



# **What the Bible and Lutherans Teach**

By Harold A. Essmann

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Nearly 500 years ago, the Christian church was corrupted by many false teachings. A man named Martin Luther led people back to the teachings of the Bible. His work, and that of his friends, is called the Reformation. Through Luther God restored the church to purity of doctrine and a new life of faith in Christ.

The doctrines of the Lutheran Church are not new. They are the teachings of the Bible. Thus the Lutheran Church is not a new church.

It is not a sect or cult.

It is a church whose teaching is based on the words written by the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New Testament. The Bible tells us about Jesus Christ.

The teachings of the Lutheran Church are those of the original, ancient church of the apostles and early Christians.

This booklet will inform you what the Bible and the Lutheran Church teach.

## THE BIBLE

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***The Bible and Lutherans teach*** that the Bible is the true word of God. It is inspired by the Holy Spirit. This means that God breathed into the writers the exact thoughts and words they were to write. As a result every statement in the Bible is the truth. One part of the Bible explains another part. It is the only guideline for the faith and life of Christians. We are to read and study it diligently. It clearly teaches all we need to know in order to obtain our eternal salvation.

**2 Peter 1:21** *Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

**1 Corinthians 2:13** *This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit.*

**2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is God-breathed.*

**John 10:35** *The Scripture cannot be broken.*

**2 Timothy 3:15** *From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation.*

**Luke 11:28** *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.*

**John 5:39** *You diligently study the Scriptures because you think by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me (Jesus).*

## THE TRIUNE GOD

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***The Bible and Lutherans teach*** that there is only one true God. This God is invisible, holy, eternal, and has all power and wisdom. In the Bible God reveals himself as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is why he is called "Triune." These three persons in one God are all God. They are equal in power, glory and in every other quality. To deny or ignore one person is to deny all of them. It is God who created, redeemed and sanctified us.

**Deuteronomy 6:4** *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

**Matthew 28:19** *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**John 5:23** *He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.*

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**1 John 2:2** *He [Jesus] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

**Romans 15:13** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

# MAN AND WOMAN

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***The Bible and Lutherans teach*** that men and women are a special creation of God. The first man was created from the dust of the earth. The first woman was made from the rib of man. They were created in God's image. This means that they were without sin and had a perfect knowledge of God. That image was destroyed when Adam and Eve first sinned. People have a soul which no other creature has. God gave us rule over all of his creation. Human beings have a free will in works of this life. But only the Holy Spirit, working through God's Word, can lead a person to love God.

**Genesis 2:7** *The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.*

**Genesis 2:22** *Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of man.*

**Genesis 1:26** *God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule."*

**Ephesians 4:24** *Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Colossians 3:10** *Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

**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.*

## **GOD THE FATHER**

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***The Bible and Lutherans teach** that God the Father is one of the three persons who are the Triune God. God is a spirit. This means that he cannot be seen or confined to one place. He is called Father because he is the Father of Jesus Christ and of all who believe in Jesus. He has created all things. He is holy, loving, and just. He continues to take care of all creation and all human beings.*

***Matthew 28:19** Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

***John 4:24** God is a spirit.*

***John 20:17** Jesus said, "I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."*

***Leviticus 19:2** The Lord said to Moses, "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy."*

***Malachi 2:10** Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?*

***Exodus 34:6,7** The LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished.*

***Romans 8:32** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

## CREATION

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***The Bible and Lutherans teach*** that at the beginning of time God created heaven and earth and all creatures. He did this in six days. He spoke his almighty word to create all things. He made everything out of nothing. But man and woman are God's special creation.

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

**Genesis 1:31** *God saw all that he had made and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning-the sixth day.*

**Exodus 20:11** *In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.*

**Psalms 33:6,9** *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made... He spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.*

**Psalms 124:8** *Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

**Mark 10:6** *At the beginning of creation God made them male and female.*

**Hebrews 11:3** *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*

## **GOD'S LAW**

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***The Bible and Lutherans teach*** that God wrote his law in people's hearts at creation. The human conscience bears witness to that law. The knowledge of the law was blurred in people's hearts by sin. God repeated his law in the Ten Commandments. God's law demands obedience in our thoughts, speech, and actions. It condemns all who sin. Therefore no one can be saved by keeping the law. God's law serves to show us our sins, to warn us of God's anger against sin and to guide us in our Christian life.

**Deuteronomy 10:4** *The LORD wrote on these tablets what he had written before, the ten commandments he had proclaimed to you on the mountain.*

**Matthew 5:48** *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

**John 1:17** *The law was given through Moses.*

**Romans 7:7** *I would not have known what sin was except through the law.*

**Romans 3:22,23** *There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

**Romans 3:20** *Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

**James 2:10** *Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point, is guilty of breaking all of it.*

**Psalms 119:9** *How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.*