



# **Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation - 2017 Edition**

*Martin Luther*

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## **Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation - 2017 Edition** Martin Luther

Martin Luther wrote the catechism as a teaching tool of Christian doctrine and faith for individuals and families. It is a powerful tool for the Christian life because of its brief, clear summary of God's Word on the essentials of the Christian faith.

Students of Lutheran theology look to Luther's Small Catechism for a concise presentation of the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine written by Luther, and an explanation of Luther's Small Catechism for further clarification and study. The new narrative and reflective elements of the explanation section will appeal to those who want to learn more about Lutheran doctrine.

Pastors - especially Lutheran pastors - and parents will appreciate this book as a way to not only teach catechism but also instruct members of the family at home in the basic doctrines of faith. New features in the explanation expand upon the words of the catechism, further connecting the timeless truths of God's Word to important issues in culture, current events, and daily life.

Readers will benefit from a modern explanation that will help them learn and apply the basics of Christian doctrine to their daily lives.

## **Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation - 2017 Edition Details**

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# **From Reader Review Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation - 2017 Edition for online ebook**

## **Kevin Bogus says**

A good book to learn Luther's viewpoints.

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## **David Leemon says**

Martin Luther's explanation of the Ten Commandments are well worth reading.

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## **Sheila says**

I come from a family of Lutherans, but we did not attend church much past my young childhood, and I have to admit I was not well versed in many of the doctrines of the Lutheran Church prior to reading this book.

This small book, set up in a question and answer format, does a remarkably good job of setting down Luther's beliefs for the church, with quoted scriptures to back up his reasoning. The book covers the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments, Baptism, Confession, and Communion.

I admit that I am glad to have read this book, and it has earned a place on my bookshelf of books from my personal journey of faith and religious studies.

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## **Susanna Grant says**

read during and after we went thru catechism class at our church, timeless, fatherly, and so helpful

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## **Peter N. says**

This along with Luther's "A Simply Way to Pray" provide a solid doctrinal and experiential foundation for the Christian life. Worth the time to read and study.

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## **Tamara says**

If you want to understand Christianity, this is the book to start reading ... besides the Bible, of course. Martin Luther wrote this to detail the basics of Christianity. It's for the home. It's for everyone.

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## **Daniel says**

In this book, Luther reveals himself to not at all be the Protestant reformer, as we were sold in our churches. He suggests a highly demanding version of the Christian which seems to have little to do with grace and much to do with obedience as per class structure.

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## **Reese Walling says**

While there were very few objections to be had, I must say that I expected the Catechism to have more of a feeling of refutation toward the Roman catholic church. It was more of an exposition on the primary doctrines and especially the sacraments of the Christian faith. It may have been worth trudging through just to get to the appendix where you see some of the fiery Luther expressed in his rebuke of the parishes in Germany. I highly recommend a look at the explanation of Baptism, which I really enjoyed and was challenged with.

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## **Eileen says**

A picture of how a Christian should live daily life. Describes standard orthodox Christianity, but interesting to see what Luther thought was important. His reforms encourage seeing God as a loving father rather than seeing the Christian life as a series of rules to obey to avoid punishment. Includes at end a lovely practice of morning and evening prayer and table blessings to make God part of everyday life.

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## **Matthew Gunia says**

I read the Catechism over the course of 10 days as part of my daily devotions. Preface; 10 Commandments; Creed; Lord's Prayer; Baptism; Confession; Sacrament of the Altar; Daily Prayers; Table of Duties; Christian Questions with their Answers. I read the "red questions" in the back occasionally.

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## **Sunni says**

I read this book for the first time at about the age of 12 or 13 when participating in confirmation class at the church I grew up in. It really does contain a tremendous amount of knowledge and explanation regarding the Lutheran religion. I continue to look to it for answers from time to time as an adult.

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## **A.C. Bauch says**

Finished the old blue version in January 2004 for Adult Confirmation class, just finished the "new" (i.e., maroon covered) version, reading it every morning to my little one. What prompted me to reread this book is that someone who recently became a Christian asked me, "So, what do Lutherans believe?" and I was disappointed and ashamed to realize that I had no succinct, helpful answer for her. I realized that I'd been taking the church's teachings for granted and decided I needed a refresher. Glad I did, though I agree with other readers who balk at the long-winded addition to Luther's original, to-the-point text.

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### **Jay Miklovic says**

My wife grew up in a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and has had this catechism on her shelf for a long time. I decided I would pick it up and give it a read for myself. To put it shortly I was astounded. That is not to say that I am in full agreement with all it contains, but I must say there was very little that I can say in disagreement. I have found this little book to be incredibly helpful, and while I will not likely catechize my own children with it, I will return to it often on various matters.

What caused me to want to read this catechism is the ever raging debate over the nature and scope of the atonement. I have firmly believed that Christ indeed died for all, and yet that many are lost, and still believe that to this day. Calvinism's answer that Christ died for all, but not in the same way, or with the same effects, has rung hollow with me. On the flip side, Arminianism's claim that Christ died for all, and that somehow our co-operation with God applies this to us (synergism) borders (though I don't think actually reaches) semi-pelagianism which asserts that in some manner our belief and faith are our own works and not gifts imparted by God. I was unaware of a the third answer of confessional Lutheranism. As I came to realize that Lutherans offered a view of the atonement that is different from what both Arminians and Calvinists teach I determined that I would look into it, and thus picked this catechism off of my wife's shelf and read it.

I give this book five stars simply because it's treatment of the atonement was so excellent. If I disagreed (which I don't) with everything which it said about the sacraments, the commandments, and the creed, I would still be compelled to give it this rating because of how it handles the atonement. The Lutheran position clearly teaches monergism (salvation is entirely a work of God, not dependent on co-operation with Him as Arminians teach) and yet does not limit the atonement's effectiveness to the select few as though the cross only accomplished atonement for a few (as Calvinists teach).

Anyway, this is a worthwhile read, and can be gone through very quickly. Half, if not more, of it is straight scripture quotation, and frankly it is just plain good. I will come back to this book often.

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### **Lisa Bittle says**

Liked the explanations about the answers to the Shorter Catechism questions; I found these very helpful for my personal learning, and also for explaining Scripture to my children. However, we quickly ran into Catholic explanations about things they do in the Catholic Church. We ended up setting the book aside, and not finishing it, because it was too much to explain for my younger children. I desire to fill my children with the truth of God's Word, not false doctrine practiced by other denominations.

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## **Katrina says**

40 half-pages of catechism, 200 pages of explanation?! that's organized religion for you.

the original portion written in 1580, is a masterfully simple outline of christian doctrine and sacraments, written to be memorized by the illiterate.

this was luther's response to observing his local bishops "insisting on the observance of (their) human ways" and allowing their parishioners to live like "poor animals of the barn yard or pigpen" while "know(ing) practically nothing of Christian doctrine".

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