

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

May

Week 1 (5/7)

- Read: WCF 16.1-2

- Memorize: Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Study questions:

Section 1

1. What are some common or worldly definition of “good works”?
2. What are some common or worldly motivations for doing good works?
3. Section 1 defines good works by one positive statement and three negative statements. List them.

Section 2

4. Why should Christians do good works?
5. What purpose do good works serve in the lives of Christians?

Week 2 (5/14)

- Read: WCF 16.3-16.4

- Memorize: Galatians 5:17

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

- Study questions:

Section 3

1. Can Christians do good works? If so, how?
2. How important is the Holy Spirit to our good works?
3. What does it mean when it says, “but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them”?

Section 4

4. Define “supererogate”.
5. Why do you think the Divines wrote a section against supererogation?
6. Why can’t Christians “do more than God requires”?

Week 3 (5/21)

- Read: WCF 16.5

- Memorize: Luke 17:10

So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

- Study questions:

Section 5

1. Why can our good works never merit pardon of sin or eternal life?

2. Are our best works of any good at all? If so, how? And yet, what is still wrong with our best works?

3. Look up Luke 17:10. What is the attitude Christians are to have toward our good works? How does our flesh fight against this attitude?

Week 4 (5/28)

- Read: WCF 16.6-7

- Memorize: 1 Peter 2:4-5

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- Study questions:

Section 6

1. Does God accept our good works? If so, how?

2. Read Isaiah 64:6. Does God view our good works as “polluted garments” or “filthy rags”?

Section 7

3. Some unregenerate people do things that look like “good works”. Why are such works done by unregenerate men sinful and displeasing to God?

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, June 1 @ 7:00pm