

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 9: The Old Catechism

Summary:

Prior to viewing this part of the DVD, look over Luther's Small Catechism and note how it is structured.

Luther didn't invent the idea of a catechism. He simply reformed its structure and content, and how catechetical instruction took place. Prior to Luther's, catechisms followed this order:

- a. Creed – Anyone can believe (have the correct knowledge)
- b. Ten commandments – Examination (Often added other lists of things to do and avoid.)
- c. Penance – Works of satisfaction (Penance was at the center of the faith in the late middle ages and any sins not confessed were not forgiven.)
 - i. Prayer (Lord's Prayer was the third item one learned)
 - ii. Fasting
 - iii. Giving alms

It was set up to teach you what you must do for God. We must believe, confess all sins, and then do satisfaction for those sins. Luther changed the order and affected the whole Christian life because of it. Part 10 will demonstrate what Luther did.

Biblical References Part 9:

None

Confessional References in Part 9:

Page 345-375. Luther's Small Catechism

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the significance of the way Luther changed the order of the catechism?
2. Why do you think the catechism is included in our ELW? Is that a new idea?
3. Can you recall an elderly loved one remembering parts of Luther's catechism as they slowly died? What will we remember? What will our children remember? What can you do about that in your congregation and home?

4. See if you can discover if Luther's catechism is in the worship books of our companion synods in Malawi and Brazil. Are they?
5. Dr. Wengert commented that Luther's Catechism is more than strong medicine for young teens. What uses do you think that catechism can play in your life and the life of your family?
6. Justas Jonas wrote of Luther's Small Catechism: "If the Lutheran church had brought no other benefit into the world than that it made this catechism known to the people it would have done more than all the universities and seminaries on earth." Would you agree?

Glossary: