

The Law, which is in the members, has been overturned by spiritual regeneration and remains in the mortal flesh. It has been overturned because the guilt has been forgiven in the Sacrament, by which believers are born again; but it remains, because it produces desires, against which believers struggle.

[37] Our adversaries know that Luther believes and teaches this, and since they cannot deny this, they instead try to pervert his words in an effort to crush an innocent man.

[38] They argue that concupiscence is a penalty, but not a sin. Luther maintains that it is a sin. It has been said above that Augustine defines original sin as concupiscence. If they don't like this, then let them argue with Augustine. [39] Besides, Paul says in Romans 7:7, "I would not have known what it is to covet [concupiscence] if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'" Likewise, "I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members" (Romans 7:23). [40] No amount of sophistry can overthrow these points. They clearly call concupiscence sin, which is not charged against those who are in Christ [Romans 8:1], although by nature it is deserving of death [Romans 6:23] where it is not forgiven. [41] All controversies aside, this is what the Fathers believe. Augustine, in a long discussion, refutes the opinion of those who think that concupiscence in a person is not a fault, but merely an incidental and inconsequential matter just as color of the body or ill health is said to be an adiaphoron.

[42] But when our adversaries argue that the evil inclination (fomes) is an adiaphoron, not only many passages of Scripture, but simply the entire Church, contradict them. Who has ever dared to say that the following things, even if perfect agreement could not be reached, are indifferent matters: doubt about God's wrath, His grace, God's Word, anger at the judgments of God, being provoked because God does not at once deliver one from afflictions, murmuring because the wicked enjoy a better fortune than the good, to be urged on by wrath, lust, the desire for glory, wealth, and so on?

Congregation at Prayer

Week of August 23, 2026

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of Heaven and Earth

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."
Matthew 6:19-20

Small Catechism Table of Duties

To Workers of All Kinds

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Ephesians 6:5–8

To Employers and Supervisors

⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. Ephesians 6:9

- Sunday Mark 7:31-37
- Monday Romans 13
- Tuesday Romans 14
- Wednesday Romans 15