

# **Luther as practical theologian – implications for theological education today and tomorrow**

## **1. Luther's academic studies**

## **2. The reform of the theological studies by the reformation of Wittenberg**

### 2.1 Impulses of the humanism

### 2.2 Biblical and reformatory reasons

2.2.1 First of all study of the old languages, because they were considered as sheath for the sword of the Spirit.

2.2.2 Another point was the authority of the bible for theological conclusions that was newly explored by the reformers. Therefore the interpretation of the biblical texts became a central concern of academic studies. So the bible was declared as "norma normans", the traditional interpretation only as "norma normata".

2.2.3 The third point was the importance of education. The reformers had the opinion that the Spirit had committed itself to the biblical word so that education and spirituality were understood as two sides of the same coin.

### 2.3 Implications for the praxis of theological studies

## **3. Luther's concept of theology – a term that implicates existence and experience**

"oratio, meditatio, tentatio" – "prayer, reading of the Scripture and temptation"

## **4. Today: The need for the integration of spirituality in the study of theology**

4.1 From the separation between theology and spirituality results a one-sided intellectualism of Protestant faith.

4.2 The integration of spirituality in the study of theology is necessary for the connection between theology and community.

4.3 In consideration of the increasing secularization and alienation from the church it will be the task of pastors and teachers of religious instructions more in the future to speak of their faith experiences. The lack of integration of spirituality in the study of theology often has the effect that the spirituality of the students that was shaped by community spirituality is reflected critically while studying, but is not released in a clarified and deepened understanding of their faith. So that students can develop a personal reflected spirituality, the study of theology should include an introduction to practiced shape of Christian faith.

4.4 Also because of missionary reasons the theology and church cannot leave the topic of spirituality to other religious providers.