

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

In the same way the order between faith and good works must remain and be maintained, just as the order between justification and renewal (or sanctification) must be maintained.

Good works do not come before faith, neither does sanctification come before justification. First, in conversion faith is kindled in us by the Holy Spirit from the hearing of the Gospel. Faith lays hold of God's grace in Christ, by which the person is justified. Then, when the person is justified, he is also renewed and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. From this renewal and sanctification the fruit of good works then follow. This should not be understood as though justification and renewal were separated from one another in such a way that a genuine faith sometimes could exist and continue for a time together with evil intention. Only the order of causes and effects, of antecedents and consequents, is indicated, how one comes first or follows the other. What Luther has correctly said remains true:

Faith and good works well agree and fit together; but it is faith alone, without works, that lays hold of the blessing.

Yet it is never, ever, alone. This has been set forth above.

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

In the same way the order between faith and good works must remain and be maintained, just as the order between justification and renewal (or sanctification) must be maintained.

Good works do not come before faith, neither does sanctification come before justification. First, in conversion faith is kindled in us by the Holy Spirit from the hearing of the Gospel. Faith lays hold of God's grace in Christ, by which the person is justified. Then, when the person is justified, he is also renewed and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. From this renewal and sanctification the fruit of good works then follow. This should not be understood as though justification and renewal were separated from one another in such a way that a genuine faith sometimes could exist and continue for a time together with evil intention. Only the order of causes and effects, of antecedents and consequents, is indicated, how one comes first or follows the other. What Luther has correctly said remains true:

Faith and good works well agree and fit together; but it is faith alone, without works, that lays hold of the blessing.

Yet it is never, ever, alone. This has been set forth above.