

The Augsburg Confession *Talking About Faith with Family and Friends*



Article XIX: Of the Cause of Sin

Discussion: Why do some people blame God when things go wrong, for sickness, war, death, and other painful experiences in life?

"Of the Cause of Sin they (our Lutheran churches) teach that, although God does create and preserve nature, yet the cause of sin is the will of the wicked, that is, of the devil and ungodly men; which will, unaided of God, turn itself from God, as Christ says [John 8:44](#): *When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own.*"

Importance: There is agreement between the Lutherans and Catholics that God creates and preserves all things good and the devil and the corrupted sinful nature of man separates from God and leads to evil. God redeemed all people with the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, which is how he preserves what He created. In the text Luther used to document the cause of sin as a daily battle between the Creator of Life (God) and the "murderer" of life (Satan). This is a continuing eschatological war of terror between the evil empire of sin and the empire of truth by our King of Kings! This daily war of terror first begins with words of truth and deception, the law of God's commandments against the deceptive and fraudulent temptations of sin, and the fatal attack of human death which is victoriously conquered by the comfort of the Good news of the Gospel, We die in sin and are raised to new life in Christ! (Robert Kolb, *Luther and Stories of God*, 26,176)

It is the hope presented in this important teaching that motivated many to considered themselves as a Lutheran in the 16th century.

John 8:43-44: *"Why is my language not clear to you? You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: *"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. and so we will be with the Lord forever, Therefore encourage each other with these words."*