

# Words of Truth

## Exposing The Lutheran Church (Part 2)

By: Brian A. Yeager

While Martin Luther had a goal of exposing corruption in the Roman Catholic Church (<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/REFORM/LUTHER.HTM>), he really accomplished starting a modified form of Catholicism. It is never right to run from one form of error into another form of error (Deuteronomy 5:32; 28:14). We are going to use several documents from the Lutheran Church to prove that Lutherans are basically apostate Catholics. We will also expose those falsehoods, which we will use to tie these two denominations to each other, as false doctrines.

### Martin Luther - One Foot In With The Other Foot Out

The "95 Theses Of Martin Luther" ([http://www.reformed.org/documents/95\\_theses.html](http://www.reformed.org/documents/95_theses.html)) shows he did not leave the errors of Catholicism: "7. God remits guilt to no one unless at the same time he humbles him in all things and makes him submissive to the vicar, the priest... 26. The pope does very well when he grants remission to souls in purgatory, not by the power of the keys, which he does not have, but by way of intercession for them".

When Martin Luther paid homage to the "vicar" above, he was continuing a false Catholic doctrine. The doctrine of the "vicar" is the Roman Catholic belief that the "pope" is God's representative on earth with all authority over their church (<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15403b.htm>). Making such a claim of a man in such a position of authority is Scripturally false (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 10:25-26, Acts 14:8-18, Galatians 1:10-12, Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:12-18, and II Thessalonians 2:3-4). God does not humble us. We must humble ourselves because of God (James 4:10 and I Peter 5:5-6). Since we have freewill, God does not "make" a person submit to anyone (Exodus 15:26, Deuteronomy 30:19-20, Joshua 24:14-16, Matthew 4:8-11, Luke 11:28, Colossians 1:21-23, and Hebrews 10:36). On top of that, God gives remission of sins to anyone who properly obeys the Gospel call of Christ (Acts 2:37-41).

The continuation of Roman Catholicism in the Lutheran Church is shown in the false doctrine of "purgatory". When one dies, their fate is eternally set as they are in either paradise or torment and that person cannot have their fate changed (Luke 16:19-31). The "pope" does not possess the position of intercessor. That place belongs to Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:5 and Hebrews 7:22-25).

Martin Luther said: "Martin Luther to All Faithful and Godly Pastors and Preachers: Grace, Mercy, and Peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare [publish] this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form" (<http://www.bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>). When you hear the term "Catechism", what do you think of? When Wikipedia defines a "Catechism" they reference the Roman Catholic Church for their information (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catechism>). Whether

Lutheran or Catholic, no group should ever trust in a book of human traditions. It is the Bible and in the Bible alone where we are to seek out God's will (Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4, John 5:39, John 8:31-32, John 17:17, Romans 1:16, I Corinthians 4:6, Galatians 1:6-12, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 2:14-18, II Timothy 3:15-4:2, James 1:21, and Revelation 22:18-19). The Catechism and doctrines of Luther on the pope are not the only signs of Catholicism you see in the Lutheran Church.

### Two Notable Things That Scream "Catholic"!

There are two doctrines within the Lutheran Church, aside from those cited above, which really show the influence of Roman Catholicism on the Lutheran Church. The first of these two are confessions of sin to a man with a religious title (a.k.a. confession to a priest): "You should speak to the confessor thus: Reverend and dear sir, I beseech you to hear my confession, and to pronounce forgiveness to me for God's sake... " (<http://www.bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>). When we study the Scriptures we find that we can confess our faults to our brethren, not a man of so-called religious notoriety, for their assistance in overcoming that sin (James 5:16; 19-20). The term "reverend" only appears once in the Bible and that one reference is talking about God (Psalms 111:9). For someone who has already obeyed the Gospel, thus becoming a Christian, their confession for forgiveness of sins needs to be to God (I John 1:9). Aside from asking for help, the only other occasion wherein a Christian is to confess their sins to another human being is if that person is the one they have sinned against (Luke 17:3-4).

The second error that really reeks of Catholicism is this: "We do not believe that the bread and wine are only symbols of Christ's body and blood, or that they merely represent Christ's body and blood. We take the Scriptures at face value and believe that the bread is the body of Christ and that the wine is the blood of Christ because Jesus said, 'This is my body,' and 'This is my blood.' We call this belief the doctrine of the Real Presence" (<http://sites.google.com/site/graceeldorado/holy-communion>). Does this sound familiar to you? This is just like the Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation. There is very little difference in what Lutherans teach on this from what Catholics believe. Both are wrong.

Prior to the death of Christ He established His memorial supper. In doing so, He put to rest the question at hand. Notice: "*And as they were eating, **Jesus took bread**, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this **fruit of the vine**, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom*" (Matthew 26:26-29). Clearly, Jesus established that unleavened bread (Matthew 26:17) and the fruit of the vine are the representatives of His body and blood. Not only does the institution of the Lord's Supper prove this is error, but also the fact that we are not to drink blood disproves this fallacy (Acts 15:28-29).

### Conclusion

Like any and all religious denominations, there is much more we could discuss to expose the Lutheran Church. Just the fact that they were not in existence when Christ purchased THE one and only church with His blood (Acts 20:28 and Ephesians 5:25; cf. Romans 16:16) proves this religion to be false. Our next article will cover the Methodist Church in a brief exposure of their errors. After that, we will begin bringing this series of articles to a conclusion. Please continue to study along with your Bibles open (Acts 17:10-11).