

**Table Talk No 153 Summer 1532 The Center of the Universe!**

*“Under the papacy I was exposed to every error. The reason is that I had no faith. Faith is, as it were, the center of a circle. If anybody strays from the center, it is impossible for him to have the circle around him, and he must blunder. The center is Christ.”*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Luther". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Martin" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Luther".

**Commentary:** A short but powerful statement and visual image of the “circle of life!” Luther did not reject the need for a pope or a leader for the church. He only rejected the teaching that the pope was the true head because the Holy Bible stated Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The error that Luther refers to is the sale of indulgences or the expectation that people had to do specific things to gain salvation in heaven. Luther taught that salvation was the free and unconditional gift of God for everyone who is sorry (repents) of their sins and believes Jesus Christ is God. This is a central teaching of the Protestant Reformation. The circle includes the community of all believers who support each other with their faith. In short, this is how the laser beam works – it keeps shining the light on the target. Jesus is the Light of Love and his target is our heart!

**Question:** *Where is your position in the circle of God’s love?*