

## The LC-MS: Are We Still Following Jesus?

“My sheep hear My voice ... and they follow Me.” (John 10:27, NKJ)

### 1A — MANY TODAY SUGGEST →

Only pastors or church officials should worry about doctrine and practice, thus denying the God-given role and responsibility of the laity.

### 2A — MANY TODAY SUGGEST →

Only district presidents should be able to initiate formal charges against an erring pastor, thus usurping the God-given role and responsibility of the congregation.

### 3A — MANY TODAY SUGGEST →

Before bringing charges against anyone or publicly criticizing them one must follow the steps of Matthew 18 and go privately to a brother, even in cases of public sin.



### 1B — THE BIBLE TEACHES<sup>1</sup> →

*Dear friends*, do not believe every spirit, but *test* the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Now *the Bereans* were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and *examined the Scriptures* every day *to see if what Paul said was true*. (Acts 17:11)

### 2B — THE BIBLE TEACHES<sup>1</sup> →

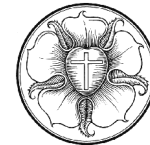
[Paul told all Christians to judge such matters saying,] Are you not to judge those inside[the church]? ... “Expel the wicked man from among you” ... Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? *Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life*. (1 Corinthians 5:12-6:3)

[Paul condemned the Christians for not criticizing preachers, saying] For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached ... *you put up with it* easily enough. (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

### 3B — THE BIBLE TEACHES<sup>1</sup> →

[Paul corrected Peter publicly] When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter *in front of them all* ... (Galatians 2:14)

Then Jesus *said to the crowds* ... “Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!” (Matthew 23:1, 13)



### 1C — THUS HISTORIC LUTHERANISM TEACHES<sup>2</sup>

*Those who come to the sacrament* ought to know more and have a fuller understanding of *all Christian doctrine* than children and beginners at school. (Large Catechism, Shorter Preface , 5)

All these [false teachings] and similar articles, and whatever attaches to them or follows from them, we reject and condemn as false, erroneous, heretical, contrary to God’s Word ... *All pious Christians* will and should avoid these as dearly as they love their soul’s welfare and salvation. (Solid Declaration, XII, 39)

Neither Peter nor the other ministers should assume lordship or authority over the church ... *nor let anybody’s authority count for more than the Word*. (Power & Primacy of the Pope, 11)

### 2C — THUS HISTORIC LUTHERANISM TEACHES<sup>2</sup>

We are happy to have *all good men judge and decide* whether our teaching or our opponents’ teaching is more godly and salutary for consciences. (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, XII, 90)

Thus the pope exercises a twofold tyranny: he defends his errors by force ... and *he forbids judicial examination*. The latter does more harm than all the punishments, for when proper judicial process has been taken away, the churches are not able to remove impious teachings and impious forms of worship, *and countless souls are lost generation after generation* (Power & Primacy of the Pope, 51)

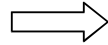
### 3C — THUS HISTORIC LUTHERANISM TEACHES<sup>2</sup>

(Matthew 18) *refers to secret sins*. But where the sin is so public that the judge and the whole world are aware of it, you can without sin shun and avoid the person ... For example, we now censure the pope and his teaching, which is publicly set forth in books and shouted throughout the world. (Large Catechism, 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment, 284)

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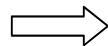
“My sheep hear My voice...and they follow Me.” (John 10:27, NKJ)

### 4A — MANY TODAY SUGGEST



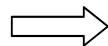
It does not matter *how* we worship.

### 5A — MANY TODAY SUGGEST



Pastors have no right to prevent anyone from *admittance* to the Lord’s Supper. Likewise, they suggest that pastors should have a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy regarding the beliefs of those who receive the Sacrament (open communion).

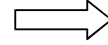
### 6A — MANY TODAY SUGGEST



On the basis of Galatians 3:28 that Christ has abolished all earthly distinctions and so there should be no distinctions between the roles of men and women in life and the church.

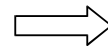


### 4B — THE BIBLE TEACHES<sup>1</sup>



Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so *worship God acceptably with reverence and awe [godly fear]*, for our “God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

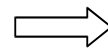
### 5B — THE BIBLE TEACHES<sup>1</sup>



Obey your leaders ... they keep watch over you as men *who must give an account* (Hebrews 13:17)

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be *guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord* ... For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29-30)

### 6B — THE BIBLE TEACHES<sup>1</sup>



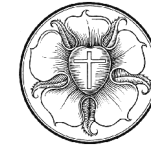
There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are *all one in Christ Jesus*. (Galatians 3:28)

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: *first for the Jew*, then for the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

Honor your father and your mother. (Ephesians 6:2)

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and *the head of the woman is man*, and the head of Christ is God. (1 Corinthians 11:3)

I do not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man. For Adam was formed *first*, then Eve. (1 Tim. 2:12)



### 4C — THUS HISTORIC LUTHERANISM TEACHES<sup>2</sup>

However, it can readily be judged that nothing contributes so much to the maintenance of *dignity in public worship* and the cultivation of *reverence and devotion* among people as the proper observance of ceremonies in the churches. (AC [Latin], Articles About Matters in Dispute, 6)

### 5C — THUS HISTORIC LUTHERANISM TEACHES<sup>2</sup>

*We do not intend to admit* to the sacrament and *administer it to* those who do not know what they seek or why they come. (Large Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar, 2)

*Those who come to the sacrament* ought to know more and have a fuller understanding of *all Christian doctrine* than children and beginners at school. (Large Catechism, Shorter Preface, 5)

If any refuse to receive your [pastors’] instructions ... *They should not be admitted to the sacrament*. (Small Catechism, Preface, 11)

### 6C — THUS HISTORIC LUTHERANISM TEACHES<sup>2</sup>

In other respects, indeed, *we are all equal* in the sight of God, *but* among ourselves *there must be* this sort of inequality and *proper distinctions*. (Large Catechism, 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment, 108)

CERTAIN PASSAGES OF THE SCRIPTURES, SELECTED FOR *VARIOUS ESTATES AND CONDITIONS* OF MEN, BY WHICH THEY MAY BE ADMONISHED TO DO *THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES* (Introduction to Table of Duties [TOD], S. C.)

“You wives, be submissive to your husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.” (1 Pet. 3:1). (Wives, TOD, S. C.)

Prepared and submitted to LC-MS congregations by the steering committee of the "Called to Confess" Free Conferences begun in the Northwest District in response to the 2004 Synodical Convention.

<sup>1</sup> All Bible verses from the New International Version, emphasis added.

<sup>2</sup> All quotations from the Tappert Edition of the BOC, emphasis added.