

# Augsburg Confession

## Summer 2025

### Week 3 – Article 1 - God (Page 11)

**Question 1** – *The leaders confess about “our churches” in the Augsburg Confession’s article about God (Page 11). Who are “our churches”*

**Question 2** - *Read the Athanasian Creed (LSB, p. 319) and then match the correct answer to each question below.*

QUESTION	ANSWER
How many Gods do Christian’s worship?	
What two Latin words make up the word <i>Trinity</i> ?	
How many "persons" are in the three-in-one God?	
Who are these persons?	
What word in the Augsburg Confession is used for "substance"?	
Salvation comes only by believing in whom?	

**Question 3** - *The Council of Nicaea convened in AD 325. The Augsburg Confession confirms an agreement on the doctrine of "God" along with the Roman Church. Summarize the significance of the following phrases in the Nicene Creed:*

I believe in one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Nehemiah 9:6)

Being of one substance with the Father (John 10:30; 17:11, 21)

The Lord and giver of life (John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5)

**Question 4** – *Describe what is meant by each term below*

- Essence (Matthew 28:19)
- 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)

❖ In Article 1 there are many heresies the leaders of the church specifically spoke against.

- ❖ Manichaeism - A totally heathen religion that incorporates Christian ideas and vocabulary. It is based on two opposing kingdoms (light and darkness) to explain the observable disharmony in the world.

**Question 5 – *What would Manichaeism be called today?***

- ❖ Valentinians - A gnostic group that believed all matter (the world) was evil and "redemption" was to escape from matter, which made a person more and more "a god," climbing through a series of eons. Cracking Jesus' "secret code" in His teachings was the key to escape from all matter.

**Question 6 – *What would Valentinians be called today?***

- ❖ Arianism - The belief that Jesus Christ is divine but not fully or truly God as is God the Father. For example, in this view Jesus would not be an eternal being but a created being.
- ❖ Eunomians - They held that God is so absolutely one that the Second Person of the Trinity could not be generated within the divine nature. The Second and Third Persons were said to have been created. The Eunomians also denied the value of any worship or the need for any sacraments.

**Question 6 – *What would Arianism's and Eunomia's be called today?***

- ❖ Muslims. They believe that Allah is God. Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet, but not their Savior and Lord. Their book of belief is the Qur'an.
- ❖ Samosatenes. They believed that Jesus Christ was a created being, not uncreated as God was. This determination meant that Christ was less than fully divine.

**True or False**

1. There is one God who has revealed Himself to man in three forms or modes throughout history -- as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit.
2. Allah, Krishnah, and the like are simply other names for God in different cultures and languages. Islam, Hinduism, and the like are just other paths to God.
3. The Trinity may be defined as God the Father, the man Jesus, and their Spirit as the spirit of the Christian community.
4. It is not contrary to the Scriptures to call God "our Mother."
5. Is it necessary to believe in The Holy Trinity in order to be saved?

**SCENARIO A**

Two Lutherans are having coffee. One begins by talking about how her mother had a difficult life. She talked about her mother's divorce, her time with cancer, and the time

her mother lost her wallet and all her credit cards. Then she says, "But life has a way of balancing itself out. For every bad thing that happened to Mom, there seems to be a good thing. She is happily married now, she has a great job at the art gallery, and she just came into a healthy inheritance." Sounds innocent, but is it?

➤ *How is the Lutheran view of God applied to this discussion?*

### SCENARIO B

Alex and Lydia invite Pete and Mary to dinner. They attend the same Lutheran church. During dinner, the conversation goes to last Sunday's Bible class when the pastor was teaching on the Holy Trinity. Mary says the Trinity is so hard to understand and it just doesn't make sense. She says, "To sort it out in my mind, I like to think of God as the heavenly Father. I think Jesus is God's Son, but probably a little less than God. I think Jesus came to do the Father's work by dying on the cross for my sins. I believe the Holy Spirit is kind of like a spirit-angel, guiding me in my faith.

➤ *How is the Lutheran view of God applied to this discussion?*

### SCENARIO C

John and Nick attended the same men's retreat with their church. The pastor was leading a retreat on the foundations of the Lutheran faith for the modern man. Pastor Smith was explaining how we are saved by grace, that nothing we do can contribute to our salvation. Nick is having a hard time understanding this and says, "But Pastor, doesn't God help those who help themselves? We must contribute at least a little bit in our salvation, don't we? Don't I have to accept God or at least commit my life to Jesus? It would seem to me that we go to Jesus to be saved and then He does the rest."

➤ *How is the Lutheran view of God applied to this discussion?*

**Final Thought** – What is the significance of Sin being the second article of faith and not Jesus Christ?

## 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/>