

Principle Articles of Christian Doctrine

Magdeburg, Session Three

Of God and the distinction of the persons

Triune God, three ecumenical creeds...what is gained by stating this affiliation?

Of creation, of the cause of sin, and the chief kinds of sin

What does it mean that God punishes “sin with sin” and how does that involve the Devil?

Original sin

Actual sin

T / F Catholics believe man’s virtue satisfies some aspects of the law even though he is sinful.

Of the Law

“The papists impiously teach that the Law was given for justification and life, that is, so that we might be justified before God by the works of the Law, and so that we might merit eternal life” (18).

Of the Gospel and Justification

“And so Christ Himself by His own Word and the Holy Spirit, who is efficacious by the Word and Sacraments, begins regeneration, advances it in the mature, and completes it, so that just as all the glory is His in the merit of our salvation” (23).

Alien righteousness

Three components of conversion: contrition faith new obedience

“For faith alone accepts Christ as the mediator, and His benefits promised in the Word; and therefore faith alone frees a man from sin and death, justifies him and makes him alive, not by reason of its own dignity or merit, but that of Christ, on whom alone it rests and envelops the whole man” (23).

“They have made contrition, confession and satisfaction the parts of repentance. And since they attribute to them not only the merit of ‘first grace, but also of remission of guilt and penalty, they completely bury faith and Christ” (25).

Of the Sacraments

GOGG + CBC + PEA

ex opera operato

Of the Church and its ministers, and of the power of the Church and its ministers

“The power of the keys is the power to teach the Word of God, to administer the sacraments, to loose and bind the sins of individuals or groups of men, to call ministers, to hear and adjudicate questions of religion, to devise traditions that aid the ministry instituted by Christ—the keys bring with them the power to do all and each of these things, but in such a way that they all be done, not by human judgment and decision, but according to the command of the Word of God, for the edification of the Church, not for its destruction, for the living only, and not for the dead” (38-39).

“The worthiness of a minister does not increase the worthiness and efficacy of his ministry, not does his unworthiness diminish it” (39).

Of polity and economy, and of the power of each

Polity = civil life (government) Economy = social life (family)

“Just as subjects necessarily owe _____ to their magistrates; and children and the rest of the family, to their parents and masters, on account of God; so on the other hand, when magistrates and parents themselves lead their charges away from true piety and uprightness, obedience is not owed to them from the word of God. Also, when they professedly persecute piety and uprightness, they remove themselves from the honor of magistrate and parents before God and their consciences, and instead of being an ordinance of God, they become an ordinance of the Devil, which can and ought to be resisted by His order for the sake of one’s calling” (42).

Epilogue

“No one has dared so much as to touch the hearts of this controversy by responding, which is the greatest evidence of a bad conscience in a wise and learned adversary” (45).

“We also consider ourselves blessed today, and we boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. And in the end, whatever the event may be, we shall die with Christ, and we shall live with Christ, who helps us by His own Spirit, just as He has promised to give Him as a timely aid to those who ask in faith” (46).