

New City Catechism

Question 13: Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

Bible References:

- Gen 2:16-17; 3:6
- Eccl. 7:20
- Is. 53:6; 64:6
- Jer. 17:9
- Luke 10:25-28
- Luke 18:18-20
- Rom. 3:20-26, 31
- Rom. 5:12-19
- Rom. 7:12 & 22
- Rom. 10:1-4
- Heb. 4:12-13
- James 2:8-10; 3:2
- 1 Pet. 1:16
- 1 Jn. 1:8

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Answer:

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

Romans 3:10-12

There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it significant that the catechism uses the word, "*perfectly*"?
2. Why is it significant that the catechism uses the terminology, "*mere human*"?
3. Since no mere human is able to keep the law of God perfectly, is it fair for God to continue to hold us accountable to the law?
4. How does the catechism answer relate to believers?
5. How should this teaching influence our understanding of the gospel?

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