

New City Catechism Class

Week Fourteen

Q14: Did God create us unable to keep his law?

A14: No, but because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, all of creation is fallen; we are all born in sin and guilt, corrupt in our nature and unable to keep God's law.

Romans 5:12 "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- What about the answer to question thirteen makes this question necessary?
- Why is this question important in terms of understanding the character of God?
- Why is this question important in terms of understanding humanity (anthropology)?
- What is the "law" to which this question refers?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Who is the one man through whom sin entered the world? In what two key ways does he relate to us?
- Looking at verse 12 and the broader context of Romans 5, what does Paul say proves that all of mankind is sinful?
- In what ways have "all men sinned" (cf. Psalm 51:5 and Ephesians 2:3)?
- In what ways might Sabbath day violations be connected to idolatry?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- What is meant by "all of creation" in the answer? In what way(s) is it "fallen"?
- What does it mean to be "born in sin"? What does it mean to be born "in guilt"?
- What does it mean to be "corrupt in our nature"? In what key categories of our humanity does this corruption manifest itself?
- In what ways are we "unable to keep God's law"? Does this mean that people are bad in every way? Why or why not?
- What is our greatest need as a result of our fallenness? In what ways is this need met now?

*In what ways do you seek to live as if you are capable of keeping the law?
How would your interactions with God change if you fully embraced your
inability?*