

**Luther's Legacy for Laity**  
**Disc 2: Dr. David Lose**  
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This study guide will follow the 8 parts of Dr. Lose's DVD. Each part will include a brief summary, a list of Biblical passages (if any were referenced) and questions for discussion. Key glossary terms will be listed at the end of each section.

**Part 1: Up/Down Religion**

**Summary:**

Up Religion (our attempt to climb up to God) and Down Religion (God's becoming vulnerable in the manger and the cross for us) are in opposition to each other. If we are busy trying to climb the ladder up to God, we miss God's downward movement to us. Therefore God destroyed the whole Up Religion scheme through the Law. Luther described the first use of the law, as the civil use. He believed that the second table of the law (last 7 commandments) was an attempt to describe what it means to live in community. You can't do these forbidden things if you want to live together in peace and harmony.

**Biblical References:**

(none)

**Confessional References:**

(none)

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. What do the manger and the cross have in common for Luther?
2. Give examples of how our society attempts to deny the realities that we are vulnerable, we are mortal and that we are born to die.
3. Why is climbing the "Up Ladder" to God so dangerous, according to Luther?
4. Name the two problems that Luther identified with Up Religion.
5. Why is Up Religion so much more attractive than Down Religion?
6. What are the 10 commandments? How do these 10 laws help us to live in community?

**Glossary:**

*Civil Use of the Law* – Also known as the First use of the Law. It restrains us from thinking that we are more important than everyone else. It enforces a modicum of civility in society. "Life's little instruction book."

*Religion* – The Latin root word, *ligeo* (ligament) helps us to understand the purpose of religion. It attempts to re-ligament us, or reconnect us to God.

*Up Religion* – The religion we are born with. It is our attempt to reconnect with God, who seems to be far above us. Any number of spiritual practices are employed to climb the ladder to God.

*Down Religion* – In opposition to Up Religion. God chooses to come down to fallen humanity in the manger and the cross to make us one with God and one with each other. God becomes vulnerable in order to free us to be vulnerable for each other.

*Treasury of Merits* – At Luther's time it was believed that what Christ achieved on the cross, along with the holy lives of the saints, created a huge surplus of merit (think bank account). If ordinary Christians could gain access to this bank account it would help them to climb closer and closer to God. The church functioned like the banker of this account. It decided what practices allowed ordinary Christians to access this surplus merit.