

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Fear, Love & Trust

Law/Gospel

Like Peter, I may wonder if God loves and forgives me, a sinner, when His Law rightly condemns me for failing in thought, desire, word, and deed to do what God wants me to do. **Just as in Peter's case, God forgives me for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who innocently endured suffering on the cross and death in order to satisfy God's righteous demands for sin.**

Take-Home Point

Jesus has kept God's commands in my place.

Bible Words

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law.
Galatians 3:13

Just Joking

*What determined if Peter was a good fisherman?
His net income.*

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the grace, mercy, and forgiveness You deliver to us in Your Word and Sacraments. Amen.

Peter's Reinstatement

John 21:4–19

On the night He was arrested, Jesus predicted all His disciples would fall away. Peter claimed he would die before betraying Him. Jesus sadly replied that Peter would deny Him three times before morning.

The disciples scattered and hid when Jesus was arrested. Peter was let into the courtyard where Jesus stayed. Three times, people identified Peter as Jesus' disciple, and three times he denied it. A rooster crowed, signaling dawn. Peter remembered Jesus' words and wept bitterly.

The Council of religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate early that morning, and He was condemned to death. At mid-afternoon, Jesus died an agonizing death on the cross. Friends buried His body in a new tomb.

At dawn, three days later, Jesus' disciples found His tomb empty. Angels at the tomb said, "Jesus is alive! Go tell the disciples and Peter!" Different disciples saw the risen Lord that day, including Peter. Later, when Jesus appeared to disciples fishing on the Sea of Galilee, He asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Jesus forgave Peter and told him to care for His sheep, restoring his vocation as an apostle of the Lord.

Peter zealously served the Lord and may have believed he could earn Jesus' love with his actions. This may tempt us too, but every effort to undo sin or earn God's favor mocks God's grace and His Son's suffering and death on the cross.

Jesus perfectly kept the Law for us, and then suffered in our place, paying the debt for our sins on the cross. He endured the death and hell we earned with disobedience. He took our sinful lives and gave us His own innocence. His resurrection demonstrates God's satisfaction with Christ's work for us. Like Peter, through faith, we receive full pardon at Christ's expense.

From the Catechism

Questions 76 and 84

The Law condemns everyone. . . . God offers the forgiveness of sins only in the Gospel, the good news that we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, and are saved eternally because of Christ's keeping the Law and His suffering and death for us.

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