

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 with the intended purpose of finding areas of agreement to keep the empire united.



Article VI: Of New Obedience

Discussion: What do you consider to be good works commanded and expected of you by God? How do you understand the words, "If you love Me, keep My commandments"? (John 14:15) Is it necessary for someone who believes in Jesus Christ to do everything Jesus asks?

"Also they (our Lutheran churches) teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruits, and that it is necessary to do good works commanded by God, because of God's will, but that we should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. For remission of sins and justification is apprehended by faith, as also the voice of Christ attests: When ye shall have done all these things, say: We are unprofitable servants. [Luke 17:10](#). The same is also taught by thee Fathers. For Ambrose says: *"It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving remission of sins, without works, by faith alone."*

Importance: This is an important teaching for Lutherans and one that is the basis of spiritual growth. Good works are necessary, commanded, and expected! However, good works do not save people or make our relationship with God complete. Forgiveness of sins is only through the grace of God in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His Son. Salvation is free and unconditional. Good works are the result of faith. The new obedience is a life committed to understanding God's love through prayer, worship, reading the Bible, serving others, receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and remembering our baptism every day.

The importance of humility is referenced in Luke 17:10: **“So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’ ”**