

repentance to those that are offended,<sup>n</sup> who are thereupon to be reconciled to him, and in love to receive him.<sup>o</sup>

l. Pss. 32:5–6; 51:1–14

m. Prov. 28:13; Isa. 55:7; 1 John 1:9

n. James 5:16; Luke 17:3–4; Josh 7:19; see Matt. 18:15–18

o. 2 Cor. 2:7–8; see Gal. 6:1–2

## Chapter 16 Of Good Works

1. Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his holy Word,<sup>a</sup> and not such as, without the warrant thereof, are devised by men, out of blind zeal, or upon any pretense of good intention.<sup>b</sup>

a. Mic. 6:8; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 13:21

b. Matt. 15:9; Isa. 29:13; 1 Pet. 1:18; John 16:2; Rom. 10:2; 1 Sam. 15:21–23; Deut. 10:12–13; Col. 2:16–17, 20–23

2. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith:<sup>c</sup> and by them believers manifest their thankfulness,<sup>d</sup> strengthen their assurance,<sup>e</sup> edify their brethren,<sup>f</sup> adorn the profession of the gospel,<sup>g</sup> stop the mouths of the adversaries,<sup>h</sup> and glorify God,<sup>i</sup> whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto,<sup>k</sup> that, having their fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.<sup>l</sup>

c. James 2:18, 22

d. Ps. 116:12–14; Col. 3:15–17; 1 Pet. 2:9

e. 1 John 2:3, 5; 2 Pet. 1:5–10

f. 2 Cor. 9:2; Matt. 5:16; 1 Tim. 4:12

g. Titus 2:5, 9–12; 1 Tim. 6:1

h. 1 Pet. 2:15

i. 1 Pet. 2:12; Phil. 1:11; John 15:8

k. Eph. 2:10

l. Rom. 6:22

3. Their ability to do good works is not at all of themselves, but wholly from the Spirit of Christ.<sup>m</sup> And that they may be enabled thereunto, beside the graces they have already received, there is required an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit, to work in them to will, and to do, of his good pleasure:<sup>n</sup> yet are they not hereupon to grow negligent, as if they were not bound to perform any duty unless upon a special motion of the Spirit; but they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.<sup>o</sup>

m. John 15:4–6; Rom. 8:4–14; Ezek. 36:26–27

n. Phil. 2:13; 4:13; 2 Cor. 3:5; Eph. 3:16

o. Phil. 2:12; Heb. 6:11–12; 2 Pet. 1:3, 5, 10–11; Isa. 64:7; 2 Tim. 1:6; Acts 26:6–7; Jude 20–21

his sin, to declare his repentance to those that are offended, who are then to be reconciled to him and receive him in love.

## Chapter 16 Good Works

1. Good works are only such as God has commanded in his holy Word, and not such as, without the warrant of Scripture, are devised by men out of blind zeal or any pretense of good intention.

2. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and living faith. By them believers show their thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, build up their fellow believers, adorn the profession of the gospel, shut the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God. They are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, so that, bearing fruit unto holiness, they may attain the outcome, which is eternal life.

3. Their ability to do good works is not at all from themselves, but entirely from the Spirit of Christ. And—in order that they may be enabled to do these things—besides the graces believers have already received, there must also be an actual influence of the same Holy Spirit working in them both to will and to do God's good pleasure. This truth, however, should not cause believers to become negligent, as though they were not bound to perform any duty without a special moving of the Spirit; rather, they ought to be diligent in stirring up the grace of God that is in them.