

The Augsburg Confession

Talking About Faith with Family and Friends

Emperor Charles V summoned the Protestant and Catholic theologians to Augsburg in 1530 to settle the divisions between them. The emperor asked for a concise statement of their beliefs.



Discussion: Why is the human nature of Jesus Christ important? Do you consider it to be of equal or lesser importance than the divine nature of Jesus Christ? How do you know that Jesus was a real person? Is the birth of Jesus to a virgin important to your faith?

Article III: Of the Son of God

"Also they (our Lutheran churches) teach that the Word, that is, the Son of God, did assume the human nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary, so that there are two natures, the divine and the human, inseparably enjoined in one Person, one Christ, true God and true man, who was born of the Virgin Mary, truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, that He might reconcile the Father unto us, and be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

He also descended into hell, and truly rose again the third day; afterward He ascended into heaven that He might sit on the right hand of the Father, and forever reign and have dominion over all creatures, and sanctify them that believe in Him, by sending the Holy Ghost into their hearts, to rule, comfort, and quicken them, and to defend them against the devil and the power of sin.

The same Christ shall openly come again to judge the quick and the dead, etc., according to the Apostles' Creed."

Importance: The Lutheran Church teaches that Jesus Christ is God in all shapes and forms and that He is also one of us, a human. This is important because of the intimate relationship we have with Jesus Christ (God). Although this is a revolutionary understanding and revelation for Luther's time, it is important for people in our time too because in a 2015 survey in the United Kingdom, 40% of people who identify themselves as Christian do not believe Jesus was a real person! <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-34686993>