

Lutheran Confessions

Augsburg Confession, II: Original Sin

1] Also they teach that since the fall of Adam all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with 2] concupiscence; and that this *disease*, or *vice of origin*, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.

3] They condemn the Pelagians and others who deny that original depravity is sin, and who, to obscure the glory of Christ's merit and benefits, argue that man can be justified before God by his own strength and reason.

Large Catechism, Commandment III

98] Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word.

99] Likewise those fastidious spirits are to be reproved who, when they have heard a sermon or two, find it tedious and dull, thinking that they know all that well enough, and need no more instruction. For just that is the sin which has been hitherto reckoned among mortal sins, and is called *torpor* or satiety, a malignant, dangerous plague with which the devil bewitches and deceives the hearts of many, that he may surprise us and secretly withdraw God's Word from us.

100] For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments. **Therefore you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears.** But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware. **101] On the other hand, such is the efficacy of the Word, whenever it is seriously contemplated, heard, and used, that it is bound never to be without fruit, but always awakens new understanding, pleasure, and devoutness, and produces a pure heart and pure thoughts.** For these words are not inoperative or dead, but creative, living words. **102] And even though no other interest or necessity impel us, yet this ought to urge every one thereunto, because thereby the devil is put to flight and driven away, and, besides, this commandment is fulfilled, and [this exercise in the Word] is more pleasing to God than any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant.**

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

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

Almighty and merciful God, whose gift it is that Your faithful possess all things pertaining to faith and life, we implore You that we may so faithfully cling to Your promises in this life that we fail not finally to attain to Your heavenly glory; 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 12*)

Word of God: St. Mark 7:31-37 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

- The Decapolis is on the Eastern shore of the Lake of Galilee. Is it in Jewish country or Gentile country?
- How did the deaf and dumb man get to Jesus?
- What did this man's friends want Jesus to do(v.32)?
- Why should Jesus "place his hand on the man"? (5:23, 6:5, 8:23, 25)
- Were they expecting a healing(v. 37)?
- To be without external things like food, clothes and money is a grave concern, but even more serious is to lack internal things like the man brought to Jesus. What did he lack? Consider Romans 10:14-17. How important is ear and tongue?
- What is our spiritual condition within? What do we lack?
 - Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
 - Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
- Jesus gets quite physical with the man. Fingers in the ears and spit on his tongue. What does this show?
- What do you make of "...he sighed?" (Mk 8:12, Jn 11:33, Rom 8:26 or Is 35:10)
- Jesus says, "Be opened!" A statement, a question, a command?
 - Colossians 1:13-14 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- Why did Jesus take the man aside away from the crowd?
- What did Jesus tell them concerning this healing? Did they listen? Consider the result of their disobedient "proclaiming" in Mark 1:45. Look at Mark 8:1. Yet in 5:20, a man is allowed to speak of Jesus' healing.
- Mark's summary statement records the people saying, "He has done everything well." (The reference to v. 37b is found in Isaiah 35:5-6)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #429, stanza 5
6th Commandment & meaning, p. 300
7th Commandment & meaning, p. 300
Ephesians 2:4-5

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. Mark 7:31-37 (back)

Hymn

"I Leave All Things to God's Direction" #429

Catechesis on...

St. Mark 7:31-37 (back)
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. Mark 7:31-37

31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. 32 Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. 33 And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. 34 Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” 35 Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. 36 Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it. 37 And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.” (NKJV)

“The Order for the Making of a Catechumen”

published by A.J. Collins in 1960. This translated text is based chiefly on the Sarum Manual printed in 1543 and was used in many parts of England on the eve of the Reformation. After the signing of the infant, prayers, the exorcism with salt, and many more prayers,

The Gospel of Matthew (19:13-15) is read, “Then little children were brought to Jesus... When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.”

“Then let the priest spit in his left hand, and let him touch the ears and nose of the infant with his right thumb with saliva saying in his right ear, Effeta, which is Be opened.

On his nose. Unto the odor of sweetness.

In his left ear. Be thou put to flight, O devil, for the judgement of God is at hand.”

(Christian Initiation: Baptism in the Medieval West, p.164)

Isaiah 35:1, 5-6, 10

1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;...

