

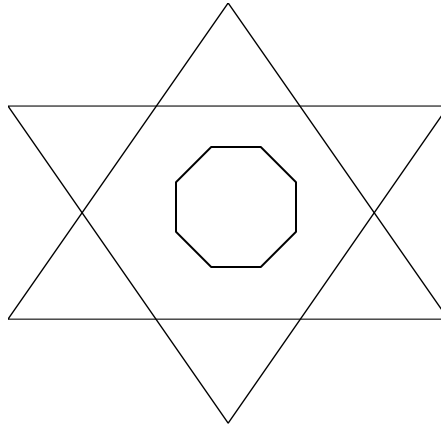
The Lutheran Worldview

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The Origin of the World

1. How did the world get here?

- 1) Genesis 1-2:3.
- 2) Exodus 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.
- 3) Psalm 33:6, 9 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.



The Creator Star

The world was created by God when He used His almighty word to create everything in it in six days out of nothing.

What does the Bible teach about this God who created the world?

- 4) Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- 5) Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”
- 6) Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
- 7) 1 Corinthians 8:4 There is no God but one.
- 8) 2 Corinthians 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

God is triune, three persons in one God. We refer to this holy union as the Trinity. He is not three gods but one God.

- 9) Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
- 10) Genesis 17:1 I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.
- 11) John 21:17 (Peter) said, “Lord, you know all things.”
- 12) Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

This God is eternal, almighty (omnipotent) all-knowing (omniscient) , and present everywhere (omnipresent).

What does the Bible teach about angels?

- 13) Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
- 14) Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone - while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Angels also were created by God.

- 15) Daniel 7:10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.
- 16) Luke 20:35-36 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels.

There are millions of angels who do not marry, procreate, or die.

- 17) Psalm 91:11-12 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- 18) Hebrews 1:14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Angels were created to serve God by protecting and taking care of humans.

What does the Bible teach about humans?

- 19) Genesis 1:26-31 (God made man and woman on the sixth day)
- 20) Genesis 1:27 So God created man in *his own image*, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- 21) Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and *subdue it*. *Rule over* the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
- 22) Genesis 2:7 The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and *breathed into his nostrils* the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The Bible teaches us that on the sixth day God made man and woman in his own image as special creatures to rule over everything God had created.

How were man and woman created "in his own image"?

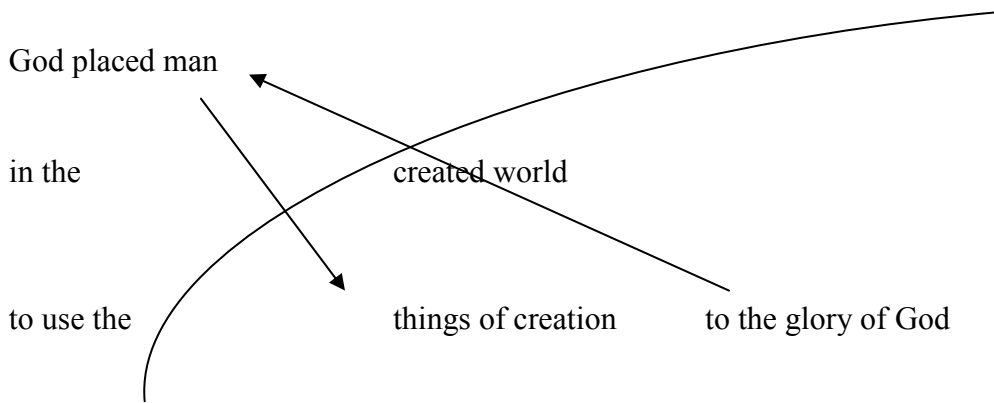
- 23) Ephesians 4:24 Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
- 24) Colossians 3:10 Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

When man and woman were created "in his own image" it means that they were created holy and with the knowledge of God's will.

What does God expect from humans?

- 25) Genesis 2:15-17 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
- 26) Hebrews 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- 27) Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- 28) Matthew 22:37-40 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
- 29) 1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.

God expects all men to be holy and perfect for their entire lives, doing all they do to the glory of God.



Why don't we accept as fact any man-made theories about the origin of the world and of man?

- 30) Job 38, 39 (Note especially 38:4. No man was present to witness the origin of all things.
- 31) 2 Peter 3:5-6 But they *deliberately forget* that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.
- 32) Hebrews 11:3 *By faith we understand* that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Man-made theories attempt to explain what we can only know by faith.

Differences in Creation and Evolution

<p>God's eyewitness account Six days Out of nothing By God's Word Man a special creature Responsible to God</p>	<p>Man's theory Millions of years Primordial cells An uninterrupted chance process Man a highly developed animal Master of his own fate</p>
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6. What does creation tell us about God?

- 33) Hebrews 3:4 Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.
- 34) Psalm 19:1-4 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,
- 35) Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Creation tells us there is a God who created the world.

Atheist =

Agnostic =

7. What does creation tell us about God?

- 36) Acts 14:17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”
- 37) Psalm 104:24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 38) Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Creation tells us God is kind, wise, eternal, powerful and wise. This is a natural knowledge all men have of God. It makes them seek a powerful God who can bless them and take care of them.

The Fall of the World

How was God’s perfect creation ruined?

- 39) Genesis 3:1-19 (Adam and Eve fell into sin and brought death upon themselves.)
- 40) Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—
- 41) Romans 8:22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

God’s perfect creation was ruined when sin and death entered the world by Adam and Eve’s sin. (The Fall)

Who tempted and led Adam and Eve into sin?

- 42) Genesis 3:1-6 (The devil spoke through the serpent to tempt Eve.)
- 43) 1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.
- 44) Revelation 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

The devil tempted and led Adam and Eve into sin.

Who is the devil?

- 45) 2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;
- 46) Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.
- 47) Matthew 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.
- 48) Ezekiel 28:11-17 The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ”“You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you. . . . You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

The devil is the leader of the angels who sinned and were condemned to the eternal fire of hell.

Why did devil ruin God’s creation?

- 49) John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
- 50) 1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- 51) Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”
- 52) 2 Timothy 2:25-26 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

The devil ruined God’s creation because he is an enemy of God who opposes the truth and wants to trap all people into sharing hell with him.

What is the result of the fall?

- 53) Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 54) Romans 3:9-12 Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”
- 55) Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. *Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*
- 56) Galatians 3:22 The Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin.

- 57) Genesis 8:21 Every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood.
- 58) Romans 8:6-7 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.
- 59) 2 Timothy 3:2-5 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.
- 60) Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and *all our righteous acts are like filthy rags*; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

As a result of the fall we are conceived and born contaminated with sin from head to toe, spiritually dead in sin. (Original sin) We naturally do things for our own glory and happiness, instead of doing it to the glory of God. Spiritually, we are unable to come to God or love God. Because of sin humans are angry at God and blame him for the problems in the world. All are hostile to Him. Even in our nature we are objects of God's wrath. Even the best acts of humans (including Christians) are not worthy of the holy God's approval.

- 61) Acts 26:17-18 I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.
- 62) 1 John 5:19 The whole world is under the control of the evil one.

As a result of the fall the entire world is born under the control and power of Satan.

