

What Does "Lutheran" Mean? with Pastor Ruud
Session 2 Study Guide
April 2021 - Mount Olivet Adult Education

Saints and Sinners: Living the Double Life. Resurrected Daily.

Central Texts:

[Matthew 20:34-40](#) | 34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

[Romans 7:18-20](#) | 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

[Galatians 2:19-21](#) | 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; 20 and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Questions:

1. According to scripture and reiterated by Jesus, God's will is for us to "love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves." How are you doing at living up to this? How are we doing as a collective humanity?
2. The familiar confession prayed in many Lutheran churches begins, "We confess that we are in bondage/captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." How does it reflect what the Apostle Paul writes in the above passage from Romans 7? Do you relate to this? How does it relate to "free will" as Pastor Ruud described it in the presentation?
3. Martin Luther described the faithful life with the Latin phrase, *simul justus et peccator*, meaning "simultaneously justified and sinful at the same time." It's a paradox stating one is 100% justified by the grace of God in Christ, and 100% still the old human sinner. How does it make sense?
4. The Apostle Paul and Luther described the life of faith in terms of death and resurrection. Paul writes, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:19-20) How does Christ live in you/us daily? What needs to die in you/us daily?
5. While Luther asserted we are in need of forgiveness daily, he still asserted we could improve at loving God and neighbor and trusting in God's freeing forgiveness. The assertion that we are bound by sin did not mean the future is predetermined. How might you seek to love neighbors more? In what ways will we still be constantly in need of God's forgiveness and grace?