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.... 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Original Sin

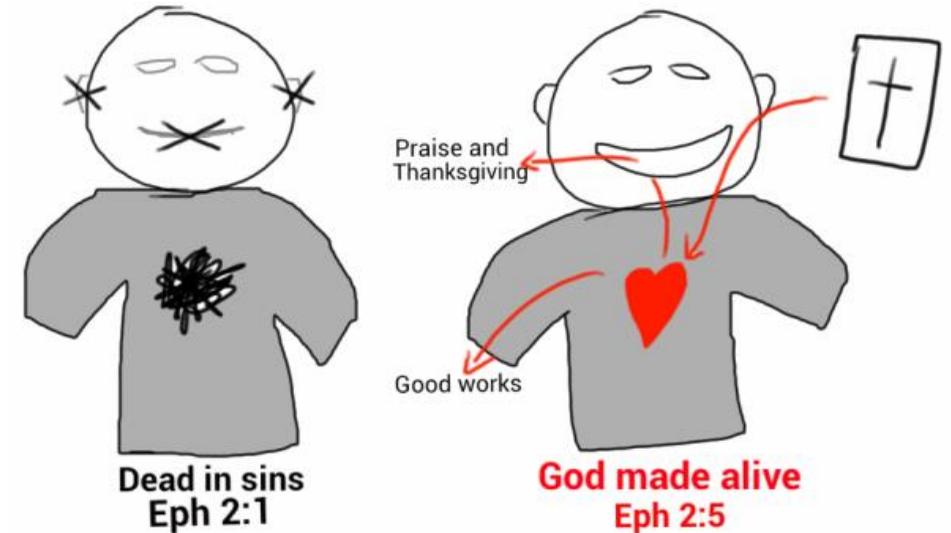
Augsburg Confession, article II, teaches a **hereditary corruption of human nature**. It says, “...since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are **conceived and born in sin**. That is, all men are **full of evil lust and inclinations** from their mothers’ wombs and are **unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God**.”

2 Moreover, this **inborn sickness and hereditary sin** (The traditional term *Ersunde* is employed.) is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all those who are not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit.” Two parts:

1. **Without** (lacking) **original righteousness** (true fear, love and trust) and

2. **With** (having) **the defect of concupiscence** (a disposition towards evil). Psalm 51:5, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.” “The description of original sin denies to unrenewed human nature the gifts and the power, or the faculty and the concrete acts, to begin and to effect anything in spiritual matters” (FC SD I 10). Ephesians 2:1, “...who were dead in trespasses and sins....” 1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

Catechesis On St. Mark 7:31-37



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The Sixth Commandment

God's Institution of the Gift of Marriage

The life-long union of a man and a woman in the closest fellowship of body and life.

Matthew 19:4-6, "And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' {*Gen 1:27*} and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? {*Gen 2:24-25*} So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together**, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:9, "And I say to you, whoever **divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality**, and marries another, **commits adultery**; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

1 Corinthians 7:39, "A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but **if her husband dies**, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 7:15, "But **if the unbeliever departs**, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace."

1. For the Procreation of Children (and their upbringing)

Genesis 1:27-28, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them**. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, '**Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'"

Ephesians 6:4, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."

2. For Help and Comfort (in doing God's Will)

Genesis 2:20-25, "So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found **a helper comparable to him**. 21And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22Then the rib which the

Lord had taken from man He made into a woman, **and He brought her to the man**. 23And Adam said:

"This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Proverbs 31:30, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But **a woman who fears the Lord**, she shall be praised.

3. For the Avoidance of Fornication (after the Fall)

1 Corinthians 7:2-5, "Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

Hebrews 13:4, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

Marriage is a figure of Christ and the Church

Ephesians 5:21-33, "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24Therefore, **just as the church is subject to Christ**, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her**.... 31'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' 32**This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church**. 33Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

1 Corinthians 6:15-20, "Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ?** Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! 16Or do you not

know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **18Flee sexual immorality.** Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.**”

Avoid All Temptations to Sexual Sin

Titus 2:11-12, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, **denying ungodliness and worldly lusts**, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age....”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should **abstain from sexual immorality**; 4that each of you should know how to **possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor**, 5**not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God**; 6that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.”

