

Lutheran Confessions

Apology of Augsburg Confession, Article IV: Justification, *Of Love and the Fulfilling of the Law* Bente, Art. III:1-8/ Tappert 122-129

...Before we reply to this, **we must first declare what we believe concerning love and the fulfilling of the Law.**

2] It is written in the prophet, *Jer. 31, 33: I will put My Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.* And in *Rom. 3, 31*, Paul says: *Do we, then, make void the Law through faith? God forbid! Yea, we establish the Law.* And Christ says, *Matt. 19, 17: If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.* Likewise, *1 Cor. 13, 3: If I have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.* **3] These and similar sentences testify that the Law ought to be begun in us, and be kept by us more and more [that we are to keep the Law when we have been justified by faith, and thus increase more and more in the Spirit].**

Moreover, we speak not of ceremonies, but of that Law which gives commandment concerning the movements of the heart, namely, the Decalog. **4] Because, indeed, faith brings the Holy Ghost, and produces in hearts a new life, it is necessary that it should produce spiritual movements in hearts. And what these movements are, the prophet, *Jer. 31, 33* shows, when he says: I will put My Law into their inward parts, and write it in their hearts. Therefore, when we have been justified by faith and regenerated, we begin to fear and love God, to pray to Him, to expect from Him aid, to give thanks and praise Him, and to obey Him in afflictions. We begin also to love our neighbors, because our hearts have spiritual and holy movements [there is now, through the Spirit of Christ a new heart, mind, and spirit within].**

5] These things cannot occur until we have been justified by faith, and, regenerated, we receive the Holy Ghost: first, because the Law cannot be kept without [the knowledge of] Christ; and likewise the Law cannot be kept without the Holy Ghost. But the Holy Ghost is received by faith, according to the declaration of Paul, *Gal. 3, 14: That we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* **7] Then, too, how can the human heart love God while it knows that He is terribly angry, and is oppressing us with temporal and perpetual calamities? But the Law always accuses us always, shows that God is angry. [Therefore, what the scholastics say of the love of God is a dream.] **8] God therefore is not loved until we apprehend mercy by faith. Not until then does He become a lovable object.****

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

1 John 4:8, 19, “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. We love Him because He first loved us.

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight’s Scripture to your life.

Prayer

O God, forasmuch as without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** (*Collect for Trinity 18*)

Word of God: St. Matthew 22:34-46 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

It was Tuesday in Holy Week (Mt 21:23-46). The law-focused Pharisees, who believed in the resurrection, were delighted that Jesus had refuted the morally-loose Sadducees, who did not (22:23-33). As a result, some Pharisees came to Jesus (most likely in the Temple courts) to see if Jesus might be useful to them.

1. Why is it so appropriate for a Pharisee to ask, “Which is the great commandment in the Law?” (Note: This question is not asking so much for “which is the greatest?” but “Which kind of commandment is great?”)
2. Jesus could have spoken of the sacrificial commands, or the Sabbath law commands, or the moral commands that required death if disobeyed. Instead, which kind of command does Jesus hold up as great? See Mark 12:28-34, especially v.33 for the questioners response to Jesus’ answer.)
3. For the first part of his answer, Jesus quotes the Jewish *Shema*, from Dt. 6:4-5. Which of the Ten Commandments does this correspond?
4. For the second part of his answer, Jesus quotes the end of Leviticus 19:9-18. Which of the Ten Commandments does this correspond?
5. What does Jesus say about both of these statements (v.40)?
6. What is the Law and the Prophets? Why “all” the Law and the Prophets? Is it Law (Rom 13:8-10), Gospel (Jer 31:33-34, Mt 24:12) or both (1 John 4:19)?
7. For Matthew, love is required for believers (Mt 6:24, 10:37).
8. The Pharisees are impressed with Jesus’ answer (Mk 12:32-33). About what does Jesus question them? (v. 42) Why that kind of question around the Pharisees?
9. Everyone knew that the “Christ” or Messiah would be a descendant of whom?
10. What point is Jesus making about the Christ with “David...calls him Lord?” If David was the king and no one could have been his “master,” then, what?
11. Furthermore, if the Christ is God, then who is the 2nd “Lord?”
12. Was Jesus a descendant of David (Mt 1)? Was it well known (Mt 13:55-56)?
13. Jesus asked the question about the Christ in Mt 16:13-16 and Peter answered correctly. Why do they refuse to answer Him here? to speak further with Him? Note: The Pharisee don’t debate the Trinitarian talk, they deny Jesus is God.
14. What does it mean “to sit at God’s right hand?” (Josh 10:24, Eph 1:20-23)
15. What does it mean when Jesus quotes Psalm 110 and says, “in the Spirit?”
16. What does St. Matthew record the Centurion saying after Jesus’ death? (27:54)

