



## Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

*Living as God's Child: Knowing God*

Martin Luther, writing in his Large Catechism, says, "Briefly stated, the Creed teaches us to know thoroughly what He is like." *Luther's Large Catechism* translated by F. Samuel Janzow. CPH, 1978. (page 83)

### ***We learn about God in the First Article:***

In describing the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, Luther writes in the Large Catechism, "This article very briefly describes the nature, will, activity, and work of God the Father. For since the Ten Commandments declared that we are to have only the one God, someone might ask, 'What sort of person is God? What does He do? How can one praise or picture or describe Him in a way that will really let people know him?' .... If, for example, one were to ask a young child, 'My boy, what kind of God do you have? What do you know about Him?' then he could say, 'First, my God is the Father who made heaven and earth. I take nothing and no one else as God except Him alone, for there simply is no one else who could have made heaven and earth.'" (page 84)

- Why is it so important for the Christian steward to confess and believe that God is the Father who made heaven and earth?
- What does this have to do with the "ownership issue" that was discussed in a previous session?
- How does this show itself in the Christian steward's daily life?

### **Stewardship Prayer**

Lord, You have created me and because of that I am Yours.

Lord, You have redeemed me and because of that I am Yours.

Lord, You have sanctified me and called me and because of that I am Yours.

Thank You, Lord for making me Yours. Strengthen me so that I may demonstrate that to others every day of my life.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

### ***We learn about God in the Second Article:***

Luther writes in the Large Catechism, "Let this article, then, be summarized in this way: the little word 'Lord' simply means as much as Redeemer, that is, the One who rescued us from the devil to bring us to God, from death to bring us into life, from sin to bring us into righteousness, and now keeps us safe where He has brought us. The parts of this article that follow only explain and underscore the manner and the means by which the redemption came about, that is, how much it cost Christ, what He underwent, and what He risked in order to regain us and bring us back under his rulership." (page 87)

- What did it cost Christ to regain us?
- What does it mean for the steward to live "under his rulership?"

### ***We learn about God in the Third Article:***

Luther writes in the Large Catechism, "So learn to understand this article most clearly. If you then are asked what you mean by the words, 'I believe in the Holy Spirit,' you will be able to say, 'I believe that the Holy Spirit makes me holy, as His name indicates.' How does He do this? In what manner? By what means?"

Answer: 'Through the holy Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.' For in the first place, He has a very special community in the world, which is the mother that brings forth and bears every Christian through the Word of God. The Holy spirit reveals and proclaims that Word; He uses it to shed His light into human hearts and set them aglow; He empowers them to grasp the Word, accept it, cling to it, and faithfully stay with it." (page 89)

- Discuss the ways the Holy Spirit makes you holy as you live your life as a steward?
- It is God's Word that sheds His light into human hearts and sets them aglow. How does God's Word shine in the life of the Christian steward? Be specific.

### **Why is knowing God so important for the Christian steward?**

**Closing:** Close by reciting the Apostles' Creed together.



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