



CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY

LIFE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD

THE CHRISTIAN IN SOCIETY: CITIZENSHIP IN CHURCH AND WORLD

CHRIST REIGNS IN THE WORLD THROUGH LAW

- Read Rom 13: 1-7; Eph 6:1-8: Christ exercises authority in the world through laws, rules, and standards, delegating authority to those given legitimate authority.
- **4th Commandment:** *Honor your father and your mother.*
- What does this mean? *We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents **and other authorities**, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.*
- All legitimate exercise of authority in society flows within temporal orders from Christ by Divine right – e.g. parents, govt. officials, etc.



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- Christ rules in the world through a *civil use of the Law*
- Encourages a modicum of outward moral behavior and curbs gross and manifest sin (laws, rules, moral standards)
 - Standard of civil just behavior: Law written on Heart
 - Motivation based on self-interest: rewards and penalties
- Applies to believers and non-believers alike
- Discipline is to teach children the wisdom of civil obedience:
Life will go better for me if I follow the rules than if I break them.



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CHRIST REIGNS IN THE CHURCH THROUGH THE GOSPEL

- Sin and evil are forgiven freely for the sake of the finished universal atonement of Christ on the cross.
- Citizens of Heavenly Kingdom live with God through Christ by faith alone.
- The Gospel nurtures and matures faith and life in Christ and energizes the works of faith in vocation.
- The Gospel is applied to all penitent sinners in the Church and world. No distinction.
- The ministry of the Law is auxiliary: preparatory for reception of the Gospel by working a penitent heart.



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- All power exercised in the world and/or Church *not* authorized and delegated by Christ is evil and ultimately of the Devil.
- Lutheran Confessions: *The Power and Primacy of the Pope*
 - The Church through its called Servants of the Word have Divine right authority to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and exercise jurisdiction through the Keys of the Church.
 - Servants of the Word (pastors, teachers, bishops, elders) have *no Divine right authority* to create or enforce civil laws.