



An Adult Exploration of the Lutheran Expression of Faith

SESSION SIX: BEING JUSTIFIED

1. Human Beings Before God
 - a. We live in a world of conflicting ideas about what it means to be *human* and what it means to be humans standing before God.
 - b. *Theological Anthropology* – The Study of the Nature of Humanity Before God
 - i. The question of *theological anthropology*: What is the nature of humanity before God?
 1. Option One: Humans are perfect as manifestations of the image of God, have free wills, and can stand before a perfect God in righteousness without the aid of intermediaries.
 2. Option Two: Humans are imperfect as manifestations of humanity fallen from grace, whose will is not free, and who cannot stand before a perfect God in righteousness without the aid of intermediaries.
 3. Option Three: Humans may be perfect or imperfect but do not stand before God whether their will is free or not. Human beings create their own reality whether good or bad, perfect or imperfect, free or not.
 - c. Creation and Fall – the Witness of the Word of God
 - i. Created “good” as the *imago dei*
 - ii. The Fall according to Genesis 1 and 2 as examples of the universal conflict of chaos and order.

2. The Role of God's Law in Determining the Nature of Humanity's Stance before God
 - a. The Ten Commandments as the heart of the law of God – a standard of measure
 - b. The Ten Commandments in The Small Catechism
 - c. The Torah as the law of God centered in the Decalogue: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
 - d. The First Use of the Law – the Civic Use - to establish a standard for societal good order
 - i. Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 10:12; Romans 2:12-16
 - e. The Second Use of the Law – the Spiritual Use - to create sin awareness of human imperfection before God – the conviction of sin
 - i. Romans 7:7-13; Romans 3:20; James 1:23;
 - ii. The law of God as disciplinarian that leads us to grace by faith alone in Christ – Galatians 3:23-29
 - f. The Third Use of the Law? – a dangerous trap for self-righteousness – Calvin's delicate innovation of Luther's thought.
 - i. Romans 6:12-23
3. The Law and Gospel Principle and the Word of God
 - a. The Law and Gospel Principle – Romans 3:9-26 – the Key to Understanding the Word of God and humanity's stance before God
 - i. The *Law* = God's standard of human and communal norms or perfection
 - ii. The *Gospel* = The good news of God's answer to the human dilemma surrounding sin most evident on the cross of Jesus
 - b. The Doctrine of Justification – Roman 1:16-17 – Justified sinners by grace through faith alone
 - c. The Christian standing before God - *Simul Justus et Peccator* – Simultaneously sinner and saint before God
 - d. The *substitutionary atonement* of Jesus Christ on the cross – God's answer to the question of humanity's stance before God: We are made right with God by means of grace by faith on account of the cross of Jesus