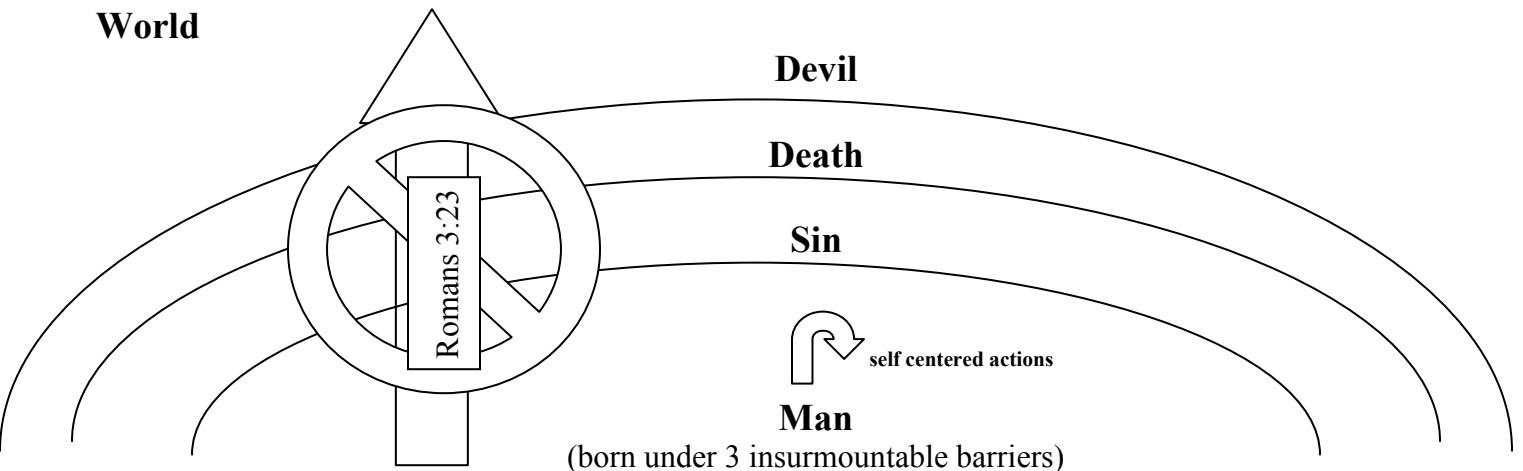
- 63) Romans 5:12-14 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way *death came to all men*, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, *even over those who did not sin by breaking a command*, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.
- 64) Ecclesiastes 12:1-8 (describes the result of sin in old age and death)

As a result of sin everyone physically deteriorates and dies.

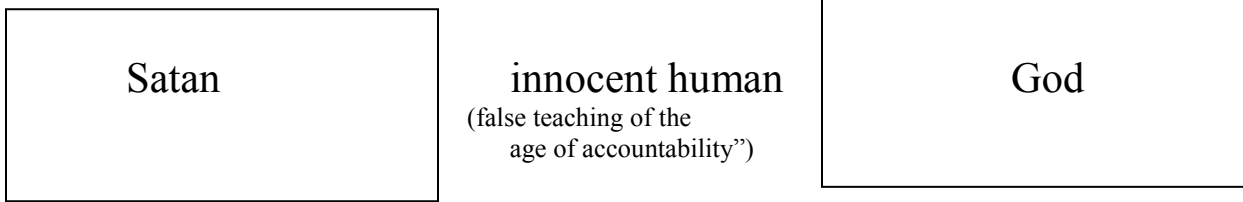
Illustrations

God - Heaven

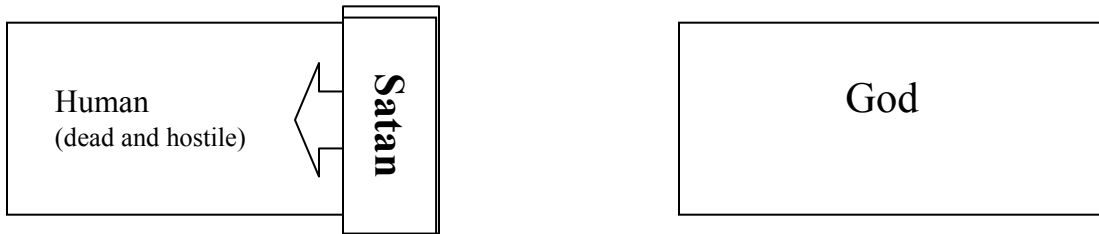
World



Humans are NOT born in a neutral place – trying to make his decision which way to go - like this -



NO – according to Scriptures man is born like this –



The Salvation of the World

Is there any way for sinners to be saved?

- 65) Psalm 49:7-9 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him— the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough— that he should live on forever and not see decay.
- 66) 1 Samuel 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.

The only way to be saved is if the requirements and threats of God’s law for all humans are met. God will not change His standards because we have changed.

How, then, can we be saved?

- 67) Luke 18:25-27 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”
- 68) Romans 7:24-25 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- 69) Luke 11:20 If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

Man cannot save himself. God must perform the impossible for man to be saved.

How did God perform the impossible?

- 70) Luke 1:26-35 (The angel promises the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God’s Son.)
- 71) John 1:1,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 72) Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.
- 73) Hebrews 4:15 We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

- 74) Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

God performed the impossible by taking on flesh to live under the law and obey the law in our place.
(Active obedience)

- 75) Philippians 2:6-8 (Christ Jesus), being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!
- 76) Mark 15:15, 22, 24, 37, 46 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.
- 77) Matthew 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- 78) John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- 79) 2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- 80) Isaiah 53:5-6 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- 81) Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”
- 82) 1 John 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

God performed the impossible by sending His Son to suffer and die for the sins of the world, exactly as the Law required. (Passive obedience)

How does this free us from the power of the devil?

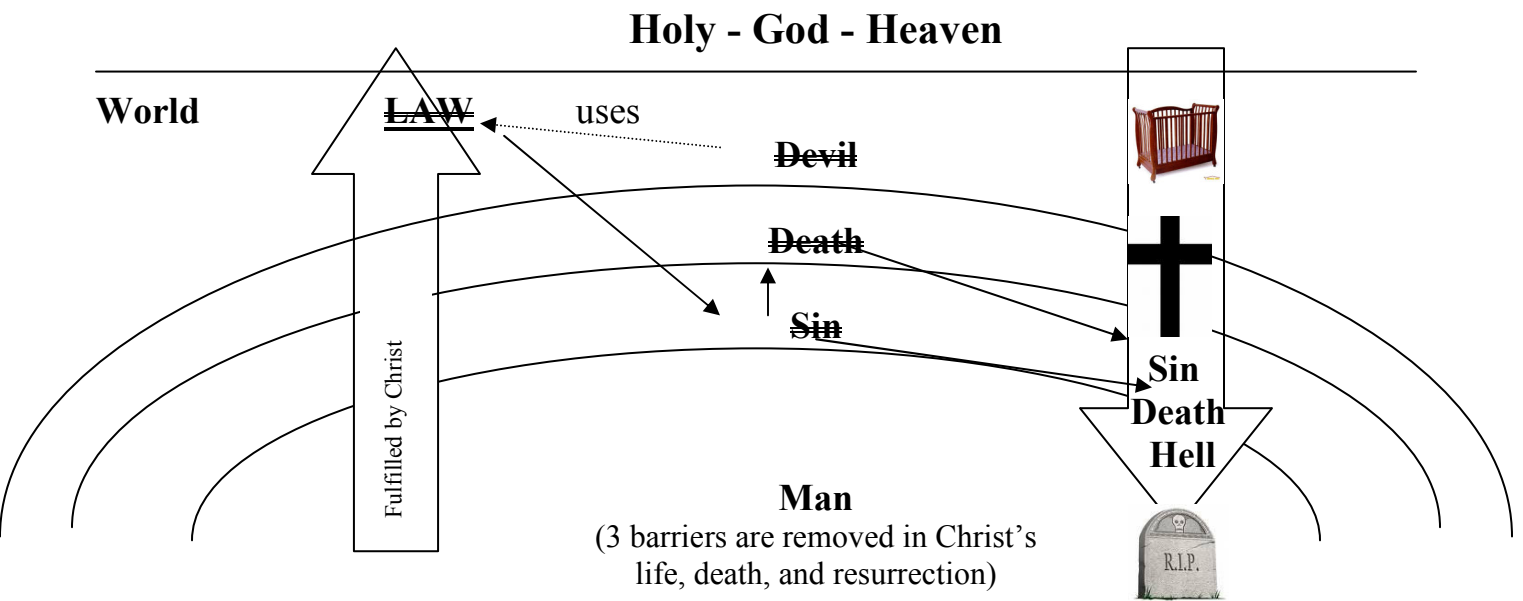
- 83) Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
- 84) 1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.
- 85) Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—
- 86) Revelation 12:10-11 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Jesus’ life and death destroys the devil’s work because now the devil has nothing to accuse us of. All of God’s demands have been met because Jesus entered our world in a dirty crib and took the curse of sin on a cross.

How does this free us from the power of death and the threat of hell?

- 87) John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- 88) Romans 6:4 Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father.
- 89) Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.
- 90) John 14:19 Because I live, you also will live.
- 91) John 11:25 I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;
- 92) Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
- 93) 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since Jesus suffered through death and hell and God raised Him from the dead, we are assured that our payment has been made and accepted. Jesus is interceding for us today and promises us that we will spiritually live forever with him in heaven when we die and also physically rise from the dead.



The Way in Which We Are Given Salvation

Does this mean that all people go to heaven?

- 94) Matthew 13:47-50 “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 95) Matthew 22:1-14 (The King wants all to come, but many do not go. Vs. 14 concludes, “many are called, but few are chosen.”)

All people do not go to heaven, even though Jesus died for them. In comparison with those who go to heaven, many more end up in hell.

How do we get credited for what Jesus did?

- 96) Genesis 15:4-6 Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.
- 97) Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- 98) Acts 16:30-31 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”
- 99) Mark 1:15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”
- 100) John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that *whoever believes* in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- 101) Romans 10:4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.
- 102) Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

God gives us credit for what Jesus did through faith in the promise of forgiveness in the cross and death of Christ. Faith is trusting what God says even when you can't see, feel, touch or understand it. Saving faith is that which trusts in Christ alone for salvation.

How do we get this faith?

- 103) Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
- 104) 2 Timothy 3:15 From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 105) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 106) 1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Faith comes when the Holy Spirit opens our minds and hearts to see and believe that we are sinners and that Jesus died for our sins through the Word of God.

Can fallen humans seek God and attain faith from what they do?

- 107) Acts 17:26-28 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’
- 108) Romans 2:14-15 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)
- 109) Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

110) Acts 17:22-23 (The Athenians had an altar to an “UNKNOWN GOD”)

Fallen humans seek after or run from a powerful and generous God. Fallen humans will either try to impress God with their works (pride) or blame God because of their guilt or suffering (despair).

111) Romans 3:11 There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

112) 1 Corinthians 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

113) 1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”;

Fallen humans cannot and do not seek the true, hidden, and merciful God who is born as a baby and dies on a cross, as revealed in the Bible.

Who then deserves the complete credit for our faith?

114) Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

115) Colossians 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ.

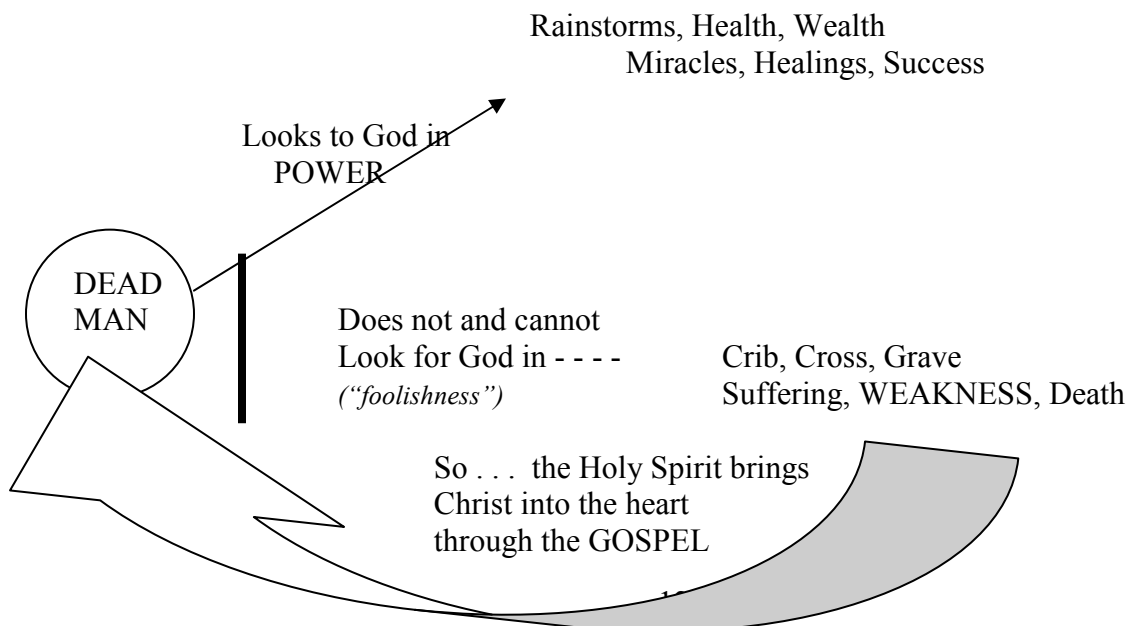
116) John 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

117) Acts 26:17-18 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

118) 2 Corinthians 4:4,6 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

The Holy Spirit alone deserves the credit for our coming to faith. We have nothing to do with, for we are born spiritually dead.

Illustration . . .



Why would God want to save the same people He considers as rebels and sinners?

- 119) Exodus 34:6-7 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”
- 120) Isaiah 65:1 “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’”
- 121) Ezekiel 16:5-6 No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised. “Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, “Live!”
- 122) Ephesians 2:3-5, 9 Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. . . . For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
- 123) Romans 5:6-8 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

God wanted to save the entire world because He is a God of mercy and undeserved love (grace). God gives us faith only because of His mercy, and not because of anything in us that would make us worthy of His gracious gift.

Can this working of the Holy Spirit on the dead sinner be rejected or lost?

- 124) Romans 10:3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.
- 125) Galatians 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you *have fallen away from grace.*
- 126) Luke 14:16-24 (Many reject the invitation to the banquet.)
- 127) 1 Timothy 1:18-19 Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have *shipwrecked their faith.*
- 128) Luke 8:13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. *They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.*
- 129) Matthew 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, *but you were not willing.*
- 130) Galatians 6:8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

The Holy Spirit can be rejected by pride or despair or even chased out of a believer as a result of his own rebellious living.

Is the Holy Spirit limited in any way by the intellect or maturity of humans?

- 131) Romans 9:16 It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

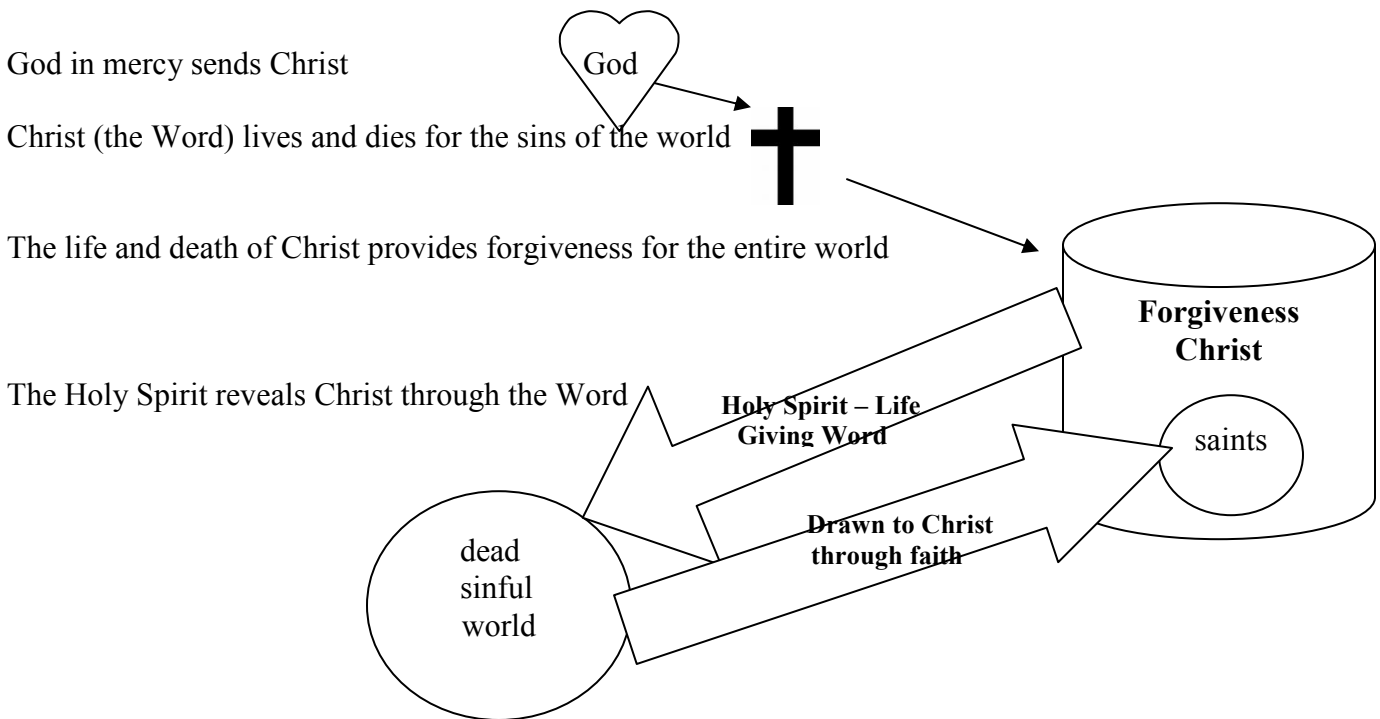
- 132) Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God.”
- 133) 2 Timothy 3:14-15 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 134) Luke 1:15 (John) shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.
- 135) John 3:8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

The gift of faith is not dependant on the intellect of man but the power and working of the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel.

Is it possible to receive the Holy Spirit or Christ without the Gospel?

- 136) Romans 10:14-18 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”

God’s Word only says that the Holy Spirit and Christ are where the Gospel is. The Gospel has already gone out to the ends of the world.



The Holy Spirit reveals the Word to the world

Those who believe are saved by the working of the Holy Spirit through the Word of Christ

Those who are damned reject the Word

The Power of the Word

What is so powerful about God's Word?

- 137) John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- 138) Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- 139) Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
- 140) 2 Timothy 3:15 From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to penetrate the heart and bring the grace and truth of Christ into it.

How does the preached Word bring Christ into the heart?

- 141) Matthew 19:17-19 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"
- 142) Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
- 143) Romans 7:7 I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

The law crushes our hearts by showing us what God really expects of us, demanding us to do and be what we cannot.

- 144) Romans 3:23 There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- 145) Galatians 3:10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."
- 146) Luke 17:10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

The law crushes our hearts by telling us who we are and what we deserve in God's sight.

- 147) Colossians 2:13-14 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.
- 148) Luke 2:10-11 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
- 149) John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

The gospel fills our broken hearts with the love of Christ and mends it with God's forgiveness.

What, then, is the chief purpose of the Bible?

- 150) 2 Timothy 3:15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 151) John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- 152) John 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,
- 153) Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

The chief purpose of the Bible is to lead all people to know and believe in Jesus as their only hope of salvation. He is the key to salvation. The Bible is Christocentric – Christ-centered.

Summary . . . God creates a beautiful and wonderful creation and perfect humans

Man falls, and God is angry over man’s fall

God in Grace – still wants man saved and sends Christ

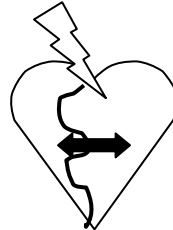
Christ fulfills for God’s wrath 

God reveals Christ in the Gospel

Man thinks he is good enough for God without Christ

So God attacks the heart with His Word . . .

Law Breaks



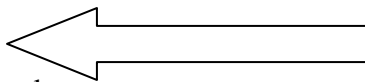
Gospel Mends



Two extremes and false uses of the Bible -

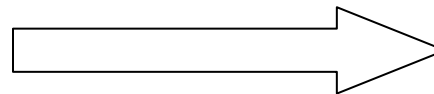
NO LAW

- Liberalism
- Anything goes
- No thirst for Gospel



ALL LAW

Even among “Bible believing” churches which regularly quote the Bible -



- Legalism
- No Gospel
- all Christian and NO Christ
- Humanism

The Means of Grace

Has God approached fallen humans in this same way through all times?

- 154) Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”
- 155) 1 Kings 19:11-13 The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
- 156) Luke 24:46-47 He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

God has continually used His simple Word to communicate with His people.

How has God spoken His Word to humans?

- 157) Exodus 20:1, 19-20 And God spoke all these words: . . . (the Ten Commandments) and (the people) said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”
- 158) Jeremiah 35:15 Again and again I sent all my servants the prophets to you. . . . But you have not paid attention or listened to me.
- 159) John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- 160) Luke 16:29-31 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’ ” “No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ” “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”
- 161) Acts 2:17-18 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

God has spoken His Word to humans directly through dreams and visions and also through prophets and apostles.

- 162) Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”
- 163) Exodus 4:17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”
- 164) 2 Kings 5:10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.”

God has continually attached threats and promises to physical elements in order to communicate with His people.

