

Theology Simply Explained — WSC82 “Who Can Perfectly Keep God's Commandments”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 82—especially explaining and applying how **Adam could have kept God's commandments but didn't, the last Adam did perfectly keep them in His people's stead, and the last Adam's people genuinely but imperfectly keep them now, and will perfectly keep them forever.**

Q82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God? ***No mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word and deed.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

The shorter. Catechism question this week is number. 82 is any man. Able perfectly to keep the commandments of god. And the answer is no mere man. Since the fall. Is able in this life. Perfectly to keep the commandments of god. But tough daily. Break them in thought word. And indeed.

Man, of course was created and knowledge righteousness and holiness. When god had finished making, Adam, and the woman. Him, he had brought to him. The end of day, six. God looked at all that he made and he said that it was very good. He was able to perfectly to keep.

The commandments of god and yet he who is both. Uh, fully and genuinely free. We can see that men make real choices that there will be none in hell, who did not choose. To despise god. Because even adam, Who had a holy nature? When his original condition. Was so free in his Willingness or ability to will ability to choose.

That he chose sin despite not being predisposed. To it. In this way. Adam. Is almost like, The devil. It's the reason why. Those who stay in Adam. Are the seed of the serpent. And only those who the lord. Giving them a mercy. That is not given to any of the angels.

You fell not even the highest angel, who fell? But those who Believe in the lord jesus christ are brought. To faith. I'm brought to life all by the grace and mercy of god opposite what they deserve or not the seed of the serpent. But the scripture calls them, the seed of the woman and later and more fully and truly.

The seed of god and children. Of god. Well, adam was able perfectly to keep the commandments of god, but he did not. And ever since the fall, all of us have been in adam and sinned in adam and fallen in Adam have not been able. To keep the commandments of god for.

We have already broken them and now we have sinful natures And so, we have not only a creaturely Inability. We have a fleshly wicked. Inability to keep the commandments. Of god. But there is one who is not. Descended from adam. By ordinary generation that is by fatherhood. There is one.

Who. Was made. Or rather made for himself for he of all humanity, pre-existed. There's one who made for himself a body. Out of the substance of a woman. And therefore he is the archetypal the great seed capital s. Of the woman. And who created for himself a human soul.

And he was able perfectly to keep the commandments of god and he this time though last atom. Did. Perfectly heap. The commandments of god as a true man. But not as a mere man. For his god. And men. So that having obeyed According to his, Human nature. And suffered.

According to his human nature. He yet being a divine person. Has suffered as god even In our place, and the church has bought With the blood of god. If he? Who spilled his blood then is god according to acts 20. Yes, he has a man. But he is not a mere man.

And so this is a happy. Part of our catechism answer, isn't it? No mere man since the fall Is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of god. And here we have another one of those wonderful phrases, so many of them in this question in this, Life.

For the struggle of the believer into which we have been enlisted by our union with christ no longer being Under the guilt of sin or under the power of sin, but riddled with the presence of sin that struggle into which we have been enlisted in which the spirit of christ leads us against the deeds of our body to be putting them to death.

Is quite a fierce. And oftentimes. Painful. Struggle. The good that we would do. We do not do the evil that we hate. We would And just as christ is always present to us. So, the apostle says, in the moment, seven, He finds this to be a law in his current existence sin is always.

Present. To him. But it shall not always be. Always present to them. That's the wonderful news, isn't it? Sin is always present to you. Even a believer in fact. The more you grow. In faith, the more the spirit quickens to you the word of god in your heart, the more you see God's holiness, the more you see yourself the more you will see that sin.

There's always present to you. But the more you will then rejoice. That it will not always be. Oh, he's present to you. It's days. Our numbered. It is only in this life. That you are not able. Perfectly to keep the commandments of god. For this life is short. And soon.

You will not only be able. But you actually will. Perfectly keep. Perfectly keep all the commandments of God not just in that one moment that you have longed for your whole life. Thinking, if i could just love god with all my heart for a moments. If i could just hate my sin entirely and completely for a moment, if i could just be free for it, from it for a moment.

And every true believer has felt that way. But it won't just be for a moment. Before, and eternity. And so, it'll wonderful little phrase that is In this life. No mere man. Since the fall is able in this life, Perfectly to keep the commandments of god. And here is Another one of the beautiful little words.

Perfectly. For, although the believer does not Perfectly keep the commandments of god yet. Does he genuinely keep the commandments of God, because he doesn't walk according to the law of sin and death. In which sometimes we deceive ourselves that by our, our effort to do, what the letter says that, that is keeping the commandments of God.

And so, there is not even the root of faith and love in such a obedience, and it is no obedience at all. But now, We obey not according to the law of sin and death. But according to the law, Of spirit. And life. And so, the letter way of obedience that had killed us has been a replaced by the spirit way of obedience.

That shows that there is life in us. That the the faith of a believer. Without faith. It is impossible to please God but with faith. It actually is possible to. Please god. To love him. To do, not just write things but for right reason from a right root. Because there in the depth of the heart where the root of genuine christian obedience has found is the work of our God, the holy spirit.

And union with God. Our savior. The lord jesus christ. And love for god. Our father. And so, We are not yet able perfectly. To keep. But we do already now. Genuinely keep. The commandments of god. And yet, we daily break them in bought words, indeed. Such is obvious. To the regenerate, man.

It's only Ironically an unregenerate, man. Who can think that he does not sin. But as james says, We all stumble. In many things. And as john says, towards the end of his christian maturity, Perhaps the most admirable. Of the apostles in the descriptions of their character. And the new testament.

Towards the end of his christian maturity or on earth. He says, if we say that we have no sin. We call God a liar. Paul. Having advanced much and grace, we already referred. To his constant battle. As furious constant battle was sent. And roman 7. So we do daily.

Break the commandments of god. And thought word, indeed. And yet. Should obviously have been the case. As children of the first item. And there are all those other delicious phrases. To show us what the last item now, Has done. No mere man. Since the fall. Is able in this life.

Perfectly. To keep the commitments of god. But duck daily, break them and thought word. And deed.