



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

A Teacher's Guide to Lutheran Confirmation

Lesson 4: Law and Gospel in Confirmation Teaching

True Christian faith means daily repentance for sin and trust in God's forgiving grace, because of Christ.

Your instruction should emphasize the two great teachings of Scripture, both **Law** and **Gospel**. When preparing for your class, ask and answer these questions:

What does this part of the Catechism tell us about the **Law**? The Law is what God expects from us, and the punishment that comes from breaking His Law. The Law shows us that we are guilty of sin. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

Romans 3:23

What does this part of the Catechism tell us about the **Gospel**? The Gospel is the good news about what God has given to us in Jesus. By grace He has given us full forgiveness of all our sins and the promise of eternal life. All this is only because of Jesus' death in our place and His resurrection. "...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Romans 3:24

What does this part of the Catechism tell us about **Fruits** of faith? Because of God's love to us in Christ, the believer now wants to live a life that pleases God. What does the teaching tell us about the life we should now live as God's children? "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Note that certain portions of the Catechism are focused primarily on only one of these topics. For example:

- The 10 Commandments, of course, are all about **Law**. You can and should, however, regularly remind the students of how Jesus kept each of these commandments perfectly, so that His perfect record of obedience becomes our own. There is the comforting **Gospel** which is found behind each of them.
*"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**" (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
- The Apostles' Creed tells of the great love of God in creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. This is GOSPEL. However, when you are teaching about Jesus' death and resurrection, you can and should remind the students of the reason why Jesus had to go

to the cross. It was because of our sins. That is the LAW which is behind the story of Jesus' work for us.

Remember that your most important teaching goal is found in John 20:3, *"These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."* Your students will have life in Jesus' name, for their whole lives, when you are careful to instruct them in both God's **Law** and his **Gospel**. When the hearts of your students are struck by their great need for a Savior because of their sins, and the great love of God for them in Jesus' work of redemption, then they will be inspired to bring forth the **Fruits** of faith by living a life of service to the Lord. This is the pattern that Jesus gave to his disciples when he said in Luke 24:47 that *"repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."* The Apostle Paul gave the same pattern to Pastor Titus:

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ^5^ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (Titus 3:3-8)

Short Answer Questions:

1. What are the two great teachings of Scripture that should be emphasized in confirmation instruction?
2. What is the Law?
3. What is the Gospel?
4. What is the main difference between the Law and the Gospel as revealed in Scripture?
5. Which part of the Catechism focuses primarily on Law?
6. According to Titus 3:8, what is the result when people believe in God?