

Luther's Legacy for Laity
Disc 1: Dr. Timothy Wengert
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This study guide will follow the 10 parts of Dr. Wengert's DVD. Each part will include a brief summary, a list of Biblical passages and citations from the Book of Concord (Wengert Edition) when used, and questions for discussion. Key glossary terms will be listed at the end of each section.

Part 10: Luther's Catechism

Summary:

Review the order of the catechisms that preceded Luther prior to viewing this part of the DVD (found in the study guide for part 9.)

Luther's catechism re-ordered the material and added new material. It can be outlined like this:

New Order

- a. Ten Commandments – Law (diagnosis)
- b. Creed – What God does for us (find the prescription)
- c. Lord's Prayer – (fills the prescription)

Luther expanded the scope of the Catechism

- a. Baptism
- b. Lord's Supper
- c. Confession and Forgiveness (daily baptism)

Dr. Wengert emphasized that for the first time in about 1000 years a Christian theologian was watching his child's faith develop. When Luther's son Hans was three, Luther was working on reforming the Catechism. Hans' questions no doubt helped shape its format. It invites paraphrase of basic beliefs. The Small Catechism is Martin Luther caught in the act of confessing his faith in the simplest words he could think of.

Biblical References Part 10:

Confessional References in Part 10:

Page 345-375. Luther's Small Catechism

Questions for Discussion:

1. Does it change your opinion of the catechism if you know it was written to help answer a 3 year-old's questions?
2. Is there a difference between "What does this mean?" and "What is this?"
3. What is the significance of reordering the catechism of his day to begin with the 10 Commandments?

4. Dr. Wengert commented that the Lord's Prayer is God's gift to us. It is like getting the emergency number of Walgreens. What did he mean by that?
5. What are the implications for confirmation instruction for all ages in your congregation of Dr. Wengert's assertion that we have the order backwards? The catechism is Dr. Luther's simple confession of faith in answer to his students' questions! We reverse the order!

Glossary: