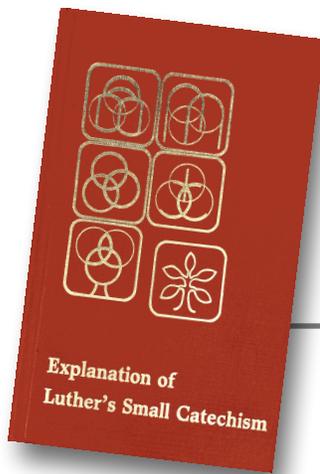


HOME TALK

Making Disciples in the Middle of Everyday Life Mt 28:20a



Talking about

The First Article of the Creed

Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given to me and still sustains my body and soul, my senses and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul. I believe that He gives me food and clothing, home and family, and all material blessings; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil. I believe that He does this because of His fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this I should thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

146 What is the natural condition of people since the Fall?

1. Since the Fall, people are unable truly to know God and understand what He does.

2 Corinthians 4:4 "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

1 Corinthians 2:14 "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

2. Since the Fall, people are unable to love God or please Him, and instead are slaves to evil desires.

Romans 8:7-8 "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

3. Since the Fall, the conscience is bothered because of guilt.

Genesis 3:8-10 "And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

4. Since the Fall, people suffer because of sorrow, sickness, and death.

Job 14:1-2 "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble. He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not."

5. Since the Fall, people no longer rule creation as they once did.

Genesis 3:17b-19 "...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Scriptures are noted in the English Standard Version