- 165) Genesis 18:1-2 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.
- 166) Deuteronomy 33:16 (God) dwelt in the burning bush.
- 167) Exodus 13:21 By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.
- 168) Hebrews 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

God has continually approached His people by hiding Himself within physical elements.

Why doesn't God reveal Himself in full glory and speak to us Himself?

- 169) Exodus 33:18-20 Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."
- 170) Jeremiah 5:22 Should you not fear me?" declares the LORD. "Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.

God cannot reveal His full glory to us because we are sinful and we would die. When a person reveals himself he is said to come out of his shell. When God reveals Himself he must climb into a shell, so that we will not die.

How does God come to us today?

- 171) John 1:1,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- 172) 1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

God comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Where is Christ?

- 173) John 16:10 I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;
- 174) John 20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
- 175) Colossians 3:1 Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Christ is ruling invisibly in the heavens.

- 176) Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- 177) Matthew 23:34 I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.
- 178) Matthew 26:26-28 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Christ also promises to be present with us on earth through baptism, the Lord's Supper and through the teaching of His Word through His disciples.

The Means of Grace in Baptism

What is baptism?

- 179) Mark 1:8 I baptize you with water.
- 180) Mark 7:3-4 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing (Greek word - baptizing) of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. (KJV)

Baptize literally means to "wash with water" according to the Greek usage during New Testament times. "Washing with water" meant to apply water in a variety of ways.

What makes what we call "baptism" different from any other shower or bath?

- 181) Genesis 1:3 God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- 182) Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 183) Ephesians 5:25-26 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Baptism is different than any other washing because it has God's powerful Word, reputation, and commission behind it and connected to it.

What does God promise in baptism?

- 184) Galatians 3:26-27 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
- 185) Romans 6:3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- 186) 1 Peter 3:21 Baptism now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In baptism God promises to put sinners to death and raise them with Christ, clothing sinners in the righteousness of Christ and giving them His forgiveness.

How does God give us these things in baptism?

- 187) Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 188) John 3:5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.
- 189) Titus 3:5-7 He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
- 190) 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 It is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

God miraculously attaches us to Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit who comes to us and brings us to faith in Christ in baptism.

How could Christ and the Holy Spirit be present in baptism when we can't see them or hear them or touch them?

- 191) Luke 3:21-22 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”
- 192) Acts 2:3-4 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
- 193) Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

The same God who hid himself in fire and a dove can still hide Himself in water and give us Christ. Since the Holy Spirit could enter the disciples through a simple tongue of fire landing on the disciples' heads the Holy Spirit can also enter the body and soul of a sinner through a simple drop of water in baptism of water. When He promises us that the Holy Spirit comes to us and connects us to Christ through baptism He wants us to believe it in faith.

What about infants? Should they be baptized too?

- 194) Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 195) Acts 2:39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
- 196) Acts 16:32-33 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

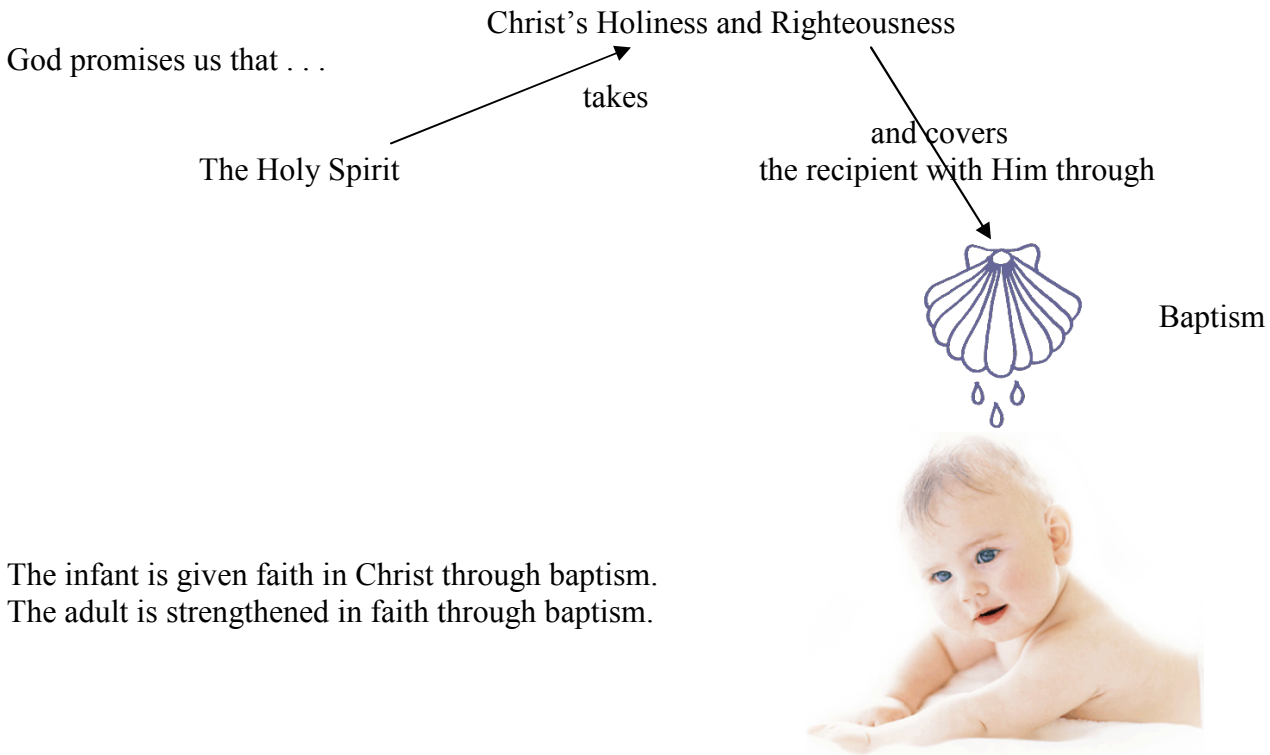
Infants are included in “all nations”, which God commands to be baptized. There are no limitations put on baptism in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is not limited by inabilities of humans. Adults requested baptism for themselves after coming to repentance and being instructed in the Word of the Lord.

- 197) Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- 198) Ephesians 2:3 All of us . . . like the rest, we were *by nature* objects of wrath.
- 199) John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the *Spirit gives birth to spirit*.

Infants are born in sin and under God’s wrath, needing the gift of the Holy Spirit (who brings Christ and His forgiveness in the heart) in order to be saved.

- 200) Matthew 18:6 But if anyone causes one of these little ones *who believe in me* to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.
- 201) Luke 18:15-17 People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not *receive the kingdom of God like a little child* will never enter it.”

Infants can be brought to faith by a miracle of the Holy Spirit just like anyone else.



The Means of Grace in the Lord's Supper

What is the Lord's Supper?

- 202) Matthew 26:17-29 (Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper)
- 203) Mark 14:22-25 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”
- 204) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he

took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

The Lord's Supper is when Christians eat a special meal which is taken in memory of Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross. The meal involves eating unleavened bread and fruit of the vine – otherwise known as wine. As they eat and drink this bread and wine Jesus also said that they would be eating and drinking His body and blood.

How do we know that Jesus isn’t speaking figuratively or symbolically? That “is” doesn’t really mean “represents”?

