



## HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE LAW AND GOSPEL

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In this video commercial, long-suffering “Katie Lu” is having trouble removing stains from her husband’s shirt. “Winkie” Luther saves the day by introducing her to the “dual action” of Law and Gospel, a spray and detergent combination that leaves Luther’s shirt dazzling white. Winkie is careful to point out to his wife that neither product works alone, but the combination does the trick.

1. Have you ever had occasion to use products similar to these on your own laundry (or to see similar products advertised)? How well do you think the combination approach works?
2. Have you ever had a stain on your conscience or on your reputation that you wished you could wash away with some combination of products? What caused your conscience to be troubled? How did you become aware that your past actions weren’t what they should have been?
3. The Gospel message is that our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection has washed away our sin. But would this be good news to you if you hadn’t been troubled by your sins?
4. How does the Law (the awareness of our sin) work together with the Gospel to remove the stains from our lives?