6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #488, stanza 4
Apostles’ Creed, Third Article & meaning, p.301
1 John 4:8 19

7:00 PM “Catechesis”

+ Opening Verses

“O Lord, open my lips...” p.224

+ Ascription of Praise

“Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.” p.225

Reading

St. Matthew 22:34-46 (back)

Hymn

“Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear” #488

Catechesis on... (back)

St. Matthew 22:34-46

Liturgy

Catechism

--prayer based on reading

+ Recite Word by Word insert

Ten Commandments
Lord’s Prayer
Apostles’ Creed
Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Matthew 28:19
Mark 16:16
Confession & Absolution
John 20:22-23
Sacrament of the Altar
Words of Institution

Collect of the Day

--prayer based on reading

R. AMEN

Benediction

R. AMEN

Catechesis on St. Matthew 22:34-46

34But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38“This is the first and great commandment. 39“And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

41While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” 43He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:

44 ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?

45“If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”

46And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore. (NKJV)

Two Tables of the Law

Now in the Scriptures, **righteousness** comprises not only the second table of the Decalog [regarding good works in serving our fellow-man], but the first also, which teaches concerning **17]** the fear of God, concerning faith, concerning the love of God. (Ap II, 16-17).

The adversaries consider only the precepts of **the Second Table which contain civil righteousness** that reason understands. Content with this, they think that they satisfy the Law of God. In the mean time they do not see **the First Table which commands that we love God, that we declare as certain that God is angry with sin, that we truly fear God, that we declare as certain that God hears prayer.** (Ap IV, 34-35).

The Law and the Prophets

Matthew 5:17-18, “Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill**” (See v. 18 also).

Luke 24:44-47, “...**all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus **it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day...**”

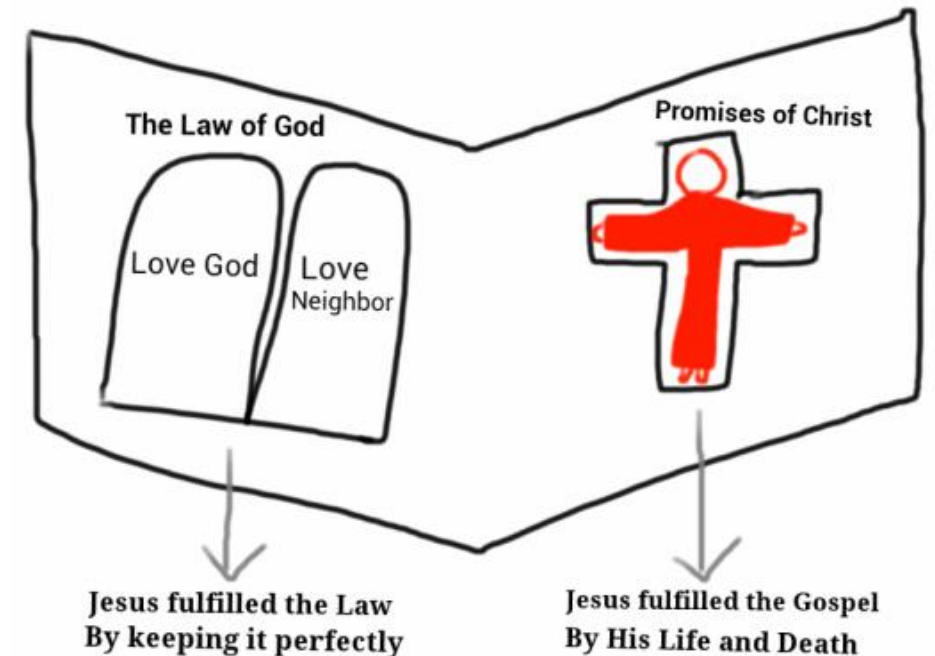
The Christ

“I believe that Jesus Christ, **true Son of God**, has become my Lord. But what is it to become Lord? It is this, that **He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and all evil.**” (LC II, 27) See Genesis 3:15, “He shall bruise your head...” Matthew 16:16, “Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” Colossians 2:9, “For in Him {Jesus} dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;”

