

Table Talk with Martin Luther

The quotations for discussion are taken from *The Table Talk of Martin Luther* edited by Thomas S. Kepler, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1952.

Martin Luther was noted for inviting students, interested individuals, and colleagues into his home to discuss issues of theology, church, philosophy, and current events, often over a meal. This book consists of 508 short notes recorded by individuals who engaged in discussions with Luther.



Sola Fide - Faith Alone
Solus Christus - Christ Alone
Sola Gratia - Grace Alone
Sola Scriptura - Scripture Alone
Soli Deo Gloria - Glory to God Alone

Table Talk Theme One: Prayer

“None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience. It is a great matter when in extreme need, to take hold on prayer. I know, whenever I have earnestly prayed, I have been amply heard, and have obtained more than I prayed for: God, indeed, sometimes delayed, but at last he came.

Ecclesiasticus says: ‘The prayer of a good and godly Christian availeth more to health, than the physician’s physic.’

O how great a thing, how marvelous, a godly Christian’s prayer is! How powerful with God; that a poor human creature should speak with God’s high Majesty in heaven, and not be affrighted, but, on the contrary, know that God smiles upon him for Christ’s sake, his dearly beloved Son. . . . When we pray, we must not let it come to: Fie upon thee; but certainly hold and believe, that we are already heard in that for which we pray, with faith in Christ. Therefore, the ancients ably defined prayer an *Ascensus mentis ad Deum*, a climbing up of the heart unto God.” (Luther, 279)

Discussion Questions:

When have you experienced the power of prayer?

When have you had the experience of answered prayer?

What is your favorite setting for prayer?

What happened as a result of the Reformation changing the way people prayed?

Table Talk Theme Two: Scripture

“A Christian must be well armed, grounded, and furnished with sentences out of God’s word, that so he may stand and defend religion and himself against the devil, in case he should be asked to embrace another doctrine.” (Luther, 261)

Discussion Questions:

How do we learn God’s word so that it is available to us when needed? Memorize?

Think of a time when you used the word of God and were glad you were armed with it?

What is your favorite Bible verse?

What happened as a result of the Reformation that made it more possible for people to be armed with God’s word?

Table Talk Theme Three: Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

“The operative cause of the sacrament is the word and institution of Christ, who ordained it. The substance is bread and wine, prefiguring the true body and blood of Christ, which is spiritually received by faith. The final cause of the instituting the same, is the benefit and the fruit, the strengthening of our faith, not doubting that Christ’s body and blood were given and shed for us, and that our sins by Christ’s death certainly are forgiven.” (Luther, 313)

Discussion Questions:

What does the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper mean to you?

How has your faith been strengthened at the Lord’s Table?

Do you feel different after taking communion?

What changed in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper as a result of the Reformation?

Table Talk Theme Four: Music

“Music is one of the best arts; the notes give life to the text; it expels melancholy, as we see in king Saul. Kings and princes ought to maintain music, for great potentates and rulers should protect good and liberal arts and laws; though private people have desire thereunto and love it, yet their ability is not adequate. We read in the Bible, that the good and godly kings maintained and paid singers. Music is the best solace for a sad and sorrowful mind; by it the heart is refreshed and settled again in peace. “ (Luther, 501)

Discussion Questions:

Can you think of a time when music completely changed your mood?

How can music help you worship?

How do you feel when you sing with a congregation?

How did the Reformation change the use of music in the church? Can you name a hymn written by Luther?

**Grove Presbyterian Church
Table Talk with Luther Worship**

9:30AM

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Gathering and Announcements

Passing of the Peace:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away.

Response: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; Shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

ALL: Let us worship as a forgiven people.

Luther's Morning Prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Table Talk One: Prayer

Hymn:

Hymnal No. 260

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

(verse 1)

Scripture Reading:

Romans 1: 16-17
2 Timothy 3: 16

Table Talk Two: Scripture

Hymn:

Hymnal No. 260

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

(verse 2)

Prayer Requests and Prayers of the Community

Offering

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 11: 29-30

Table Talk Three: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Hymn:

Hymnal No. 513

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Table Talk Four: Music

Hymn:

Hymnal No. 260

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

(verses 3, 4)

Benediction:

Ephesians 2: 8-9

Today's Worship Participants:

Amanda Leicht – Worship Leader

Scott Lawvere – Music and Worship Leader

Lynne Pabst – Table Talk Facilitator

Elders – Communion Servers