



The Lutheran Pastor

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Luther's Lasting Impact

INTERACTIVE FAITH

AN ONLINE BIBLE STUDY SERIES



Introduction

Summarize the following Lutheran, biblical teachings.

- ◆ The doctrine of the universal priesthood of all believers
- ◆ The doctrine of vocation

How does the following quote of Luther mesh with the quote from the Augsburg Confession?

"There is no true, basic difference between laymen and priests, princes and bishops, between religious and secular, except for the sake of office and work, but not for the sake of status. They are all of the spiritual estate, all are truly priests, bishops, and popes. But they do not all have the same work to do..."

"A cobbler, a smith, a peasant—each has the work and office of his trade, and yet they are all alike consecrated priests and bishops. Further, everyone must benefit and serve every other by means of his own work or office so that in this way many kinds of work may be done for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the community, just as all the members of the body serve one another [1 Cor. 12:14–26]."

"To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation"

Luther's Works 44:129-30

"Concerning church government it is taught that no one should publicly teach, preach, or administer the sacraments without a proper [public] call."

Augsburg Confession XIII

The Medieval Priest

Part of a hierarchical system

Celibate

Doing the “rite” things the right way

Hearing confession

How do you think these aspects of the priesthood affected the training and education of priests?

How do you think they affected the attitude of priests? Of the common people?

The Lutheran Pastor

Explain how the following selection from Luther shows that the Lutheran pastor has a distinctive relationship and purpose.

“We are all priests, as many of us as are Christians. But the priests, as we call them, are ministers chosen from among us. All that they do is done in our name; the priesthood is nothing but a ministry. This we learn from I Cor. 4[:1]: ‘This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.’... They are also called pastors because they are to pasture, that is, to teach...

“Flee, young men, and do not enter upon this holy estate, unless you are determined to preach the gospel, and can believe that you are made not one whit better than the laity through this ‘sacrament’ of ordination!”

“The Babylonian Captivity of the Church”
Luther’s Works 36:113,115

The importance of the call and the pastor/people relationship

Married (most of the time)

Primary work: proclaiming the Word and administering the sacraments

Difference in pastoral care

How do you think these aspects of the Lutheran pastor affected the training and education of Lutheran pastors?

How do you think they affected the attitude of Lutheran pastors? Of the common people?

The Lasting Impact of the Lutheran Pastor

The Lutheran pastor became a key person in Lutheran communities, especially in times of trouble

How do you think a Lutheran pastor's work today differs from the work of pastors of other denominations?

Describe Luther's lasting impact in this quote.

"To preach Christ means to feed the soul, make it righteous, set it free, and save it, provided it believes the preaching. Faith alone is the saving and efficacious use of the Word of God..."

"The Word of God cannot be received and cherished by any works whatever but only by faith. Therefore it is clear that, as the soul needs only the Word of God for its life and righteousness, so it is justified by faith alone and not any works; for if it could be justified by anything else, it would not need the Word, and consequently it would not need faith."

"The Freedom of a Christian"
Luther's Works 31:346