

New City Catechism: Question 19

Question: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

Answer: Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy, reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- I. What emotions do you find being evoked by Q19 and its answer?
- II. What does it take for someone who has wronged us to be brought back into our favor? How does this relate to our being brought back into God's favor?
- III. Why is it so difficult for us to grapple with our inability to escape the punishment of sin on our own? Why do we keep trying to earn freedom from that sin? What does this say about us?
- IV. Every time the church takes communion it is good for us to remember that it is not only true that Christ died for us but that it was **required** for a perfect redeemer to die for us to save us. How does this singular answer to sin impact our thinking?

