

With the Same Heart

An overview of the Book of Concord

Session 3 - The Augsburg Confession
Continued



Warm up question

What are some things that you feel people would say are problems or issues to address in Christian churches as a whole?



Augsburg Confession Continued

We continue our examination of the Augsburg Confession today and begin to look at the Apology, or Defense, of the Confession that is written about one year later.

To review, we have already considered the following topics: The person of God, Original sin, the Son of God, Justification by Faith, Preaching of the Word, New Obedience, the Church (both as institution and membership), Baptism, Lord's Supper, Confession, Repentance, Use of Sacraments, Who is ordained, and what to do about helpful traditions of the church.

The rest of the book of Concord is made up of 6 more articles of Christian faith and another 7 of corrected abuses.

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- *Question:*
- *Can you guess what the remaining 6 articles or corrected abuses might be?*



Man's Dealing with Fellow Man

The next Articles are about dealing with continuing sin in the Christian:

16. Of Civil Affairs - Essentially differentiate the Lutherans from the Anabaptists who refuse to participate in civil affairs or hold civil offices.

17. Judgment of Humans - Affirms that Christ will come to judge the deeds of men on the last day and rejecting two problematic ideas: a.) that there is no judgement of evil people on the last day (annihilationism), and that before Christ returns there will be a righteous nation state that will "annihilate the ungodly".

18. Free Will - Begins to unpack the Lutheran perspective on free will, saying that "a human being has some measure of free will, so as to live an externally honorable life and to choose among the things reason comprehends," but not to choose salvation for one's self.



Implications of Free Will

The next Articles are about dealing with continuing sin in the Christian:

19. The Cause of Sin - Implicates the “perverted will” of human beings for the cause of sin, and that this perverted will cooperates with “the will of the devil and of all the ungodly.”

20. Good Works - An extraordinarily long article that corrects a rumor that Lutherans were “falsely accused of prohibiting good works,” while also clarifying that Lutherans reject the idea that good works arise from anyone other than the Holy Spirit, including from self.

21. Worship of the Saints - Clarifies the Lutheran position that saints should be emulated for their faith but that only Christ is to be seen as an intermediary.



Corrected Abuses Part 1

The last six articles concern the correction of certain perceived abuses of the Roman Catholic church:

22. Of Both Kinds in the Sacrament - Both host and cup should be offered to all people (common practice during this time was only the priests drank the wine).

23. Of the Marriage of Priests - Priests should be allowed to marry.

24. Of the Mass - Various corrections including questioning masses said for the dead or for those not present.

25. Of Confession - Corrects the practices of the required enumeration of all sins as well as the traditional requirements of penance before forgiveness is obtained



Corrected Abuses Part 2

The last six articles concern the correction of certain perceived abuses of the Roman Catholic church:

26. *Of the Distinction of Meats* - Goes further into the issues of traditions meriting the forgiveness of sins.

27. *Of Monastic Vows* - Equates monastic vows with prison sentences and encourages monasteries and the like to be “voluntary associations”.

28. *Of Ecclesiastical Power* - Calls for a separation of church power and civic power in the offices of bishops of the church.



The Confutation

After the Augsburg Confession, the Holy Roman empire enlisted about a dozen Roman Catholic theologians to respond to the Confession. This was called the “Confutation”. It is notable that the Confutation was done under the authority of the Holy Roman Emperor, not under the authority of the Pope. This was still seen as a matter of the State, not necessarily a matter of the Church (especially since the Church had more or less already ruled on the matter).

The Confutation addressed each of the articles in turn. Many times the writers of the Confutation agree with the Lutherans at least about points if not about entire articles. However, the Confutation does stand on existing Roman Catholic theology and does not take the Lutheran perspective into account in terms of making recommendations for changes or clarities in Roman Catholic theology.

- Question:
What do you think the Roman Catholic writers ended up agreeing with the Reformers concerning?



Next Time - The Defense of the Augsburg Confession

Didn't get enough Augsburg this time? Don't worry, the Roman Catholics respond to the Lutherans and the Lutherans come back at them with the "Apology" or the Defense. That's what we're studying next time.

