

# The Cross and Its Significance

Martin Luther's Heidelberg Disputation of 1518

# The Cross and Luther's Reformation Theology

19. That person does not deserve to be called a theologian who perceives the invisible things of God as understandable on the basis of those things which have been made [Rom. 1:20].
20. The person deserves to be called a theologian, however, who understands the visible and the "backside" of God [Exod. 33:23] seen through suffering and the cross.
21. A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls a thing what it actually is.

# The Cross and Luther's Reformation Theology

“Now it is not sufficient for any, and it does them no good to recognize God in his glory and majesty, unless they recognize him in the humility and shame of the cross. Thus God destroys the wisdom of the wise, as Isa. [45:15] says, ‘Truly, you are the hidden God.’”

# The Heidelberg Disputation

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## A. Disputations

# The Heidelberg Disputation

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A. Disputations

B. The Heidelberg Disputation

# The Centrality of the Cross

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- A. The theology of the cross in modern theology
- B. A few major tendencies

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

A. Humility theology

B. Original sin

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

A. Humility theology

B. Original sin



# Luther's Theology of the Cross

- *Facientibus quod in se est, Deus non denegat gratiam*
- To those who do what is within them (i.e., who do what they are able to do), God will not refuse his grace.

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

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A. Humility theology

B. Original sin

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

## Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

<sup>2</sup>O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

<sup>3</sup>If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup>But with you there is forgiveness,  
that you may be feared.

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

Thesis 18: "It is certain that one must utterly despair of oneself in order to be made fit to receive the grace of Christ."

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

- A. Humility theology
- B. Original sin
- C. Remedy

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

A. Humility theology

B. Original sin

C. Remedy

a. Pardon

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

Thesis 25: "That person is not righteous who does many works but who, without works, believes much in Christ."

Thesis 26: "The law says, 'Do this,' and it is never done. Grace says, 'Believe in this One,' and everything has already been done."

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

A. Humility theology

B. Original sin

C. Remedy

a. Pardon

b. Repentance



# Luther's Theology of the Cross

Thesis 1: When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

Thesis 94: Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death and hell.

Thesis 95: And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace (Acts 14:22).

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

- A. Humility theology
- B. Original sin
- C. Remedy
- D. Perception

# Luther's Theology of the Cross

- Thesis 21: A theologian of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theologian of the cross calls a thing what it actually is.

# 499 Years Later

- A. The intelligibility of costly discipleship
- B. The narrow way
- C. Christ crucified