

“It Is Enough” — What Makes the Church the Church

I. What Is Necessary for the Church

- The Church exists where **the Gospel is preached** and **the Sacraments are administered**.
- Buildings, music styles, and programs can be different in different times and places.

II. “It Is Enough” and Christian Freedom

- Agreeing on the Gospel and Sacraments creates **true unity** among Christians.
- Adding extra requirements risks **losing sight of Jesus** and turning freedom into slavery.
- Everything beyond the Gospel and Sacraments is **secondary**.

III. Confessional Foundation

- Article VII of the **Augsburg Confession** teaches that unity does not require uniform traditions or ceremonies.
- “One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.”

IV. Relating to Other Christians

- Different denominations emphasize different practices and traditions.
- Where salvation by faith in Christ is taught and baptism and communion are practiced, **the Church is present**.
- We are not called to make everyone do church the same way.

V. The Danger of Adding Requirements

- In Scripture, even good practices (like circumcision) became destructive when made **necessary**.
- Anything added to faith as a requirement for salvation **buries grace**.
- Christ has already done everything necessary.

VI. Conclusion: Freedom in Christ

- Faith in Jesus means freedom—not pressure to prove or complete salvation.
- Faith in Jesus is enough to save you.

Reflection Questions

1. Why is it important to distinguish between what is **necessary** for the Church and what is simply **helpful or meaningful**?
2. Where have you seen traditions or preferences become more important than the Gospel itself?
3. Read Article 7 of the Augsburg Confession (Printed below) How does the phrase “*It is enough*” protect Christian freedom and unity?
4. Why do you think people are tempted to add requirements to faith in Jesus?
5. Read Galatians 2:1-5; 11-21. How does Galatians 2:21 challenge both legalism and spiritual pride?
6. In what ways can remembering that *Jesus has already done everything necessary* bring peace to your faith life?
7. Have you ever seen the church, or other Christians, take a stand against being forced to do church a certain way? Why do you think that is important to do?
8. How might this understanding shape how you view Christians from other denominations?

Article 7 of the Augsburg Confession:

“Our churches also teach that one holy church is to continue forever. The church is the assembly of saints in which the Gospel is taught purely and the sacraments are administered rightly. For the true unity of the church **it is enough** to agree concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary that human traditions or rites and ceremonies, instituted by men, should be alike everywhere. It is as Paul says, ‘One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.’”