

Augsburg Confession

Summer 2025

Week 1 – Intro into The Augsburg Confession

Background

"The Augsburg Confession is nothing else than Holy Scripture. Anyone who rejects the Augsburg Confession is rejecting Scripture because he is not accepting what the Bible itself says." (C. F. W. Walther, founding father of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod)

- ❖ On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being= I'd deny the faith; 10 being = I'd die for the faith), where would you place yourself in the following situations?
 - A Muslim terrorist threatens to behead you if you don't renounce Jesus and accept Allah.
 - Your non-LCMS relatives come to visit you and tell you that unless they can take Communion at your church, they will have to break all family ties.
 - You meet some wonderful people at the local coffee shop, and after becoming rather close friends, there is a discussion on women having the right to abort their children at any stage of pregnancy

Question 1 - *What do the situations described above have to do with your confession of faith?*

Question 2 – *Why are Confessions of Faith Really Necessary?*

Read Matthew 10:32-33.

- Who are we to acknowledge or confess?
- Before whom are we to confess?
- What is the blessing from making such a confession?
- What happens when we don't ask God?

Read Matthew 16:13-18.

- What is Peter's confession of faith?
- How was Peter able to make such a confession faith?
- On what does Christ build His church?

Read Romans 10:9-10.

- What is the confession of faith that we make?
- What is the result or blessing of continuing in such a confession?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:3.

- What is the confession of faith that we make?
- How are we able to make such a confession of faith?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

- What is the content of the Gospel or confession of faith that we have received?
- What are we to do with the Gospel we have received?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17.

- What are the "traditions" or "teachings" that Paul is speaking about?
- What are we to do with these "traditions" or "teachings"?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16.

- What answer or defense are we to give before others?
- How are we able to do this?

Read Jude 3-4.

- What are the problems that Jude addresses?
- What exhortation does he give his readers?

Question 2 – In The Augsburg Confession preface, what are the two reasons that Charles V summoned a meeting at Augsburg (Paragraph 1)

- 1.
- 2.

- ❖ “The Turk” was a threat to the Holy Roman Empire which made the emperor eager to unite Christians for dealing with the Turk.
- ❖ Luther’s key points regarding waging war on the Turk
 - *"To fight against the Turk is the same as resisting God, who visits our sin upon us with this rod of his anger." [Isaiah 10:5]*
 - *The Turk has "no right or command" to wage war on us, yet God is using him as the "rod of his anger" against our European Christianity.*
 - *Since we are now confronting two enemies: both God and the "rod of his anger," the Turk, we must be clear just who is authorized to fight in this war and how. To this question the answer is: "two and only two: one is named Christian, the other Emperor Charles." (Luther's Works, vol 46:157)*

Question 3 – Who is “the Turk today and why is it important for a Christian to be grounded in his or her confession of faith when responding to “the Turk” today?

Question 4 – How are we to settle disagreements according to paragraph 1 in The Augsburg Confession?

Consider disagreements by _____ everyone's opinions and judgments in each other's presence.

These opinions and judgments are to be _____ and _____ among ourselves in mutual charity, mercy, and kindness.

After the _____ and _____ of things that either side has understood differently, these matters may be _____ and brought back to one _____ and _____.

Then we may _____ and _____ the future of one pure and true religion under one Christ, doing battle under Him, living in _____ and _____ in the one Christian Church.

Question 5 – *There is a confession made by the leaders reporting to Charles V. (Towards the end of paragraph 3 page 9), What is that confession?*

Question 6 – *What was the attitude and disposition of the confessors who came before the emperor (para 4, para 7) What should be the attitude and disposition of confessional Lutherans today? (Laity and clergy)*

Question 7 - *From the list of Articles in the Confession, how would the confessors respond to the belief, "As long as we just believe in Jesus, that's all that is necessary to be unified in doctrine and life"?*

Final thoughts

Through the bible passages and questions, we have looked at:

- (A) who is making the confession
- (B) the purpose of the confession.

Consider the impact of the Augsburg Confession upon you as an individual confessor, Zion Lutheran Church, the Holy Christian Church, and the world.

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/>