



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

A Systematic Study of Bible Teachings (Dogmatics) Lesson 1.2 – Introduction

The Divisions Among Christians

There is only one God. There is only one way of salvation. There is only one God-revealed Bible. With this divine unity, there should be no divisions among Christians. But since the devil is still active in this world to mislead Christians and since all Christians still have a sinful flesh, some who profess Christ are led off course. They try to mix God's truth with human ideas of morality, mysticism, and speculation.

For example, instead of teaching and believing that we are saved by God's grace alone, as God's word teaches, some claim that that we are saved by grace and by works. Some people prefer to put their trust in their experiences of God rather than be guided only by what God says in His Word. And some follow what their own reason tells them is true, instead of accepting every word from God as the absolute truth.

God has revealed Christianity to us in the Bible. Christianity is the perfect religion. It is the only true religion, and it leads to a perfect salvation with a perfect God.

The Church of the Lutheran Confession professes that: *"We believe that the many differences in the teaching of the churches are due only to man who, in his perversity, refuses to take his reason captive under the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5), desiring to be a master over Holy Scripture (1 Timothy 1:7)" (Concerning Church Fellowship, #13).*

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

"Some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm" (1 Timothy 1:6-7).

Questions

1. Why is it correct to call Christianity the perfect religion?
2. How is Christianity different from all the other religions of the world?
3. In America, one common slogan says: "Attend the church of your choice." What is wrong with this slogan?
4. What is the only proper source for Christian doctrine?
5. Why are there so many divisions among Christians?