

The Teachings of Christianity

Lesson 3: Creation, Man, and Sin

Augsburg Confession: Article II - Original Sin (p.31); Luther's Small Catechism: Questions 114-130.

Introduction:

- Bible Translations
- The Apostle's Creed with meaning (SC p.16-17).
- What is Lutheran Worship: <https://witness.lcms.org/2024/what-is-worship/>

Creation:

The Creation of the World in *A Summary of Christian Doctrine* p. 34-35.

- A logical starting point for the examination of the Christian doctrine is its particular emphasis on *creation ex nihilo, that is, from nothing*.¹
- **Created out of nothing with His Word:** Before the "beginning" there was neither time nor space nor any pre-existing material, from which this world was fashioned; but there was only God, who "is before all things"²
 - Col 1:17
 - Heb 11:3
 - Rom 4:17
- The **Triune God** is present at creation.
 - Gen 1:1-3
 - John 1:1-3, 14
- **Created in six days:** The time in which creation was completed was six days, as Gen. 1:31 and Gen. 2:2 expressly state six days. These six days are neither to be shortened, for pious reasons, to a moment, nor are they to be extended, for impious reasons (to bring Scripture into agreement with the "assured results" of science), to six periods of indefinite length (thus almost all modern theologians). Scripture forbids us to interpret the days as periods, for **it divides these days into evening and morning. That forces us to accept the days as days of twenty-four hours**.³
- Before creation there was not time, therefore, creation did not take place in time, it began time.
 - Gen 1:5
 - **What was the light before the sun was created?**
 - Rev 21:23
 - 2 Cor 4:6
- **Orderly Progression in Creation:**
 - Days 1-6: Gen 1:1-31.
 - Everything God made was very good.
 - **Day 7 God rests:** It simply means that God ceased creating new and additional things; but He did not withdraw from His finished work, letting it shift for itself according to previously established laws.⁴

Luther's Small Catechism: The First Article (Part 1) questions 114-130.

¹ Mueller, S. P., ed. (2005). *Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess: An Introduction to Doctrinal Theology* (Vol. 3, p. 100). Wipf & Stock Publishers.

² Koehler, E. W. A. (1999). *A summary of Christian doctrine: a popular presentation of the teachings of the Bible* (electronic ed., p. 34). Concordia Publishing House.

³ Pieper, F. (1953). *Christian Dogmatics* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 468). Concordia Publishing House.

⁴ Koehler, E. W. A. (1999). 37-38.

Creation of Man and the Fall:

On the sixth day the Triune God made man. The details of this creation, as recorded in the Scriptures, mark man as the chief and foremost of all visible creatures. Not only did God, as it were, take counsel with Himself, but He fashioned the body of a mature man, Adam, from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, gave him a rational soul and a conscience, and created him in HIS own image. On the same day God made one mature woman, Eve, of a rib, which He had taken from Adam.⁵

➤ **Gen 2:7, 21-22**

Image of God:

*The image of God in man consisted in much more than in his possession of intellect and will, in his personality; it consisted in the right disposition of his intellect and will, in his knowledge of God and the will to do only God's will. Man knew God and was endowed with a holy disposition. This truth is corroborated in the New Testament. **Col. 3:10** describes the new man as "renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him," and Eph. 4:24 as "created after God in righteousness and true holiness."⁶*

➤ **Col 3:10**

➤ **Eph 4:24**

Soul:

The soul of man is not a material, but an immortal, living, spiritual essence, the composition and structure of which we do not understand. It dwells in the body but takes up no room or space. It gives life to the body, and makes use of its several members according to the purpose for which they are designed. The interrelation and interaction of soul and body is a profound mystery.⁷

➤ **Acts 20:10**

Read: *Wonderfully Made: A Protestant Theology of the Body* (pp. 26-27).

Luther's Small Catechism: First Article (Part 1) questions 119-120.

The Fall:

Genesis 3:

***Luther:** But these words show how horrible the fall of Adam and Eve was; for through it we have lost a most beautifully enlightened reason and a will in agreement with the Word and will of God. We have also lost the glory of our bodies, so that now it is a matter of the utmost disgrace to be seen naked, whereas at that time it was something most beautiful and the unique prerogative of the human race over all the other animals. The most serious loss consists in this, that not only were those benefits lost, but man's will turned away from God. As a result, man wants and does none of the things God wants and commands. Likewise, we have no knowledge about what God is, what grace is, what righteousness is, and finally what sin itself is.⁸*

Luther's Small Catechism: The Ten Commandments questions 20-23

Book of Concord: AC Article II - Original Sin (p.31)

⁵ Koehler, E. W. A. (1999). *A summary of Christian doctrine: a popular presentation of the teachings of the Bible* (electronic ed., p. 47). Concordia Publishing House.

⁶ Pieper, F. (1953). *Christian Dogmatics* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, p. 517). Concordia Publishing House.

⁷ Koehler, E. W. A. (1999). *A summary of Christian doctrine: a popular presentation of the teachings of the Bible* (electronic ed., p. 48). Concordia Publishing House.

⁸ Luther, M. (1999). *Luther's works, vol. 1: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 1-5* (J. J. Pelikan, H. C. Oswald, & H. T. Lehmann, Eds.; Vol. 1, p. 141). Concordia Publishing House.