

LORD'S DAY 4

Q9. But doesn't God do us an injustice by requiring in his law what we are unable to do?

A. No,¹ God created human beings with the ability to keep the law. They, however, provoked by the devil,² in willful disobedience, robbed themselves and all their descendants of these gifts.

1. Eph. 4:[22–23], 24–25 – “to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

2. Luke 10:30[–37] – “Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Q10. Does God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not.¹ God is terribly angry with the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit. As a just judge, God will punish them both now and in eternity, having declared: “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.”²

1. Rom. 5:12 – “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—”

Heb. 9:27 – “And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment,”

2. Deut. 27:26 – “Cursed be anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by observing them.’ All the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”

Gal. 3:10 – “For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law.”

Q11. But isn't God also merciful?

A. God is certainly merciful,¹ but also just.² God's justice demands that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty—eternal punishment of body and soul.

1. Exod. 34:6 – “The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, ‘The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,’”

2. Exod. 20:5 – “You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me.”

Ps. 5:5 – “The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.”

2 Cor. 6:14 – “Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness have in common? Or what partnership is there between light and darkness?”