

New City Catechism: Question 15

Question: Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

Answer: That we may know the holy nature and will of God, and the sinful nature and disobedience of our hearts; and thus our need of a Savior. The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Savior.

Romans 3:20

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. What Scripture passages are best suited to helping us grapple with the depth of our sinfulness?
- II. How do we keep from depression when confronted with the truth of an unattainable law and the exhortation to live according to the law?
- III. How does Christ's statement about being the "fulfilment of the law" (Matthew 5:17) relate to our attempts to follow the law?
- IV. What does the universal failure against the standard of the law mean for our interaction with other people? Is there any hierarchy of *more or less* lawful people?

