

HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

*"You did not choose me but I chose you."
-John 15:16*

1 Listen for the following essential points in the video:

"Justification by faith" is _____.

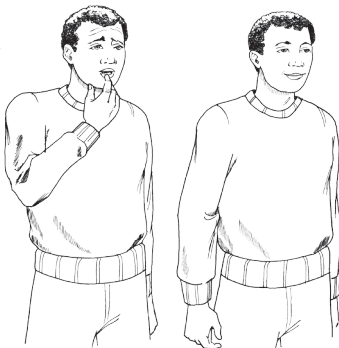
Law is an _____ proposition;

Gospel is a _____ fact.

The *opinio legis* is a false belief that _____.

The same Word of God can function as both Law and Gospel, depending upon _____.

*The law accuses
and demands.*



*The gospel
liberates
and frees us.*

② In what way can you hear Law and Gospel in each of these scriptures?

	LAW	GOSPEL
Genesis 12:1-3	_____	_____
Exodus 20:2-3	_____	_____
Jeremiah 31:31-34	_____	_____
Matthew 9:1-13	_____	_____
John 14:6 and 14:15	_____	_____
Acts 2:37-39	_____	_____
Romans 12:1-2	_____	_____
Revelation 21:22-27	_____	_____

Use the following talking points to get discussion going in your small group. (Note: there's no law that says that you must respond to all of these talking points.) When your discussion time is up, return to the large group.

1 When driving, how do you react when you see a patrol car?

- I slam on the brakes.
- I check my speedometer.
- I ease off the accelerator.
- I floor it.
- Other _____.

(This question might bring to mind stories about getting pulled over. Share 'em!)

2 Name some of the “If-then” scenarios you are familiar with in your own life.

(Examples: “If I do my work, then I won’t get fired”; “If I eat less and exercise more, then I’ll live longer”; “If I raise my children right, then they won’t make the same mistakes I made when I was young.”)

Write conditions here

Write consequences here

If...

then...



Martin Luther wrote: “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith.”

–The Small Catechism, Augsburg Fortress, 1996

*We keep God’s law, not to earn God’s favor,
but out of gratitude that God has already favored us.*

3 Romans 10:9 says: “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

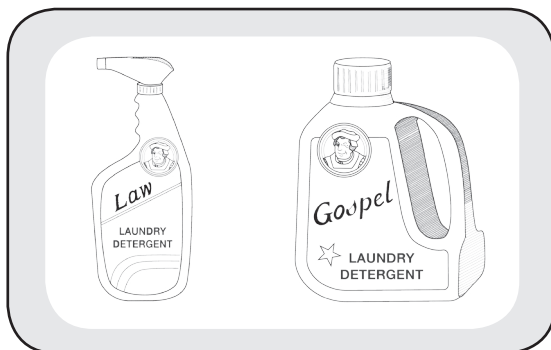
In which way can this passage be heard as a command?

In which way can it be interpreted as a promise?

If faith is a gift (see Ephesians 2:9), then what does that suggest about the proper way to hear Romans 10?

4 Reflect upon the following life circumstances. How might the Law speak to them? What would the Gospel say? Which is most helpful to hear?

- You just got promoted.
- You were fired from your job.
- Your teenager earned a scholarship.
- Your teenager was arrested.
- You’ve just become a new parent.
- Your baby is hospitalized.



As seen in the video commercial, Law & Gospel brand laundry detergent gets out today's tough stains with the dual action of God's Word.

For Session 2 read The Lutheran Handbook, pages 52–61 and 131–133.