Impure Thoughts

Matthew 5:27-30, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28But I say to you that **whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.** 29‘If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. 30‘And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if

there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—**meditate on these things.**”

Impure Words

Ephesians 5:3-4, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; **4neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting**, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Homosexuality

Romans 1:24-32, “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. **For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.** 28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, **nor idolaters**, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners** will inherit the kingdom of God. **11And such were some of you. 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 Seventh Commandment

“In short, **thievery is the most common craft and the largest guild on earth.** If we look at mankind in all its conditions, it is nothing but **a vast, wide stable full of great thieves**” (LC I 228).

- There are those who steal openly by breaking in and taking what belongs to another.
- There are employees who steal from their employer by their unfaithfulness, laziness, or negligence in working.
- There are employees who pilfer from their employer or others a little each day.
- There are employers who steal from their employees by not paying them a fair wage.
- There are government officials, business leaders, or positions of influence who misuse their authority to acquire privileges and benefits for themselves.
- There are those who receive goods and services, but do not pay their bills, but lie and deceive in order to get out of it.
- There are those who lie about their earnings to get out of paying taxes.

Stealing

“Enough has been said concerning the nature of stealing. It is not to be confined to narrow limits but must extend to all our relations with our neighbors. To sum up, as we have done in the previous commandments: On one hand, we are forbidden to do our neighbor any injury or wrong in any way imaginable, whether by damaging, withholding, or interfering with his possessions and property. We are not even to consent to or permit such a thing, but are rather to avert and prevent it” (LC I 250).

Ephesians 4:28, “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

Leviticus 19:35, “You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.”

Psalms 37:21, “The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives.”

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, “... If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

Threats and Promises

The one who has stolen should repent and make full restitution of what was stolen. If a person will not return what is stolen, then the guilt of his sin remains on him, for that is not true repentance.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10nor thieves,** nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11And such were some of you. 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.

Ezekiel 33:14-15, “Again, when I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right, 15if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall surely live; he shall not die.”

Help Your Neighbor Keep What is His

“On the other hand, we are commanded to promote and further our neighbor’s interests, **and when he suffers want we are to help, share, and lend to both friends and foes**” (LC I 251).

Philippians 2:4, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

1 John 3:17, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

2 Corinthians 9:7, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Hebrews 13:16, “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

Acts 20:35, “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

1 Timothy 5:8, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

1 John 3:17-18, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.”

The Poor

“But **beware how you deal with the poor**, of whom there are many now. ²⁴⁷ If, when you meet a poor man who must live from hand to mouth, you act as if everyone must live by your favor, you skin and scrape him right down to the bone, and **you arrogantly turn him away whom you ought to give aid**, he will go away wretched and dejected, and because he can complain to no one else, he will cry to heaven. Beware of this, I repeat, as of the devil himself. **Such a man’s sighs and cries will be no joking matter. They will have an effect too heavy for you and all the world to bear, for they will reach God, who watches over poor, sorrowful hearts, and he will not leave them unavenged.** But if you despise and defy this, see whom you have brought upon yourself.... ²⁴⁹ Our responsibility is only to instruct and reprove by means of God’s Word. To restrain open lawlessness is the responsibility of princes and magistrates. They should be alert and resolute enough to establish and maintain order in all areas of trade and commerce **in order that the poor may not be burdened and oppressed** and in order that they may not themselves be charged with other men’s sins” (LC I 246-249).

It is the LOVE of riches

Luke 12:21, “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Then comes the bigger barns parable.)

Proverbs 30:8-9, “Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches—Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.”

God’s Promise to Us Concerning Goods

Matthew 6:11, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

Psalm 145:15-16, “The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”

Psalm 37:25, “I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.”

Matthew 6:31-33, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²“For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**”

Hebrews 13:5, “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

1 Peter 5:6-7, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

“Anyone who seeks and desires good works will here find ample opportunity to do things which are heartily acceptable and pleasing to God. Moreover, he graciously lavishes upon them a wonderful blessing: We shall be richly rewarded for all the help and kindness we show to our neighbor, as King Solomon teaches in Prov. 19:17, “He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.” ²⁵³ Here you have a rich Lord. Surely he is sufficient for your needs and will let you lack or want for nothing. Thus with a happy conscience you can enjoy a hundred times more than you could scrape together by perfidy and injustice. Whoever does not desire this blessing will find wrath and misfortune enough” (LC I 252-253).