

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 7: Is Grace Really Unconditional?

Summary:

After talking about God's unconditional love, Lutherans often hear this response: "We have to do something don't we? Maybe we have to respond to God's love." Dr. Wengert uses the analogy of the response of a lover to explain the spontaneous life of faith that flows from the baptized believer whose ladders have been blown up. We don't have to think about how to live, or calculate our response to maximize God's love for us. Good works just comes bubbling up from the new creature of faith. Paul says it this way in Romans 6: "How can you who have died to sin still live in it?"

Biblical References Part 7:

Romans 6:1ff
Galatians 2:19-21

Confessional References in Part 7:

None

Questions for Discussion:

1. Why does the "old creature" in us get nervous when we are told of God's unconditional love in Jesus Christ?
2. React to this statement: "We can't do anything to earn God's love, but we do have to respond to it."
3. Dr. Wengert ended this section by stating that Christians still sin, they just don't like it as much. What do you think he meant by that?

Glossary:

Old Creature – Synonym for Old Adam. It is our sinful, ladder building nature that always looks for a way to stay in control.

New Creature – That which arises from the waters of baptism alive in Christ and dead to sin. We no longer want to live in sin, though as both a sinner and a saint we still do sin. The difference is we just don't like it as much anymore.