

Certainty, not security

“(8) Why this Lutheran insistence on the **sole criterion, justification by faith alone in the sole Mediator?** Because only such faith can be the assured faith (*certitudo*) that the sinner requires. *Certitudo* is **not a psychological category, i.e., a kind of feeling**. What produces such *certitudo* is solely faith in Christ, in contrast to *securitas*, i.e., a false faith based on any person or thing other than faith alone in the sole Mediator. By this Lutherans discern what is or is not abuse or error. The question of *securitas* is **not for Lutherans basically a matter of spirituality. It is intrinsic to the working of the gospel**. Here ‘gospel’ is not a vague, general concept, but **salvation solely by faith in Christ** (SA 2:1:5; BS 145; BC 292). Where this gospel is not proclaimed and the sacraments are not celebrated according to this gospel, Lutherans ask whether abuse or error have crept in (cf. CA 7; BS 61; BC 32). As we examine such a topic as the ‘saints and Mary,’ it is crucial that Lutherans see how this criterion functions.”

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The above paragraph is from: “Lutheran Reflections,” *The One Mediator, the Saints, and Mary. Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue VIII*. Eds. H George Anderson, J. Francis Stafford, Joseph A. Burgess (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1992) 127-28. Bolding added above for emphasis.

Read the whole of “Lutheran Reflections” [here](#).