

Dear Saints,

Is it better to listen to one voice or to many voices?

Now, obviously, we want to listen to the one voice of Jesus. His voice is the voice that matters. His voice comes to us, however, through His Bible and His Church. And that is where the trouble starts.

We know that Jesus wants a unified church (John 17:22). We also know that Jesus desires true unity around the truth and not a false unity that compromises the truth (John 17:17).

I do not know if the Church here on earth has ever been truly one in the truth. We see trouble starting already in Acts 6 with the complaint of the Hellenist believers and the Hebrew believers. I do know that the Church is more divided than she has ever been. Furthermore, there is a Christian voice in books and articles, on television, on the internet, on podcasts and even other places. You may get inundated with way too much information. This can be dangerous.

On one hand, it would be foolish to expect all of us never to listen to these Christian voices. Groups that are sectarian tend to try to control what you are exposed to. That has never been the way of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and for very good reason. Historically, it seems to me, sectarianism leads to heretical thinking and a losing of one's faith. My prayer for all of us is that we endure in the Faith until we die and see Jesus face to face.

On the other hand, it would also be foolish to attempt to listen to all the Christian voices! It should be obvious that the Christian voice on all these platforms is not unified. Some are good and faithful to the Bible and the Book of Concord. So many more are heterodox, at best. Not to mention all the heretical voices out there. It should be obvious that if you listen to primarily Calvinistic voices, you will start believing like a Calvinist. This will cause confusion if you attempt to remain Lutheran. I can tell you from personal experience that there is no peace in Calvinistic thought and true peace is found in the Lutheran Confessions.

Tangentially, if you listen to too much news, I can pretty much guarantee that you are not happy. It is good to know what is going on in the world. It can easily turn into an obsession that brings you nothing but anxiety.

We have a lot of Christian freedom in what we choose to listen to. It should be obvious that we should know the Bible and Small Catechism well to listen with the necessary discernment. After that, we use wisdom to determine what is best. And, as with other things in life, there may be seasons of listening. One podcast may serve you well for a time and not be beneficial later. This seems to be the way of things. Let me leave you with a couple of endorsements.

I have found Issues, Etc. to be beneficial to understanding our Faith and the world around us ([issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org)). I have listened to it ever since I became Lutheran which is right over twenty years now! They are steadfastly Lutheran and invite on the best guests to discuss current events. I go through periods where I do not listen as much, but I always return to it.

The absolute best Scriptural devotion podcast out there is “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever” hosted by Pastor Will Weedon ([thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org)). Pastor Weedon has a mastery of the Scriptures, our Confessions, and the Church Fathers that is unparalleled.

A new endeavor out there is “On the Line” by Pastor Bryan Stecker who is a seminary classmate of mine ([youtube.com/@otl\\_podcast\\_](https://youtube.com/@otl_podcast_)). It may not be your cup of tea, but if it is, it is definitely worth your time. Pastor Stecker does face to face interviews in the style of Joe Rogan. They are starting a new project called the “Lutheran Institute of Theology (LIT)” where they will teach Lutheran doctrine to the public. It will come out this summer and as I know more about it, I will pass the information on to you.

I could go on and on. There are a lot of worthy voices amidst the heap of garbage voices. The voices that glorify Christ and His Word are the ones we want to hear. My goal is to encourage you to listen to good things that will edify you and strengthen your faith.

In Christ,  
Pastor Maggard