- 205) Mark 14:22,24 “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”
- 206) Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
- 207) Isaiah 45:15 Truly you are a God who hides himself, O God and Savior of Israel.
- 208) 1 Corinthians 10:16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?
- 209) 1 Corinthians 11:27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

Jesus said “this IS my body,” not “this represents my body.” Paul confirms that the body and blood forgiveness Christ are physically present as well. God has continually hidden himself in different ways throughout the Bible. Faith takes God at His Word and doesn’t try to reinterpret things if they seem impossible. If Jesus’ body and blood were not present in the Lord's Supper then there would be no danger in eating and drinking them or specifically sinning against them, as Paul warns against.

If Jesus’ body is human, how can it physically be in the Lord's Supper at different times and in different places?

- 210) Matthew 28:20 Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- 211) John 20:19-20 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.
- 212) Ephesians 1:22-23 God placed all things under his (Jesus’) feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

When Christ uses His full power as He did after the resurrection He can appear at any place and at any time. He is not limited by anything in this world. He, in fact, fills the world. He can put especially His body and blood anywhere He wants at any time at all, just as He put His special presence in the pillar of cloud and fire with the Israelites in the desert.

Why does Jesus want us to eat and drink His body and blood as He hides it in, with, and under the bread and wine?

- 213) Mark 14:24 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”
- 214) 1 Corinthians 11:26 “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
- 215) Matthew 26:27-29 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of

sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

- 216) 1 Corinthians 10:17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

As we eat Jesus' body and blood we are physically reminded of God's promise to us that since Jesus died for us our sins are forgiven. As His body and blood enters our body we are given a powerful reminder that we are not only covered in His righteousness but also cleansed within as well. Taking the Lord's Supper also spiritually unites us to the Holy Christian Church of all times and places and makes us look forward to drinking the fruit of the vine with Jesus again in heaven.

What if someone takes the Lord's Supper who doesn't know what it is about? Will they too be forgiven and saved just by taking the Lord's Supper?

- 217) 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.
- 218) Matthew 7:6 "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.
- 219) 1 Corinthians 5:11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

If someone eats and drinks the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner he or she will bring judgment on himself or herself. This is done when someone takes the Lord's Supper without recognizing what it is about or while he or she is living in unrepentant sin. (This may include those with a severe mental handicap, Alzheimer's, the young, Christians who have not been instructed properly in the Lord's Supper, and members who are currently being disciplined for a sin.)

What if someone comes to visit our church but they come from a different denomination or church? Should they still be allowed to take the Lord's Supper if they are Christian?

- 220) Romans 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.
- 221) 2 John 9-11 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.
- 222) Galatians 5:9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."
- 223) 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

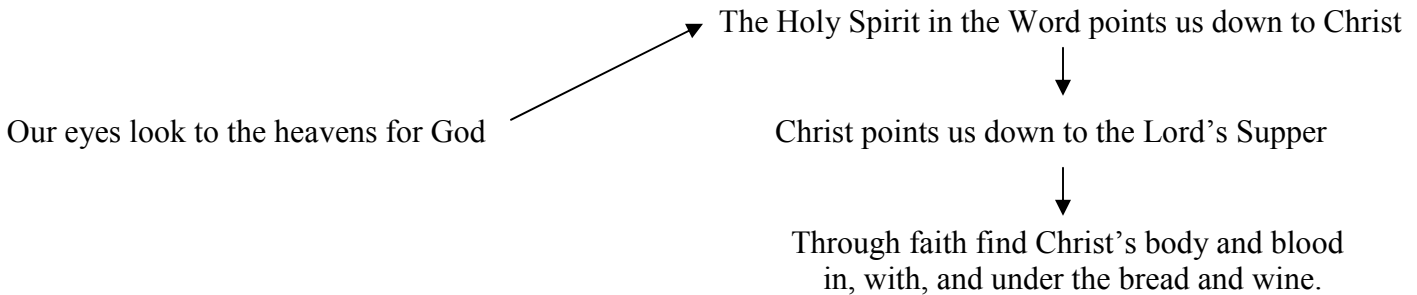
Even if they are Christian God wants us to watch out for and avoid those who teach contrary to what we've learned in the Bible. They need to lovingly be warned of their false beliefs. The loving thing to do is to only provide the Lord's Supper for those within our fellowship and to instruct visitors in our faith and have them join prior to having them take the Lord's Supper.

Summary: God puts Himself in Christ.

Christ puts Himself on the cross.

Christ dies, rises and ascends to the heavens and fills the earth.

The risen and all-powerful Christ promises to put Himself and His forgiveness in the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper and come to us for our strengthening in faith for the rest of the ages. This makes us confident to face Him on Judgment Day and also helps us to look forward to that Day.



The Holy Christian Church

What is the Church?

- 224) Romans 12:4-5 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
- 225) 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
- 226) Ephesians 4: There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- 227) Ephesians 3:4-6 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into *the mystery of Christ*, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the *Gentiles are heirs together with Israel*, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

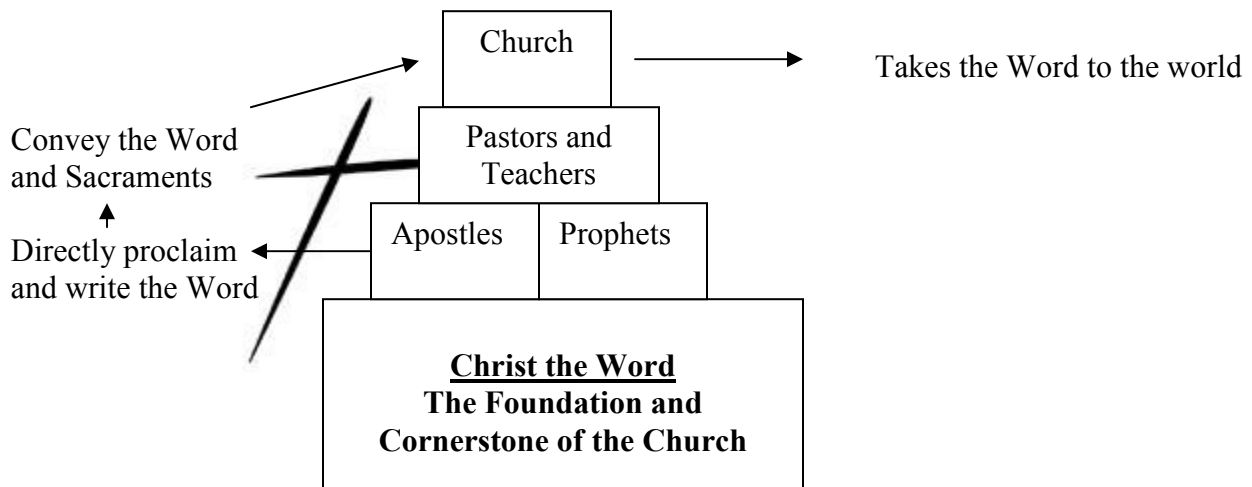
The Church is made up of those who believe in Jesus. Together they are called Jesus' body. They all have the same Spirit and status no matter what race or age or position they have in life. They belong to Christ and to each other.

Where is the Church?

