

Westminster Confession of Faith: Session Seventeen

WCF 16 – Of Good Works

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV).

I. Introduction

- a. Rome vs. the Reformed (Again)

II. WCF Chapter XVI

- a. *Paragraph 1: The Definition of Good Works*
What a Good Work IS

What a Good Work IS NOT

- b. *Paragraph 2: The Purposes of Good Works*
Good Works Fruit/Evidence of Lively Faith

Purposes of Good Works

- c. *Paragraph 3: The Source of Good Works*
Dual Reality
Good Works from God's Spirit

We Are Responsible to Do Good Works

Ephesians 2:10

- d. *Paragraph 4: Supererogation*
Definition: “To Work Above/Beyond”

History of the Romish Doctrine of Supererogation

Supererogation Impossible (Luke 17:10)

- e. *Paragraph 5: Good Works and Merit*
Good Works Can NEVER Merit

The Human Situation

Isaiah 64:6

Application

- f. *Paragraph 6: Good Works of Believers*
Another Dual Reality
Good Works Merit Nothing Before God

God Still Accepts Our Good Works in and because of Christ

- g. *Paragraph 7: Good Works and Unbelievers*
Four Criteria for a Good Work

III. Conclusion

Helpful Resources

Hodge, Archibald Alexander. *A Commentary on the Confession of Faith*. Philadelphia, PA: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work, 1869; pp. 298-313.

———. *Outlines of Theology*. Rewritten and Enlarged. New York, NY: Hodder & Stoughton, 1878; pp. 525-539.

Sproul, R. C. *Truths We Confess: A Systematic Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Revised Edition. Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2019; pp. 354-376.

Van Dixhoorn, Chad. *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2014; pp. 203-216.