

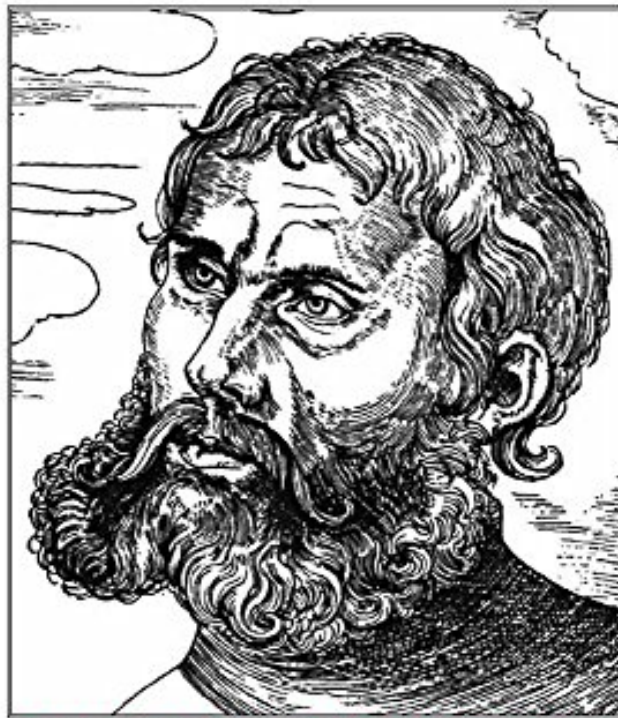
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On the Freedom of a Christian: With Related Texts (Hackett Classics)

Martin Luther

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MARTIN LUTHER



**ON THE FREEDOM
OF A CHRISTIAN**
WITH RELATED TEXTS

Edited and Translated, with an Introduction, by
TRYNTJE HELFFERICH

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Martin Luther : On the Freedom of a Christian: With Related Texts (Hackett Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Freedom of a Christian: With Related Texts (Hackett Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Freedom from sin, freedom to loveBy Chungsoo LeeThe initial

distinction Luther draws between the soul and the body dissolves as soon as he discusses Christian love towards other human beings. If faith alone is sufficient to save the soul, then all the works of the body are useless unless directed towards the fellow humans in love. The soul is necessary to be made right with God in faith, the body is necessary to serve others, and thus "become a Christ" for their sake. The good man does the good works and not the other way around, as Luther puts it. Having been freed from condemnation, we are free to love others. Thus freedom from the economy of works and production leads to the freedom of love. For Luther, freedom enables love. This is the soul transcending the body in the Levinasian sense. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Bruce Flanagan To be reminded of these truths is wonderful. Of course the language takes some getting used to. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This translation is good and useful By Robert Elliot This is a helpful translation of the German, rather than the Latin, version of Luther's *Freedom of a Christian*. The reader should know that the German text apparently differed in significant ways from the Latin text, as the German was directed toward a wider audience, whereas the Latin was directed more toward a scholarly audience. Because of this, there are not only stylistic, but also substantive differences in the text. For instance, the first two paragraphs of the Latin version, which discusses the "habit of faith" of the scholastics, is entirely missing from the German version. If you need a translation of *The Freedom of a Christian* for a class, be sure to check which text the teacher will be using. This translation is good and useful, but the translation of the Latin text is more standard for classroom purposes.

Perhaps the clearest and most influential statement of the principles driving the early Protestant reformers, Martin Luther's *On the Freedom of a Christian* (1520) challenged the teachings and authority of the old Church while simultaneously laying out the blueprint for a new one.

With a few key primary sources, [Helfferich] introduces the Reformation in all its complexity. While emphasizing the centrality of religion and belief in the Reformation movement--including key theological concepts of Luther and the mainstream Reformation, of Catholic theologians, and of Muntzer and the more radical elements in the Reformation--the texts collected in this volume also introduce readers to its social, cultural, and economic aspects, topics of so much of the recent scholarship on the Reformation. The work includes an excellent general Introduction that, in a lucid and systematic manner, presents the reader with those key aspects of the period's Christian thought and practice against which Luther would react in *On the Freedom of a Christian*. And although individually brief, the cumulative effect of the various introductions [to each related text] is to provide the reader with a broad range of information about the Reformation in general.--Robert J. Christman, Luther College