

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the parsonage! Today we officially entered autumn—or at least, the today on which I wrote this article. This today we are living in autumn, and October. This is the month we'll celebrate the Reformation and all that God's servant Martin Luther did for us in preserving the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ. Speaking of Luther, we'll continue to reflect on his words from the Large Catechism.

Happy Reformation!!!

Last month, we read that God is the creator of heaven and earth. This month Luther asks his readers, “What is meant by these words or what do you mean when you say, ‘I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator,’ etc.? Answer: I hold and believe that I am God's creature, that is, that he has given me and constantly sustains my body, soul, and life... (BoC, p.432).”

So, then, what does it mean to be a “creature”? Today, many would misconstrue this term. These people believe in evolution, which is a belief that everything came about randomly, and that God did not create the universe and everything in it in just six days. Or, if they do believe that God created the world, then they do not believe that the six days given in Genesis chapter one literally mean six, twenty-four hour days. Further, they hold that we are just another species of animal, no different than ants, cows, or whales. Some of these people would have it so that human beings would die rather than animals.

The Scriptures—God's Word—however, teach us that God made everything in six days, and human beings in His image. The Scriptures also tell us that because we were made in God's

image, human beings are worth more than ravens, or any other animal. (Yet while we are God's stewards and have been given dominion to do with other animals as we see fit, we should remember that God created all the other animals as well.)

In His Word, we find that God made Adam and Eve; and He continues to make new people through the marriage process. Your parents gave birth to you, and God was involved in that process. He gave you your body, soul, and life.

Another way to consider that we are created creatures is to ask: did you make the world and everything in it? *Lutheranism 101* from CPH uses this question in teaching about God as the creator. It says that the Scriptures say that if you created the world and everything in it, then you are God; but if you did not create them, then you are not God. If you are not God, then you were created by Him, and are one of His creatures.

What does this mean for us? It means that we are not autonomous, self-driven creatures. We rely on God for all of our needs of body and soul. He has the right to make the rules, and for us to obey them. Today God's Law rightly convicts us of failing to live as He desires. Without Jesus coming to the world to save us, we would die knowing that we deserve nothing but eternal punishment, and that is where we would go. But Jesus has come, and we have been given faith to believe it. More than that, God has given us His Holy Spirit so that we can believe that He has made us and that He has saved us, and so that we might live as His created creatures—not trying to usurp His position, but living under Him in His kingdom, where we'll live forever, thanks to Jesus.

Your brother and under-Shepherd in Christ,

Pastor Josh