

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: Do you believe your salvation is complete by the grace of God or do your own works and behavior contribute to eternal life and salvation?

Article IV: Of Justification

"Also, men cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works, but are freely justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor, and that their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, who, by His death, has made satisfaction for our sins. This faith God imputes for righteousness in His sight." Romans 3 and 4.

Importance: This statement has three critical points regarding how people understand their relationship with God and the guarantee of the promise of their eternal salvation.

- A. We cannot save ourselves but are called to repentance and faith by the Holy Spirit.
- B. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ forgives all our sins, and the corrupted nature of our inherited original sin. The death of Jesus Christ has made complete satisfaction for our sins and additional actions or good works by us are not necessary.
- C. Faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior is the validity of our new relationship with God!

This teaching clashed with the Roman Catholic Church regarding the need for continued satisfaction for one's sins regarding the purchase of indulgences, the obligation of doing good works, and the teaching of purgatory as a place for satisfaction for sins before entering heaven.