

DISCOVERY WORKSHEET 2: OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM

AGREE (A) OR DISAGREE (D) and talk about your answers with a partner.

1. ____ It was Adam and Eve’s own fault that they fell into sin—and away from God.
2. ____ Human beings are basically good.
3. ____ God created Adam and Eve with a free will by which they could choose good or evil.
4. ____ We all have a morally free will by which to choose good or evil.
5. ____ Death is natural—a normal part of the circle of life.
6. ____ If humans work diligently with all their heart, they can find ways to please God. But they must be absolutely sincere in their intent to do so.
7. ____ There is no human being who does anything really good.
8. ____ Babies are a “blank slate” birth, neither good nor bad, but later learn to become sinful from their environment.
9. ____ God’s laws are like the rungs of a ladder, by which we can draw closer to heaven.
10. ____ The Ten Commandments will condemn and terrify the one who takes them seriously.
11. ____ The Ten Commandments are out of step with our times.

BIBLE CHALLENGE

1. Memorize the Ten Commandments and Conclusion. (Those who consider this easy-peasy should also memorize Luther’s explanation to each.)
2. Memorize Romans 3:19, ***“No one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”*** How could this passage help you in a conversation with a non-Christian?
3. Read the following portions of the Bible that speak about God’s Law and answer the questions:
 - **Matthew 19:16-26** – How did the young man react to Jesus’ teaching on law? Why?
 - **Romans 2:1-3:20** – The Jewish people were especially privileged to receive God’s written laws. But what hard point is Paul driving home to both Jew and Gentile?
 - **James 2:1-13** – Why might church people especially need to hear this hard law?

Faith Focus

The doctrine of Original Sin



"Our churches teach that since the fall of Adam, all who are naturally born are born with sin, that is, without the fear of God, without trust in God, and with the inclination to sin.... It damns and brings eternal death on those who are not born anew through Baptism and the Holy Spirit."

(Augsburg Confession, Article II)

FAITH FOCUS

The Distinction between Law and Gospel



THE LAW

It **Shows Our Sin**

It's written in the heart and, more precisely, in the Bible

It says, "Do!" and "Don't do!"

It condemns us

It demands obedience

THE GOSPEL

It **Shows Our Savior**

It's only found in the Bible

It says, "Done!"

It comforts us

It inspires obedience