

LAW + GOSPEL AND SINNER + SAINT

Bible Text: Romans 5:1-11; Matthew 22:34-40

Lesson Focus: We are always both sinner and saint, and we need both law and gospel.

Big Question: Am I good enough to be a Christian?

Key Words: LAW, GOSPEL, SIMUL USTUS ET PECCATOR, SINNER, SAINT

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] We are born into this world as sinners.
-] Being a sinner means that we are often tempted to play God in how we live and in how we deal with other people.
-] Lutherans recognize all baptized people as saints.
-] Saints celebrate the forgiveness they receive through baptism.
-] Saints strive to grow in faith and knowledge of God's presence and work in the world.
-] God's law is given by God for our well-being, but following the law is not what saves us (Romans 3:28).
-] The law shows us God's will and it also makes it clear that we're sinners and we can't make it on our own.
-] The gospel is a gift (Romans 1:16).
-] Law and gospel are like a good parent who tells you what is expected of you but loves and forgives you when you mess up.
-] Without the empty tomb, Jesus' death on the cross was just a nice gesture. When Jesus rose from the dead, the cross became good news to us and all the saints (Romans 8:34-39).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Why do we have speed limits and other laws?
-] Are Christians above the law?
-] How is God's justice different than human justice?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 282: How to Tell the Difference between a Sinner and a Saint

-] What are the characteristics of a saint? Do you qualify? How about a sinner?

Here We Stand Student Book page 188: How to Tell the Difference between the Law and the Gospel

-] What does balance have to do with law and gospel, saint and sinner?

Here We Stand Student Book page 264: Seven Complicated Lutheran Theological Terms in Latin and What They Mean in Plain English

-] Why are these ideas so important to our Lutheran faith?

LIFE CONNECTION

Theologians have struggled with the concepts of law and gospel, sinner and saint. What are some tough (and worthwhile) struggles in your own life? Think of something, maybe a relationship, that is difficult but worth it. This week, choose one difficult-but-worthwhile thing to work on. Name it here and be ready to talk more about it next week.

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Word Search

Once you determine the missing word, try to find it in the puzzle.

E I I J Y F Z B X B W K X R O J H Z
Q Q R D U X H D R J W V K V B U M Z
O Q D X S C H H V S N K M N M U T J
L W L F U L O S E R Y X E Q U D O G
C U K B P O S N N I O D C O L M T W
I S O M I X C Q T Y H X N A P M S T
R G C S M V K R T L O L E M R T Z F
F C V P I T E F D B Z X V R Z S B E
N P S S N L Z J G S R L I P H R Y T
K X D U D X V N T U P Q G Y X I Z E
W S E Z M M Y R V V E E R V D F E I
T F I F F T A X J J X X O T V M Y U
W G O S P E L T Q K V R F G I Y B O
D Z F U H L A Z S G O O F S B X G Q
T K H N N L W S W B I N X X O P D D
H B D N X V W T Z J K N T E M B N F
A L W Z F W I F E V W B Q K J Y Z A
S M X B O B E Z X T A S C F G J W Y

1. Opposite of law.
2. Opposite of gospel.
3. "You shall have no other gods" is the _____ Commandment.
4. Three things you should use to love God (three separate words).
5. When we mess up the law, we are _____ through the gospel.
6. God loves you even when the world says you're a _____.

Answers: 1. gospel 2. law 3. First 4. heart, soul, mind 5. forgiven 6. loser