

AUGSBURG CONFESSION, 1530

PART I: Articles of the universal Christian Church

Article I Of God.

Article II. Of Original Sin.

Article III. Of the Son of God.

Article IV. Of Justification.

Article V. Of the Ministry.

Article VI. Of New Obedience.

Article VII. Of the Church.

“It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel. For this is enough for the true unity of the Christian church that there the gospel is preached harmoniously according to a pure understanding and the sacraments are administered in conformity with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that uniform ceremonies, instituted by human beings, be observed everywhere. As Paul says in Ephesians 4[:4-5]: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Article VIII. What the Church Is.

Article IX Of Baptism.

Article X. Of the Lord's Supper.

Article XI. Of Confession

Article XII. Of Repentance.

Article XIII. Of the Use of the Sacraments.

Article XIV Of Ecclesiastical Order.
- rite vocatus

Article XV. Of Ecclesiastical Usages.

Article XVI. Of Civil Affairs.

Article XVII Of Christ's Return to Judgment.

Article XVIII Of Free Will.

Article XIX Of the Cause of Sin.

Article XX Of Good Works.

Article XXI. Of the Worship of the Saints.

Conclusion to Part I: “This is nearly a complete summary of what is preached and taught in our churches for proper Christian instruction and the comfort of consciences, as well as for the improvement of believers.... Since, then, this teaching is clearly grounded in Holy Scripture and is, moreover, right against nor contrary to the universal Christian church—or even the Roman church—so far as can be observed in the writings of the Fathers, we think that our opponents cannot disagree with us in the articles set forth above....”

PART II: Articles that Deal with Abuses that have been Corrected

Article XXII. Of Both Kinds in the Sacrament.

Article XXIII Of the Marriage of Priests.

Article XXIV Of the Mass.

Article XXV. Of Confession.

Article XXVI. Of the Distinction of Meats.

Article XXVII Of Monastic Vows.

Article XXVIII Of Ecclesiastical Power.

Distinction between the spiritual realm and the temporal realm. The error of bishops was a confusion of these two realms.

“According to gospel the power of the keys or of the bishops is a power and command of God to preach the gospel, to forgive or retain sin, and to administer and distribute the sacraments” (AC XVIII:5-6).

“However, where bishops possess secular authority and the sword, they possess them not as bishops by divine right but by human, imperial right, given by Roman emperors and kings for the secular administration of their lands. That has nothing at all to do with the office of the gospel. Consequently, according to divine right it is the office of the bishop to preach the gospel, to forgive sin, to judge doctrine and reject doctrine that is contrary to the gospel, and to exclude from the Christian community the ungodly whose life is manifest—not with human power but with God’s Word alone...But whenever they teach, institute, or introduce something contrary to the gospel, we have God’s command in such a case not to be obedient (AC XVIII:19-23).