

A STUDY OF LUTHER'S LARGE CATECHISM

THE CREED

➤ **Why does Luther study the creed after he has studied the commandments?**

❖ *“What properly follows is the Creed, which sets before us everything for which we must look to God and which we must receive as His gift. Briefly stated, the Creed teaches us to know thoroughly what He is like. And learning this is precisely that then is to enable us to do what we should be doing according to the Ten Commandments...Therefore, it is essential to learn this second part of Christian teaching as it is to learn the former, in order that we may know how to reach our goal and where and through what means to find the power to keep the commandments.” - Martin Luther (pg. 67)*

➤ **Luther wrote, “In the first place, the Creed was once divided into 12 articles.” If this was the case, why do you think Luther divided the Creed into 3 parts (articles)?**

❖ *“In order to organize them in as clear and simple a way as possible for the instruction of children, we shall summarize the entire Christian faith in three chief articles, according to the three persons in the Godhead, on whom everything that we believe is focused.*

➤ **Given Luther's words above, if you were to summarize the creed into three statements of faith, how would you do it?**

❖ *“The Creed might be summed up very briefly in these few words: ‘I believe in God the Father, who created me; I believe in God the Son, who redeemed me; I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies me.’ - Martin Luther (pg. 68)*

➤ **If someone was to ask you to describe your God, what would you say?**

➤ **How does this article help you to understand and keep the First Commandment?**

❖ *“If, for example, one were to ask a young child, ‘My boy, what kind of God do you have? What do you know about Him?’ then he could say, ‘First, my God is the Father who made heaven and earth. I take nothing and no one else as God except Him alone, for there simply is no one else who could have made heaven and earth.’” - Martin Luther (pg. 68)*

➤ **Luther asks, “When you say, ‘I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker (of heaven and earth),’ etc., what is it that you are saying? What do you mean by those words?” How would you answer Luther’s questions?**

❖ *“What I mean to say and what I believe is that I am a creation of God, that is, He gave me and continuously preserves for me my body, soul, and life, my bodily members great and small, all my senses, my reason and intellect, and so on, also food and drink, clothing, livelihood, wife and child, servants, house and home, etc.; besides this He causes the necessities and comforts of life to be provided for me by everything in creation—the sun, moon, the stars in the sky, day and night, air, fire, water, the earth and all that it can produce, birds, fish, animals, grains and all manner of produce. He also gives whatever other physical and temporal blessings there may be, such as good government, peace, security...In addition, we also confess that God the Father not only gave us all that we have and see before our eyes, but He also daily protects and defends us against all evil and misfortune, turning aside danger and mishap of every sort.” - Martin Luther (pg. 69)*

➤ **Looking at the Luther quote above, what should we learn about God and about ourselves when we study this article?**

➤ **How does this world show a gross misunderstanding of this article and what it means? How do we also do this?**

❖ *“This is the world’s perverse, wicked way; drowned in its blindness, it misused all the good gifts of God solely to serve its pride, greed, pleasure, and enjoyment, not even giving God so much as a thought, a word of thanks, or an acknowledgment that He is Lord and Creator.”
Martin Luther (pg. 70)*

➤ **What then, having studied this article, will this lead us to do in our daily lives?**