

Augsburg Confession

Summer 2025

Week 5 – Article II - Sin (Page 11) continued

Review

- ❖ In Genesis 3 we answered the following questions
 - Why is the fall so devastating?
 - How serious is God about sin?
 - What are the effects of sin?
 - Why did God expel Adam and Eve from the garden?
- ❖ Concupiscence (kon-CUE-pih-sense) - Is an ardent longing, typically one that is sensual. In Christianity, particularly in Catholic and Lutheran theology, concupiscence is the tendency of humans to sin
- ❖ In the Early Church, a monk named Pelagius held that human nature was not depraved after the fall into sin. In the Pelagian view, people could still decide to do the right thing when they wanted to; people were basically good. An implication of this view would be that a person could merit salvation on one's own, without God's mercy or grace. Semi-Pelagianism is the view that mankind has powers to cooperate with God in attaining salvation.

MOVIE TIME!!!!!!

Question 5 – *What is the Biblical Response to Pelagianism?*

- Romans 5:19 -
- Genesis 8:21 -
- Ephesians 2:1 -
- Romans 8:7 -
- James 4:17 -

Read James 1:14-15 – *How does mankind sin?*

- ❖ In an article on Pelagianism, historian Michael S. Horton noted that nearly 80 percent of evangelicals think people are basically good and that even conservative Protestants are open to Pelagian ideas. He described this as a serious crisis in Christian doctrine, a heresy from pop psychology that undermines the Christian faith. He also remarked that ideas of church growth view evangelism as a natural process of persuasion or marketing rather than acts of God through His people.

Question 6 - *If we give up our biblical and confessional understanding and belief on sin, what else are we giving up?*

Question 7 - *Why is it so important to teach our children and grandchildren about this article concerning sin?*

Question 8 - *How difficult is it to be Lutheran today when many who claim to be Christian reject "sin" as the Bible teaches it?*

- ❖ Today's topic on sin is one section of an entire study of the Lutheran Confessions. Lutherans, however, do not like to end with sin or the Law.
- John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*
- Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

Article III – Jesus Christ (page 12)

Article IV – Justification (page 12-13)

- ❖ There are so many different Christian denominations in the United States. We have family and friends attending these churches whom we believe are "good Christians."

Read Augsburg Confession Article III “The Son of God.” (Page 12)

Question 1 – Are all Christian churches the same?

Do you think most Christian churches hold to the article of Christ and justification the same as Lutherans do?

What might be the purpose for Lutherans in striving for doctrinal purity and faithfulness in all our articles of faith?

Question 2 – What are the two natures of Jesus (John 1:1-5, 14). Why does he have two natures?

Question 3 - What the Bible says about Jesus in the following passages.

Luke 1:26-38 –

Philippians 2:5-11 –

John 19:17-30 –

Mark 16:1-8 –

1 Peter 3:18-22 –

True-False Statements:

1. When Jesus was conceived and born He became the Son of God.
2. When Jesus was conceived and born He became a real human being.
3. Jesus is still a human being or true man today.
4. Mary can rightfully be called "the mother of God."

5. Jesus is true God who only appeared in the form of a man.
6. Jesus is true man who was only especially gifted by God.
7. Jesus had to be true God in order to overcome sin, death, and the devil.
8. Jesus had to be true man in order to take our place under the Law and suffer and die for us.
9. Jesus will return to earth to establish a 1,000-year kingdom of peace.
10. Jesus will return to earth to judge all people.

Question 4 *Why does Article III stress the fact that Christ was truly born of the virgin Mary?*

Why does Article III use the word "true" God and "true" man in speaking of Christ?

Read Augsburg Confession Article IV "Justification." (Pages 12-13)

- ❖ The Romanists concluded "It is entirely contrary to Holy Scripture to deny that our works are meritorious. . . . Their ascription of justification to faith alone is diametrically opposed to the truth of the Gospel, by which works are not excluded. . . . Their frequent ascription of justification to faith is not admitted since it pertains to faith and love."

Question 5 – *What does the Bible says about saving ourselves?*

Romans 4:4-6 -

Ephesians 2:8-9 -

John 14:6 -

Question 6 - *Which statement is correct, or are they both right? "I am saved because of my faith." Or "I am saved through my faith."*

Which statement is correct, or are they both right? "God declares me to be righteous through faith in Christ." Or "God makes me righteous through faith in Christ."

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? "Since we are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ, good works are not necessary." Why or why not?

References

Lutheran Doctrine and Practice Today, A Study Based on Scripture and the Augsburg Confession, Rev. Dr. James A Baneck, North Dakota District President. 2015. CPH.

The Augsburg Confession, <https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Augsburg-Confession-Study-Guide.pdf>

Book of Concord Online, The Original Home of the Book of Concord, <https://bookofconcord.org/augsburg-confession/>