



19 Minutes with Luther

The First Article

The Knowledge of God
Law and Gospel
Introduction to the Law
1st Commandment
2nd Commandment
3rd Commandment
4th Commandment
5th Commandment
6th Commandment
7th Commandment
8th Commandment
9th & 10th Commandments
The Conclusion
The Gospel & the Nature of God
The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
1st Article (Creation)
1st Article (Preservation)
1st Article (Protection)
► **1st Article (The Fall into Sin)**
2nd Article (Christ's Person)
2nd Article (Christ's Office)
2nd Article (Christ's Work)
2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
2nd Article (Christian Life)
2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
3rd Article (Calls)
3rd Article (Enlightens)
3rd Article (Sanctifies)
3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
3rd Article (Invisible Church)
3rd Article (Visible Church)
3rd Article (Forgiveness)
3rd Article (Eternal Life)
Baptism (Part 1)
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Holy Communion (Part 1)
Holy Communion (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 1)
Keys & Confession (Part 2)
Keys & Confession (Part 3)
Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
The Address
1st Petition
2nd Petition
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The Doxology

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

1. What do the following passages tell us about the devil?

"God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment" (2 Peter 2:4).

"The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day" (Jude 6).

"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

2. Review the details of the Genesis chapter 3 account of Adam and Eve's fall into sin.

3. According to the following passage, what were some of the results of Adam and Eve's fall into sin?

"To the woman [God] said, 'I will greatly increase your pains in child-bearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.' To Adam he said, . . . 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return'" (Genesis 3:16-19).

4. Read the following passage. What was another result of the fall into sin?

“When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them ‘man.’ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth” (Genesis 5:1-3).

5. Complete the chart:

Image of God	Image of Man
(a) sinless, holy	(a) _____
(b) free will; able not to sin	(b) _____
(c) perfect fellowship with God	(c) _____
(d) perfect knowledge of God’s will	(d) _____

6. The Bible’s teaching that people are born in a sinful condition may be difficult to accept. How do the following support the doctrine of original sin?

The message of Scripture

The death of a newborn

Human behavior

7. How will an understanding of the doctrine of original sin assist parents?

8. In addition to creating, preserving, and protecting us, what else, according to the following passage, has our heavenly Father done for us? Why has he done this?

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Luther said:

“Do you not know that the prince of this world has been judged? He is no lord, no prince any more. You have a different, a stronger, Lord, Christ, who has overcome and bound him. . . . [The devil] can do no more than a bad dog on a chain. . . . Because it is tied and you avoid it, it cannot bite you.” (Plass, Vol. 1, p. 402.)

Closing Prayer

Father, we have sinned. We are not worthy of any of your blessings. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus our Savior. Day by day, by the working of your Spirit, renew in us your image to the glory of your name. Amen.

At home

Memorize the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed and Martin Luther’s explanation.

Helps

(1) The devil is an angel. He was created good, but he led a rebellion against God. He is God’s enemy, who wants to destroy the souls of all people eternally in hell. (2) If necessary, read Genesis chapter 3. The devil tempted Adam and Eve to sin against God. Adam and Eve freely chose to disobey God. (3) Adam and Eve would experience pain and sorrow as a result of sin. Worst of all, although they were once bound to live forever, they would now experience temporal death and possibly eternal death. (4) The image of God was lost. (5) (a) sinful, unholy; (b) unable to keep from sinning; (c) relationship with God is destroyed; (d) imperfect knowledge of God’s will. (6) The Bible clearly teaches the doctrine of original sin. See Psalm 51:5. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), and sometimes even newborn babies die. Human behavior gives evidence of original sin, for nobody teaches us how to sin; we do it naturally. (7) Understanding the doctrine of original sin will lead parents to take advantage of the saving grace God offers their children in Baptism. Parents who understand this doctrine will not be shocked or surprised by the sinfulness of their children but will use law and gospel to nurture them in patience and love. (8) Out of his undeserved love for fallen mankind, God promised and sent his Son, Jesus, to be the world’s Savior.