

Lutheran Sacraments and Grace

By Pastor Kelly Sensenig

1. Where is grace found?

Lutheranism = Grace is found in the sacraments

Bible: Grace is found ONLY through Christ

2 Corinthians 8:9

“For ye know the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

Ephesians 2:7

“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his **grace** in his kindness toward us **through Christ Jesus.**”

2. How is grace received?

Lutheranism = Grace is received through sacraments

Bible: Grace is received ONLY by faith in Christ

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by **grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Salvation is by GRACE through FAITH plus nothing! Our faith is placed only and unreservedly in Christ without the administration of sacraments.

Galatians 3:26

“For ye are all the children of God **by faith in Christ Jesus.**”

3. How does grace save us?

Lutheranism = Grace saves us through the sacraments

Bible: Grace saves us ONLY through Christ

John 1:17

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Titus 2:11

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”

4. How does grace justify us?

Lutheranism = Grace justifies us through sacraments

Bible: Grace justifies us FREELY!

Romans 3:24

“Being **justified freely** by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

“Mercy there was great, and **grace was free**;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.”

5. How is grace portrayed?

Lutheranism = As something acquired through the sacraments

Bible: As a PROMISE of eternal life given through Christ

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Lutheranism teaches that the sacraments of baptism and Lord’s Supper are *vehicles* that communicate the grace of God to one’s life. However, the Bible teaches that grace is received freely without the sacraments. It’s absolutely free! There is no mention of the *grace of baptism* in the Bible or the *grace of the Eucharist*. Grace comes to us directly through Christ and without anything else attached to it. Christ is the mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5) - not baptism or the Lord’s Supper.

6. How does grace result in justification?

Lutheranism: By absolution administered in a Lutheran Church by a Lutheran minister through the sacraments

Bible: As a DECLARATION given by God through faith alone in Christ

Romans 3:22

“Even the righteousness of God which is **by faith of Jesus Christ** (where Christ alone is the object of one’s faith) unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.”

Galatians 2:16

“Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the law, but **by the faith of Jesus Christ** (where Christ alone is the object of one’s faith), even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified **by the faith of Christ**, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

Justification is an acquittal before God that lasts forever since Christ intercedes for us forever on the basis of His finished work (sacrificial death) on the cross (Heb. 7:25; 8:33-34). We are NOT justified before God when receiving the sacraments and the absolution of a Lutheran minister. We are justified freely and forever when we place our faith in Christ alone. Faith in Christ bypasses baptism, the Lord’s Supper, absolution of an earthly minister, and every other barrier that seeks to draw our attention away from Christ alone. Christ saves us – not sacraments. Are you trusting ONLY in Christ for your salvation from hell and justification before God?

Acts 16:31

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.” How wonderful! How free!

“Justified freely through Calvary’s love, O what a standing is mine!”