

Augsburg Confession

Summer 2025

Week 4 – Article 2 - Sin (Page 12)

Review

- ❖ In Article 1 there are many heresies the leaders of the church specifically spoke against.
- ❖ We reviewed the qualities/traits of God as confessed in all three Creeds
 - Essence (Matthew 28:18)
 - Eternal (Psalm 90:1-2)
 - Without a body (John 4:24)
 - Infinite power (Matthew 19:26)
 - Infinite wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)
 - Infinite goodness (Psalm 145:9)
 - Maker of all things (Genesis 1:1)
 - Three persons (John 15:26)

Question 1 – *Consider the difference between the following: holding to the Lutheran Confessions because they agree with the Word of God; or holding to the Lutheran Confessions insofar as they agree with the Word of God. Which one is in line with the LC-MS?*

Read Genesis 3 and answer 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?*

Read Romans 5: 12-14 and review the following questions;

- *How did sin enter the world?*
- *How did death enter the world?*
- *How does the reign of death touch every aspect of earthly life?*

Psalm 51: 3-5 “For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.
Surely, I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”

Question 2 – *Against whom do we ultimately sin and why is it such a big deal?*

- ❖ The argument the Romanists used against the Lutherans response to Article II was *"The assertion in the article that original sin means that men are born without the fear of God and without trust in God is to be entirely rejected because it is manifest to every Christian that to be without fear of God and without trust in God is the actual*

guilt of an adult rather than the offense of a recently born infant who does not as yet possess the full use of reason. Moreover, the statement is also rejected whereby they call the fault of origin 'concupiscence,' if they mean by this that concupiscence is a sin in a child even after Baptism."

Question 3 – *Lutherans confess "All who are naturally born are born with sin." What does it mean to:*

- *Be without fear of God*
 - *Be without trust in God*
 - *Always be inclined to sin*
- ❖ 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

Question 4 – *Review the following questions*

- *How do you see concupiscence at work in your life?*
 - *What are the consequences of concupiscence?*
 - *According to John 3:5-8, what is the antidote to concupiscence?*
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The vast majority of modern-day Evangelicals and mainline Protestant churches (Joel Osteen, Charismatics, Pentecostals, branches of the Baptist Church, portions of the Assembly of God, Wesleyan/Methodist Church, Nazarene Church) are Pelagian to one degree or another.

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 John 8:39 – 47 – *Who causes 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?*

Final Thought

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.”*

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/>