Justified by the Christ

“Therefore let these pharisaic opinions of the adversaries be rejected, namely, that we do not receive by faith the remission of sins, but that it ought to be merited by our love and works; **that we ought to oppose our love and our works to the wrath of God. Not of the Gospel, but of the Law is this doctrine**, which feigns that man is justified by the Law before he has been reconciled through Christ to God, since Christ says, John 15, 5: Without Me He can do nothing; likewise: I am the true Vine; ye are the branches. But the adversaries feign that we are branches, not of Christ, but of Moses. **For they wish to be justified by the Law, and to offer their love and works to God before they are reconciled to God through Christ, before they are branches of Christ.** Paul, on the other hand [who is certainly a much greater teacher than the adversaries], contends that the Law cannot be observed without Christ.... **And we must apprehend the promise of the remission of sins before we do the works of the Law** (Ap XII, 85-87).

CATECHESIS ON ST. MATTHEW 22:34-46



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The Apostles' Creed, Third Article

“To this article, as I have said, I cannot give a better title than “Sanctification.” In it is expressed and portrayed the Holy Spirit and his office, which is that he makes us holy”(LC II 35).

Trinity(Holy Spirit’s Work Highlighted) in Sanctification

St. John 14-17, “1Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ... 6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.... 10b The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.... 16And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He may abide with you forever— 17“the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**. ...19“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ...25“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26“**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 15:7“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.... 26“**But when the Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27“**And you also will bear witness**, because you have been with Me from the beginning... John 16:12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13“**However, when He, the Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He will not speak on His own authority**(see v10b), but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14“**He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you**. 15“**All things that the Father has are Mine**. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 17:15“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16“**They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world**. 17“**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth**. 18“**As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world**. 19“**And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth**.

The Holy Spirit in Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-3, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**”

Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Exodus 31:3, “And I have filled him with **the Spirit of God**, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,”

Numbers 11:29, “Then Moses said to him, ‘Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put **His Spirit** upon them!’”

Psalms 51:10-12, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take **Your Holy Spirit** from me. 12Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”

Psalms 139:7, “Where can I go from **Your Spirit**? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Isaiah 63:10-11, “But they rebelled and grieved **His Holy Spirit**; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them. 11Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: “Where is He who brought them up out of the sea With the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put **His Holy Spirit** within them,”

Holy Spirit’s Work

³⁷ How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so **the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ.**

⁸ Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through **the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit**. The work is finished and completed, Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, **God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation.** ³⁹ Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves. (LC II 37-39)
1 Corinthians 6:11, “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

The Apostles' Creed, Third Article

“The Word of God is the true holy thing (relic; German: *Heiligtum*) above all holy things. ... But God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies all things. By it all the saints themselves have been sanctified” (LC I, 91).

“How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so **the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ** (LC II 37).

“Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe in and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (From “The Prayers” in Burial of the Dead)

The Holy Christian Church

“Therefore there was no Christian church. For where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Spirit to create, call, and gather the Christian church, and outside it no one can come to the Lord Christ” (LC II, 45).

Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Ephesians 2:20, “...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone....”

Ephesians 4:11-13, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

The Communion of Saints(Holy People or Holy Things)

Acts 2:38-39, “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Romans 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he is not His.”

Galatians 5:22-23, “But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Ephesians 5:18-20, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be **filled with the Spirit**, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

The Forgiveness of Sins

“Therefore everything in the Christian church is so ordered that we may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and through signs appointed to comfort and revive our consciences as long as we live. Although we have sin, the Holy Spirit sees to it that it does not harm us because we are in the Christian church, where there is full forgiveness of sin. God forgives us, and we forgive, bear with, and aid one another” (LC II 55).

2 Corinthians 5:19, “...that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us **the word of reconciliation.**”

Titus 3:5b “...but according to His mercy He saved us, through **the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...**”

John 3:5-6, “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**”

John 20:22-23, “22And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit.** 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

1 Corinthians 6:11, “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 12:3, “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”

The Resurrection of the Body

“So troubles are inflicted on account of present sin because in the saints they kill and wipe out lust so that the Spirit may renew them. As Paul says (Rom. 8:10), “Your body is dead because of sin”; that is, it is being killed because of the sin still present and remaining in the flesh. ¹⁵³ Death itself serves this same purpose: **to destroy this sinful flesh so that we may rise completely renewed**” (Ap XII, 152-153)

Philippians 3:20-23, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-43, “So also is the resurrection of the dead. **The body** is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.**”

The Life Everlasting

Revelation 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound **in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”