

# The Augsburg Confession – June 25, 1530 AD

## Brief Summaries of its 21 Theological Articles

### **We believe, teach, and confess that...**

1. **GOD**: There is one divine essence, God, and that there are three persons in this one divine essence. These persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. **MAN**: (Original Sin) All men born the natural way since the fall of Adam are conceived and born in sin. This sin condemns all who are not regenerated.
3. **CHRIST**: The Son of God became man. His two natures, human and divine, are so united that one Christ was born, suffered, died, arose, reigns on high, etc...
4. **GRACE**: (Justification) We cannot obtain forgiveness or salvation by our merits. We receive forgiveness by grace alone, for Christ's sake, through faith.
5. **MINISTRY**: The ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments was given by God so men could be given the Holy Spirit and faith.
6. **GOOD WORKS**: Confidence that Christ forgives us and gives us His righteousness apart from our works, produces good works in us, fruits of faith.
7. **THE CHURCH**: The church is the assembly of believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the sacraments are administered in accord with it.
8. **HYPOCRITE PASTORS**: "The sacraments are efficacious even if the priests who administer them are wicked men." Such men "sit in Moses' seat." (Mt. 23:2)
9. **HOLY BAPTISM**: "Baptism is necessary" and "grace is offered through it. Children, too, should be baptised." By baptism they become acceptable to God.
10. **HOLY COMMUNION**: "The true body and blood of Christ are really present in the Supper of our Lord under the form of bread and wine."
11. **HOLY ABSOLUTION**: "Private absolution should be retained and not allowed to fall into disuse." In confession it is not necessary to enumerate all sins.
12. **REPENTANCE**: Repentance is simply to be terrified because of your sin, yet trust the absolution. The changed life follows. The process repeats often.
13. **SACRAMENTS**: Sacraments are not just ways of making your public testimony. They are ways God makes His testimony to us, ways He brings us forgiveness.
14. **CALLED AND ORDAINED ONLY**: "No one should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call."
15. **TRADITIONS**: Other than traditions that are said to win you salvation, we happily practice all the old traditions, interpreting them in an evangelical way.
16. **CIVIL GOVERNMENT**: God instituted All government and law for good order. Christians can hold office, fight wars, judge & execute criminals, etc.
17. **CHRIST'S RETURN**: Christ will return on the last day will raise up all the dead, giving life and joy to believers but eternal punishment to ungodly men & demons.
18. **FREE WILL?** Fallen man possesses the kind of free will it takes to function in society, but not the kind it takes to fear, love, or trust in God with his whole heart.
19. **THE CAUSE OF SIN**: Although God has created and preserves nature, sin is caused by the wicked will of the devil and of all ungodly men.  
Supper of our Lord under the form of bread and wine."
20. **FAITH AND WORKS**: Good works do nothing to save us. Only faith produces genuine good works like calling on God, enduring suffering, loving neighbour, etc.

21. THE SAINTS: “Saints should be kept in remembrance...However it cannot be proved from Scripture that we are to invoke saints or seek help from them.”