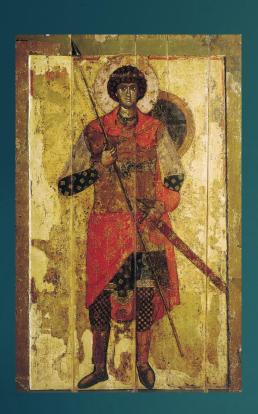
CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD



Unit I The Christian in Society: Citizenship in Church and World

Unit II Christ and Culture

Unit III Contemporary American Culture - Recent Evolution

Unit IV Culture Wars: The Battle over Social Discourse

Unit V Christian Response: Surveying Contemporary Proposals

Unit VI Civil Obedience and Disobedience: Lutheran Criteria



THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: THREE FACETS OF LIFE IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST

- 1. Maturing of the New Creation in faith and life
 - Baptismal regeneration produces spiritual infants of any age.
 - Immaturity, but without defect.
 - Old sinful fleshly self just naturally matures.
 - Gospel alone produces life and growth in Christ.
 - New Creation A slave to God and righteousness (Rom 6:18,22)
 - FLESHLY SINFUL SELF A slave to sin (Rom 7:14)
 - Maturing into the full measure of Christ is completed in Glory.
 - Spiritual maturation is unique to the individual according to God will and plan.



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- 2. Experience and engagement of spiritual warfare
 - THE UNHOLY TRIAD: Life-long conflict is with the world, the flesh, and the Devil.
 - Spiritual warfare increases with spiritual maturing.
 - Spiritual maturing increases with spiritual warfare but **only** through the impact of the Gospel. . . or it doesn't.
 - The nature and degree of spiritual warfare is individually experienced and occurs only by God's design.
 - Spiritual warfare is normal for all believers in the Church Militant: a sign of spiritual health.



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- 3. Christian Vocation: sacrificial service to Christ through meeting the needs of our neighbors
 - The tasks that flow from our vocational offices shape and identify the works of faith that Christ has commanded.
 - Vocation situates our place in contemporary society and identifies our neighbors – where we live, work, and play.
 - Our works distribute God's blessings to our neighbors.
 - By Faith our works are reckoned to Christ the imputed recipient of our labors in society.
 - Works of service to Christ His secret until Judgment Day



THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

Challenges to Ponder about growing and maturing in faith and life

- The impact of government regulation on free assembly to receive God's Word and Sacraments. Our response?
- The impact of contemporary cultural trends on the Church's teaching concerning the Gospel, the sanctity of life, human sexuality, intrinsic human worth, and equality. Our response?
- The impact of contemporary public education on catechizing our children (all levels). Our response?
- The impact of government (law/regulations), the corporate world, and social norms on the care and protection of our families, our livelihood, the exercise of faithfulness in society. Our response?



THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

Challenges to Ponder about faithful exercise of vocational offices

- Big tech and obtaining reliable information for sound decision making and good stewardship where we life, work, and play
- Government and corporate requirements for employment and retention of employment.
- Government regulation re conduct of business (e.g. race, gender, age, clients, and medical requirements)
- Respect of personal conscience and religious conviction
- The challenges of faithful parenting from social media, public education, youth culture, entertainment, drugs.



THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

CHRIST REIGNS IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD THROUGH LAW AND GOSPEL

- Read Matt 28:18: All exercise of *legitimate* authority flows from authority the Father has given to the Son.
 - In Heaven and on earth
 - In the Church and in the world
 - Luther: Heavenly and Earthly governments
- Read Rom 13:1-5
- Read Matthew 28:19-29, John 20:23

Christ warns that the Christian in Society will be subject to societal and governmental persecution and alienation within our families

Read Matthew 10