

Walther

Chapter One Discussion Guide

1. What is Rationalism?
2. Where do we see rationalism today? In what ways?
3. Did the Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther see a problem with rationalism as it made its way into the State Church?
4. In what ways was the Rev. Martin Stephan's preaching different from those in other state churches in Germany?
5. Compare Rationalism and Lutheranism.
6. What did the Rev. Stephan and the other Lutheran clergy of the Saxon emigration use to counteract rationalism?
7. How does an understanding of the Two Kingdoms reflect how the Saxon Emigration Society reacted to the State Church?
8. Why did the Saxon emigrants leave Germany?
9. Did the emigrants have a valid reason for leaving or were there other options that might have worked?
10. Do we face the same type of hardships as the emigrants to practice our religion today?



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Chapter Two Discussion Guide

1. In what ways did the Rev. Martin Stephan begin to mirror what they had left in Germany?
2. What kind of church structure did the Rev. Stephan organize for the Lutheran Church in the Americas?
3. In what ways did the Rev. Stephan show signs of stress and worry about the Saxon emigrants and their vulnerabilities by being in the new land?
4. What is the danger in obtaining absolute power?
5. The women thought their sins were unforgivable – why were they wrong?
6. Are any sins unforgivable?
7. Did the Rev. Loeber and the Rev. Walther handle private confession appropriately?
8. Is there ever a time when a private confession can or should be made public?
9. Why was the Rev. Walther chosen to go to the colony and confront the bishop?
10. Were there any ramifications for the Rev. Stephan and his leadership in the colony with the charges that were brought against him?



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Chapter Three Discussion Guide

1. Once the Rev. Martin Stephan went across the Mississippi River into Illinois, did all of the Saxon colony's problems go away?
2. What is a church and where did the clergy seek to find answers about what constitutes the church?
3. Were the clergy's calls in the Saxon colony valid? Why or why not?
4. According to the Rev. Walther, should the Saxon emigrants have all returned to Germany? What was stopping them?
5. Should the laity and the clergy have had equal say in the decisions of the colony?
6. Would you have wanted to return to Germany?
7. There was a group of laity who worshipped on their own – was this right?
8. Were the calls coming from other area churches valid or not?
9. What was the importance and urgency of having a school in the colony and how do we see that same importance carried out in the church today?
10. How can one confuse Law and Gospel?



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Chapter Four Discussion Guide

1. Were the clergy right in leaving their calls and their churches back in Germany?
2. When the Rev. CFW Walther was ill, what was he reading to form his opinion as to what is the true church and a valid call to a congregation?
3. In view of the Altenburg Debate, were they a church and were the clergy's calls valid?
4. Can a church be valid even though there is evidence of sin?
5. What is the visible church and how is it to be identified?
6. What is the invisible church?
7. According to the Rev. Walther in the Altenburg Debate, who is the true authority for the church?
8. Why was the newspaper, "*Der Lutheraner*", important to Lutherans in America?
9. What were some of the traits and accomplishments of the Rev. Walther and do we see them still today?
10. What was the Rev. Walther's primary message that he faithfully proclaimed throughout his life?



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Chapter Five Discussion Guide

THE LEGACY OF REV. DR. CFW WALTHER

1. How important are the Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther's contributions to the church today?
2. What does his legacy mean to the church today?
3. When did the Rev. Dr. Walther speak about the Law and the Gospel?
4. How are the two properly distinguished from one another?
5. How would he want to be remembered today?