- 228) Matthew 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”
- 229) Romans 10:14-17 how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

- 230) 1 Corinthians 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- 231) Ephesians 2:19-22 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.
- 232) Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."
- 233) Romans 6:3-4 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
- 234) Matthew 26:26-29 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

The Church is built solely on the Gospel of Christ. Everything and everyone that the Holy Spirit uses to establish and keep the Church is connected to Christ who comes through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament and brings us to faith.



What is the Church called to do?

- 235) Acts 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 236) Acts 5:42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.
- 237) Psalm 100:1-3 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 238) 2 Peter 3:18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

- 239) Ephesians 4:1-16 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. . . . It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- 240) Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The Church meets together to grow in faith and knowledge of its Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It comes together to worship God. It appoints pastors and teachers to help them grow in their knowledge and faith in Christ. The Church goes out into the world to reach out with the Gospel.

What kind of people does the Church call to lead them?

- 241) Titus 1:5-9 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
- 242) 2 Timothy 4:2-6 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.
- 243) 1 Timothy 2:11-3:7 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. . . . Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil’s trap.
- 244) 2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
- 245) 1 Timothy 5:2-3 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

The Church elects adult men of good reputation who are able to clearly teach God’s Word in a godly way to be their pastors. It expects these men to feed them with the Word of God by properly applying the Law and Gospel to each individual member as he or she needs it. In a reflection of the headship principle in creation it also asks the men to serve in any roles that will require authority over other men within the church.

What do individual church members do for each other?

- 246) Matthew 18:15-18 “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector. “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
- 247) Acts 18:24-26 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.
- 248) Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Church has caring people who look after one another and make sure that they stay in the Word. They help one another grow in the Word. When a fellow Christian strays they do all they can to bring them back to the Word or strengthen them in the Word with the help and direction of their pastor.

- 249) 1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.
- 250) 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- 251) 1 Timothy 5:17-18 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.”

The Church makes sure to provide for their pastor’s well being. They give the firstfruits of their offerings to send out missionaries into the world support the ministry of the Gospel.

- 252) Mark 15:41 In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.
- 253) Acts 16:40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia’s house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

Church members will use whatever means they have available; time, talents and treasures. They will use these to assist in God’s mission in whatever way possible.

What do church members do as individuals living in the world?

- 254) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.
- 255) 1 Corinthians 7:17, 23-24 Each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. . . . You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.
- 256) Ephesians 6:1-8 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.
- 257) Luke 3:11-14 John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”
- 258) Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
- 259) Matthew 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

The individuals of the Church look at themselves as belonging to God. They stay active in the world and serve wherever they are needed in the best way they possibly can. They look at being a father, mother, child, sister, soldier, or worker as an honorable and God pleasing thing. As they do this they look for opportunities to share Christ.

What kind of a church should you look for?

- 260) Revelation 2:2-3; 14-17; 19-20 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. . . . You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! . . . I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.
- 261) 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a

demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

You are to look for a church that does not permit false teachers. You are to look for a church that repents of its sins and focuses on Jesus and Him crucified. Churches that know and profess that Christ is in the Gospel in Word and sacraments are churches to look for.

How long will the Church last?

- 262) 2 Timothy 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.
- 263) 2 Timothy 3:12-15 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
- 264) 2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.
- 265) Matthew 24:24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.
- 266) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

The Church will undergo persecution as it lives in an ever increasingly wicked world. The Church will have false prophets enter it to deceive people and lead them away from Christ so that they fall from faith. In the midst of the Church a man raises himself to have the power and authority of God.

- 267) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.
- 268) 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.
- 269) 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
- 270) 1 Peter 5:8-10 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all

grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

Those who stand firm in Christ's Word and sacrament will be protected and made strong through the work of the Holy Spirit to keep them from falling into unbelief and despair. The Church will last until the end of time as we know it.

Judgment Day

What will happen to those who die before Judgment Day comes?

- 271) Ecclesiasties 12: 7 The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
- 272) Luke 16:22-24 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'
- 273) Luke 23:39-43 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."
- 274) Philippians 1:21-24 To live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

When a person dies the soul separates from the body. The soul of the unbeliever immediately goes to hell and suffers eternally in hell. The soul of the believer is carried to heaven by the angels immediately; finding eternal rest and peace. The eternal fate of each individual will be known immediately upon death. There is no limbo or place of waiting for the soul, where they have to wait to find out their eternal destiny or to suffer prior to being allowed into heaven (i.e. Purgatory) or work their way to a higher heaven (i.e. Mormonism).

What will happen on Judgment Day?

- 275) 2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
- 276) Matthew 25:31-34 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

277) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

At the end of time Jesus will come in the clouds to judge the living and the dead. The righteous believers in Christ will be taken home to be with Jesus in heaven while the unbelievers will be sent away from Jesus into eternal hell. The body and the soul will be reunited for both believers and unbelievers on Judgment Day.

What will heaven be like?

278) Revelation 7 I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Heaven will be a physical recreation of the world in which believers will live with God in holiness and joy forever.

What will hell be like?

- 279) Matthew 25:30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 280) Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'
- 281) Mark 9:47-48 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'
- 282) Luke 16:22-24 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Hell is compared to an eternal fire where people suffer as they are shut out from the presence of God.

What is the Church's attitude towards Judgment Day?

- 283) Romans 6:4-5 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.
- 284) Philippians 3:17-21 Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
- 285) 1 Peter 1:13-16 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
- 286) Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Church always calls to mind that it has been set apart as holy through its baptism into Christ. Individuals of the Church watch themselves and each other to make sure that the devil or their own sinful natures or the world will cause them to fall. They make sure to meet together often to grow in faith and love to God and in love to one another. The Church lives in eager expectation of the Final Day. It tries to draw people to Christ through its words and actions.

What do individual believers know as they wait for Jesus' Final Coming?

- 287) Romans 8:31-39 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 288) 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
- 289) Matthew 6:31-34 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
- 290) 1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Believers know that God will give them more than they need as they await His Final Coming. Since God promises to take care of them and give them more than they need, believers can be generous with what they have.

- 291) Matthew 25:34-40 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’
- 292) 1 Corinthians 12:24-26 God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- 293) John 13:14-17 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.
- 294) Matthew 5:13-17 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Believers will look at themselves as the arms and legs and mouthpiece of God, put in this world to serve other people. The Christian life is a life of service to those over and under us. As we serve others we are serving the Lord. We do this to the glory of God with additional hopes that others will be attracted to Christ through our words and actions.

How do Christians know when and where to serve?

- 295) Galatians 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- 296) Luke 3:12-14 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”
- 297) 1 Corinthians 7:20-24 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. Were you a slave when you were called? Don’t let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord’s freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.
- 298) Acts 14:21-22 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.
- 299) 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- 300) Ephesians 6:7-8 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Christians will serve in the place where God has placed them as students, teachers, employers, employees, husbands, wives, parents, and children. They will strive to perform their duties as if they were serving the Lord. They will do the best they can with their abilities and leave the results in God's hands.

The Family Circle

Where did the concept of a family come from?

- 301) Genesis 2:19-24 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.
- 302) Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
- 303) Matthew 19:6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."
- 304) 1 Corinthians 7:39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.
- 305) Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

The concept of "family" came from God. God's design for a family is for a man and a woman to commit themselves to each other in a life long union. They are to express their love for one another in the sexual union in the hopes of having children together if God wills it.

