

UNIVERSAL WILL OF GRACE

DEFINITION:

Universal = everywhere

Will = want

Grace = love and mercy from God

In simple English, the Lord God wants to show His wonderful mercy and love to **EVERYONE**, all the way from the beginning of time (Adam and Eve) to the end of the world, when Jesus Christ comes back on the Last Day.

The Bible says:

1 Timothy 2:4 - God wants **all people** to be saved (go to heaven). And He wants **all the people** to know the Truth

2 Peter 3:9 - God does not want **any person** to be lost. God wants every person to change his heart and stop sinning.

John 3:16 - God loved the world so much that He send His only Son (Jesus) that **whosoever** believes in Him should not perish (go to hell) but have everlasting life (go to heaven).

John 1:29 - John the Baptist says: Look! This is the Lamb of God (Jesus) who takes away the sin of **the world**.

1 John 2:2 - If anyone sins, we have Jesus Christ...who pays for our sins, and not only for our sins, but also the sins of **the whole world**.

Titus 2:11- God's saving kindness (mercy and love) has appeared (is) for the benefit of **all people**.

Some other Christian churches do not agree with the teaching of the universal will of grace. They are: Reformed (Dutch) Church in America, Presbyterian Church in the USA (PCUSA), Bible Presbyterian Church, some Baptist churches, Mennonites and Quakers. They believe that the Lord God shows mercy and love to only **some** of the people. Lutherans believe that God wants to show mercy and love to **all** people

ELECTION OF GRACE

DEFINITION:

Election = choose

Grace = love and mercy from God

The Lord God uses His Grace to choose a certain number of people before He made heavens and earth as His Children to be saved from sin and kept in true faith until they are finally in heaven with Jesus. God the Holy Spirit uses the Word and the Sacrament (Holy Baptism and Holy Communion) to show God's grace on His Children in Jesus.

The Bible says:

2 Thessalonians 2: 13 - The Lord loves you and we thank God that in the beginning He **chose** you to be saved through a life of spiritual devotion and faith in the Truth.

Ephesians 1: 3 - 6 - Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessings (forgiveness of all sins, saved from hell and Satan, eternal life and peace) that heaven has to offer. Before the creation of the world, He **chose** us through Christ to be holy and perfect in His presence. Because of His love He already decided to **adopt** us through Jesus Christ. He freely **chose** to do this so that the kindness (mercy and love) He had given us in His dear Son would be praised and be glorified.

John 15: 16, 19 - Jesus said to His disciples, "You did not choose Me, but I **chose** you...I **chose** you from the world, and that's why the world hates you.

The main reason why the Lutherans believe in this teaching of "Election of Grace" is that they can be comforted that God already saved them as they believe that Jesus did really suffer and die on cross to forgive all their sins and that Jesus did really become alive again from the dead so that they will become alive and live forever, too, in heaven. God also chose us to tell other people about Jesus Christ so that they can be in heaven, too.