

# 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



# CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

## 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.



# CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

## THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

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

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.





# CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

## THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

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

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



# CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

## 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?



# CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

## 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 live, 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.





# CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

## 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