

Some friends of mine believe that the Bible teaches that works are necessary for maintaining one's salvation. They affirm that the following list of deeds [or some reasonable facsimile of it] is required as evidence of one's true faith.

Do you believe there must be outward proof of someone's salvation without which no one can be saved?

I have never met one person who insists that God expects 100% obedience.
Nor have I met anyone who thinks that God probably only demands 10% obedience.
I've asked them.

THEREFORE: I've drawn the conclusion the conclusion that these friends of mine must believe that God grades good works on a "curve." They believe the acceptable "Obedience Quotient" lies somewhere between 10% & 90%,

What's your opinion? What percent do we have to attain to be acceptable in these **27** areas below?
What "grade" have you reached yourself?
[For how long?]

If you believe that "faith without works" cannot give eternal life, then you believe God grades-on-a-curve somewhere between 10% and 90% !

- I. A life characterized daily by the kind of mercy shown by the Good Samaritan (Lk 10.25-28)
- II. Generosity with possessions as Jesus required of the rich young ruler (Mtt 9.17-21)
- III. Forgiveness toward others in exactly the same way as the Lord has forgiven us (Mtt 6.14, 15)
- IV. Endurance through every trial that has come to us with a sweet and tolerant attitude (Mtt 10.22)
- V. Love toward all other human beings in the same way we love ourselves (Mtt 5.44, 45)
- VI. Be as humble as children all the time (Mtt 18.4, 5)
- VII. Absolute honesty with money, time, promises (Lk 8.13, 14)
- VIII. A heart as tender as a child's (Mtt 18.4, 5)
- IX. Keep the Decalogue as the rich young ruler claimed to do (Mtt 19.17-21)
- X. A life of self-denial and total commitment all the time (Mtt 19.28, 29)
- XI. Always willing to spurn familial love for Christ (Mtt 19.28, 29)
- XII. Always faithful (Lk 12.41)

- XIII Actively engaged in feeding and clothing the poor, sick, homeless and prisoners (Mtt 24.41-46)
- XIV Never cause strife, always be peacemakers, and never "get back." (Mtt 5.3-1)
- XV Forsake all forms of idolatry (Acts 15.20) [*Aha! You probably got 100% here*]
- XVI Never engage in any kind of immorality (Acts 15.20) [*mental or physical*]
- XVII Fulfill laws of the Torah pertaining to blood
- XVIII Do not murder (Acts 15.20) [*Another 100%, here*]
- XIX No homosexual activity (I Cor 6.9,10 [*another perfect score*])
- XX No rebellion in our hearts (1 or.9,10)
- XXI Shun all 16 "deeds of the flesh" (Gal 5.19-21)
- XXII Visit widows and orphans (Jas 1.21-27)
- XXIII Practice kindness II Peter 1.5-11
- XXIV Refuse to harbor a grudge (I John 2.9-11)
- XXV Never be lazy, [Lk 19.27 #1]
- XXVI Daily [*hourly*] anticipating the Lord's return (Lk 21.36)
- XXVII Never betray or deny Jesus even once (John 6.54)
- XXVII- Keep all of Moses' laws (John 8.51)

3 Questions”

1. How many weeks [*months*] could a Christian go without praying and still be saved?
2. How many years could a Christian live without being generous toward the poor, the church, or toward his enemies and still be saved?
3. How many years could a Christian refuse to
 - share the Gospel with a nasty [*or nice*] next door neighbor?
 - visit the widows?
 - visit those in prison?
 - care for an orphan?
 - disdain the homeless?
 All of these are commands to obey directly from the mouth of Jesus, huh? How long?

For someone to say that this is the requirement for eternal life and then admit that he doesn't keep the same standard, is to admit that he is lost.

I presume those of you who disagree with what I believe the Bible teaches are not willing to state publicly that they keep these 27 mandates that you have laid down *for me* to be saved.

I believe it is correct to assume that they are not actually depending on fulfilling these "conditions" as their hope for salvation, but rather, [*I hope*] they must admit that they are truly depending entirely upon the grace of God and His mercy for their eternal life.

We're all sunk if we have to fulfill all of the above with an A++. But I hope you are sinning less and less each year of your life! And your Good Works Quotient continues to rise.