



The Doctrine of Justification

A faithful confession of the gospel
in light of the *Book of Concord*

Notes to Lutheranism 101 - The Doctrine of Justification

The central doctrine of the Lutheran Reformation, the Lutheran Confessions and the Lutheran theological heritage is the doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, for the sake of Christ, apart from works. Luther and his heirs have viewed this doctrine as a faithful and effective way of proclaiming the gospel. That is the church's ultimate calling, to preach the gospel, because it is through the gospel that people meet Christ, that the Holy Spirit creates and nurtures faith and that faithful people are assured of God's radical and gracious love for them and the whole creation. We will explore the Lutheran doctrine of justification by focusing on the following themes:

1. Anthropology of the doctrine of human nature
2. God's dialectical word of law and gospel
3. The centrality of faith
4. The notion of forensic justification
5. The relationship of faith and works