

The Augsburg Confession

• Lesson Five •

Articles 14 and 28: The Office of the Public, or Representative, Ministry

1. One of Lutheranism's most interesting scriptural doctrines is the priesthood of all believers. Read 1 Peter 1:1,2 and 2:9. Read also Revelation 1:5,6 and 5:9,10. What is meant by the "priesthood of all believers"?
2. Explain. The term priest is used in as universal a sense as the word Christian.
3. At the time of the Augsburg Confession, the Roman Catholic Church taught that the following was God's "order" for the church: through apostolic succession a priest received the divine grace and authority he would need for his office. So it separated the church into two classes, the spiritual and the temporal, the clergy and the laity. They then accused the Lutherans of destroying "order" in the church. Read Article 14. What did the Lutherans teach about order?
4. At the same time the Anabaptists believed that since everyone was a priest, anyone could preach whenever and wherever he felt the Spirit moved him. They disregarded all order. What does Article 14 say to that problem?
5. Read Ephesians 4:11,12; Acts 20:28; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1,2; 1 Corinthians 4:1. What is the office of the public ministry?
6. Why can this also be called a representative ministry?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. Why cannot everyone be a called minister in the public or representative ministry?

8. The call into the public ministry can be “immediate” or “mediate.” Acts 9:3-6,15 is an example of an immediate call. Acts 14:23 is an example of a mediate call. What’s the difference? What’s the same?

9. At your table, read the assigned paragraphs and answer the question. Each table will then present a summary of the assigned paragraphs and an answer to the question.
 - a. Article 28, paragraphs 1-18: What were the Lutheran churches teaching regarding the difference between the roles and powers of the church vs. the government?

 - b. Article 28, paragraphs 19-29: If the church goes contrary to Scripture, then what do congregations and individuals have the right to do?

 - c. Article 28, paragraphs 30-41: What issues were arising in the church because of the introduction of new ceremonies or traditions?

 - d. Article 28, paragraphs 42-52: What is God’s attitude toward these new ceremonies or traditions?

 - e. Article 28, paragraphs 53-60: Many customs and traditions are still used in the church today. How is that proper based on what Scripture says about traditions? (See paragraphs 46-48 for context.)

 - f. Article 28, paragraphs 61-78: What did the Lutherans really want when it came to the issue of church customs and the power of the bishops?