

The Augsburg Confession of 1530

Article VIII: What The Church Is

ARTICLE VIII

What The Church Is

- ❖¹ Strictly speaking, the Church is the congregation of saints and true believers.



Psalm 149:1 “Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.”

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❖ However, because many hypocrites and evil persons are mingled within them in this life [Matthew 13:24–30],...

Matthew 13:24-30

✚ **Matthew 13:24** “Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

...



Tares - Darnell



Wheat



²⁷ ... "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' ²⁸ "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

29 "'...No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Matthew 13:36-43

✚ **Matthew 13:36** “Then [Jesus] left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom.



... The weeds are the sons of the evil one,
³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the
devil. The harvest is the end of the age,
and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ "As the
weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire,
so it will be at the end of the age. ...

⁴¹ ... The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

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- ❖ ...it is lawful to use Sacraments administered by evil men, according to the saying of Christ, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat” (Matthew 23:2).

Romans 3:3-4

✚ Romans 3:3 “What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? ⁴ Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge." {4 Psalm 51:4}

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❖² Both the Sacraments and Word are effective because of Christ's institution and command, even if they are administered by evil men.

II Corinthians 4:5-7

✚ **2 Corinthians 4:5** “We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” {Gen. 1:3} made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

1 Corinthians 2:2-5

† **1 Corinthians 2:2** “I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.”

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❖³ Our churches condemn the Donatists, and others like them, who deny that it is lawful to use the ministry of evil men in the Church, and who think that the ministry of evil men is not useful and is ineffective.

Romans 1:16

✚ **Romans 1:16** “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”