

GOD'S ANSWERS: SESSION TWO

A Study on Worldviews and the Augsburg Confession

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, Your Word is truth. Keep us steadfast in Your Word even as the evil one seeks to whisper his lies into our ears. Keep us with Your Son, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

Introduction

Confessions have consequences. We know that this is true when we see Christians around the world suffering persecution because of their confession. In those places, it is easy to see the consequence of a Christian's confession. However, while we don't always see such consequences in our lives, our confession does have consequences for us as well. It shapes who we are, what we believe and how we see and understand things — what is often called a worldview.

1. What is a worldview?

Basic Considerations



Examples of worldview:

2. When looking at the picture on the left, what does a typical American see?

3. What does a cattle farmer see?

4. What does a member of PETA (a group that opposes any consumption of meat) see?



Another example:

5. When viewing the picture on the left, what does an American who most values being tolerant and inclusive see?

6. What does a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (or a similarly socially conservative church body) see?

7. What does a militant Muslim see?

8. What do these examples show us about the power of worldview?

9. Why does worldview matter? Does it affect more than how we think?



Examples of worldview revisited:

10. What does the typical American do when they see this?

11. What does the cattle farmer do when they see this?

12. What does the member of PETA do when they see this?



Another example:

13. What does the American who most values being tolerant and inclusive do when they see this?

14. What does the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (or similarly socially conservative church body) member do when they see this?

15. What does the militant Muslim do when they see this?

Everyone has a worldview. You have a worldview. I have a worldview. Everyone has a worldview, but not everyone has the right worldview. The Christian's worldview must be shaped by God.

16. How does God shape our worldview?

17. Who else is working to shape our worldview?

Let's see how this works in relation to a specific topic. What does God teach us about the state of humanity after the fall into sin?

God's revealed truth — Augsburg Confession Article II

“Also they teach that since the fall of Adam, all men begotten in the natural way are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with concupiscence; and that this *disease*, or *vice of origin*, is truly sin, even now condemning and bringing eternal death upon those not born again through Baptism and the Holy Ghost.”¹

18. How is this truth undercut in our world?

19. Why does it matter if we believe that the Scriptures teach that humanity apart from Christ is full of evil?

God reveals, and so we confess. He talks, and we echo His truth from our lips and in our lives. Our confession has consequences. These consequences are that we come to know the Truth, that we reject what is false and that our interaction with the world around us is shaped by what we believe and who we are according to God's Truth.

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, Your Word reveals that humanity is set against You and Your ways apart from Your Son, Jesus. Guard us from the temptation to doubt this truth that we might always rest in the salvation He has won for us. Amen.

¹ Triglot Concordia: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church: German-Latin-English (Saint Louis, MO: Concordia, 1921).