian to be perfect in the biblical sense? In this life? What are your reasons for or against?**
- 2. Why does a Christian's claim to be perfect seem to indicate pride or arrogance? If a Christian were perfect, could he be prideful or arrogant? Was Jesus perfect? Was Jesus arrogant?**
- 3. Is it possible for a redeemed sinner to pursue perfection in a humble manner? What would that look like? How does this topic play into the world's concern with hypocritical Christians?**
- 4. Do you meditate on God's law? What is the difference between meditating and reading or meditating and studying? How can you meditate on God's law in such a way as to promote spiritual growth in Christ?**
- 5. How can you use God's law as a tool in evangelism/discipleship? Why does the HC include God's law in both its beginning (Man's Misery) and its end (Gratitude)?**