What is a Christian's role within the family?

- 306) Exodus 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
- 307) 1 Timothy 5:4 If a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.
- 308) Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- 309) Leviticus 19:32 "'Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.
- 310) Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!

The LORD calls on the Christian to regard the mother and father as gifts from God. No matter how strange or sinful they may be God expects us to honor and serve them in love and respect, as long as they do not ask us to do something that is against what God says.

How do we prioritize who to serve first?

- 311) Matthew 10:37-38 “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.
- 312) Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.
- 313) Ecclesiastes 9:9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun— all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.
- 314) 1 Timothy 3:4-5 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s church?)
- 315) Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?
- 316) Proverbs 31:10, 15-16 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

The Christian serves the LORD first. He or she will then seek to serve the Lord through those who are closest to him or her and in the most need. This could be prioritized in the following way –

- A. God
- B. Spouse
- C. Children
- D. Parents
- E. Neighbors – congregational members, co-workers, people living near you, extended family
- F. Self

The Christian will serve with whatever abilities he or she has been given to the best of his or her ability.

How is a husband called to serve his family?

- 317) Ephesians 5:25-33 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.
- 318) Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
- 319) 1 Corinthians 11:3 Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
- 320) 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
- 321) Proverbs 31:28-32 Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

A husband is called to take care of his wife and do all he can to protect her, following the lead of Christ. He is to treat her gently as a special and precious gift from God. He will be careful to watch himself so he does not abuse his position or belittle his wife. He will want her to make the most of her gifts and talents from God. When she performs admirably he will want to make sure that he lets her know how much of a blessing she is to him and the family.

- 322) Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- 323) 1 Timothy 5:8 If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
- 324) Psalm 103:13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

If a husband has children he will do his best to bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. He will want to be the spiritual leader of the family. He will also do all he can provide material possessions for his family.

How is a wife called to serve her family?

- 325) Proverbs 31:10-12 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
- 326) Genesis 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
- 327) Ephesians 5:22-24 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
- 328) Proverbs 21:19 Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.
- 329) Ephesians 5:33 The wife must respect her husband.
- 330) 1 Peter 3:3-4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

The wife is called to help her husband be a good and faithful leader of the family. She will be willing to do whatever she can to help her husband where and when he needs help, following the role of the church. With a spirit of cooperation she will encourage him to take the lead and provide direction in the family as long as it is not against God's will. She will be careful not to use her emotions or anger to manipulate her husband or treat him abusively.

- 331) Psalm 113:9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the LORD.
- 332) 1 Thessalonians 2:7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.
- 333) Proverbs 31:25-28 She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

A faithful wife looks at children as a blessing. She works hard to provide for them and instructs them faithfully. She gives her family many reasons to look at her as a blessing from God as she serves them.

What service do husbands and wives have in common?

- 334) 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
- 335) Song of Solomon 1:15-16 How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful! Your eyes are doves. How handsome you are, my lover! Oh, how charming! And our bed is verdant.
- 336) Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.
- 337) Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Husbands and wives are called on to be sexually faithful and active with one another. God designed marriage to give parents the blessing of children.

- 338) Hebrews 13:4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
- 339) Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- 340) Ephesians 5:3-4 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
- 341) Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Husbands and wives are called on to watch themselves in the way they talk to one another. They are also to do all they can to make sure not to be attracted to other people.

- 342) Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.
- 343) Proverbs 23:13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

Husbands and wives are to work together in the way they discipline and teach their children right from wrong. Whenever they correct their children it is supposed to provide them with a lesson of right and wrong. It is not simply to be done in order to vent your anger.

Society

What is the Christians role with the government?

- 344) Romans 13:1-7 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
- 345) Titus 3:1-2 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

Every government is established by God, even evil governments. They are put in place to keep order, rewarding good behavior and punishing bad. The Christian is to submit to the government by doing what it says and paying taxes, even when those taxes are wasted or used on immoral things. The government has the right and power to punish and put to death those who disobey its laws.

Is a Christian allowed to serve in the government?

- 346) Genesis 41:39-40 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you."
- 347) Daniel 1:17-22 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. . . . The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.
- 348) Acts 17:12 Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Christians have regularly served faithful under heathen kingdoms. They can use their gifts to run for office and to help govern people to the glory of God's name. This would include voting and writing to senators and legislators over important issues.

How else can a Christian serve in society?

- 349) 1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
- 350) Colossians 3:22-4:1 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you

know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Christians will be hard working and productive; serving their employers as if they were serving the Lord. If they are put in positions of management they will do their best to be fair and decent with their hired help.

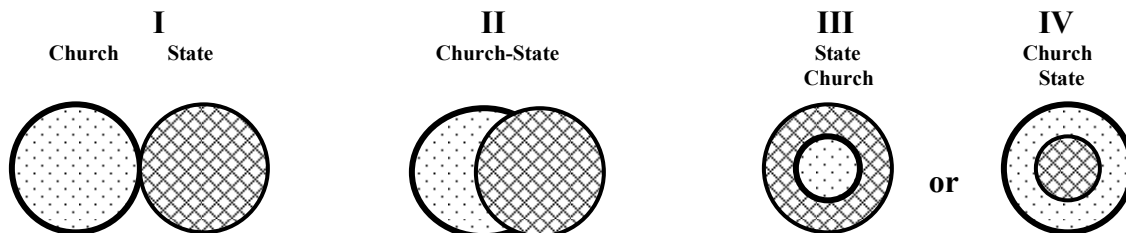
What can a Christian do if he or she is not being treated fairly or being asked to do something that is not right by those who have been placed over them?

- 351) Exodus 1:15-20 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, “When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.
- 352) Acts 5:28-29 “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!
- 353) 1 Samuel 26:7-9 So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. Abishai said to David, “Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won’t strike him twice.” But David said to Abishai, “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless?”

When a Christian is told to do something that is against God’s Word he or she is to passively not do what is commanded within the confines of the law. Do not try to take the law into your own hands, but trust God to either work through the powers that be or to vindicate you in some way in his own time and place.

Different Diagrams

So we are members of TWO kingdoms, the kingdom of church and state. Many Christians debate over how they both interact with one another.



Group one draws two circles side by side. The realms are either entirely separate or touching one another but not crossing. The simple idea of church-state separation is reinforced by that design. But the paradigm had its own difficulties because humans don't live exclusively in one sphere to the exclusion of the other. Therefore, the second paradigm shows the two circles intersecting. When asked to explain, the second group interprets the area of intersection as the place in between, where Christians move when they act in state

affairs. But the impression is left that Christians lead distinct double lives, moving back and forth from church to state along a narrow line of demarcation.

The third form puts the church as a small circle within the larger sphere of the state. For the majority this illustration seemed the most satisfying. Here the Christian was "in the world," but not "of the world." He had access to the state and could influence it. But the one-sided impression remains that the church is a commune isolated within the state. In the fourth the church dominates the state as theoretically happened in feudal times.

Many feel frustrated with the diagrammatic process and suggest a geometric model with three-dimensional form. But the proposal only illustrates the complexity of the problem because Christian church members live 100% in the church and 100% in the state. Perhaps concentric circles of the same dimension are the answer. But God rules in the midst of all. With his left hand he preserves life and order according to his eternal will and purpose. This is his kingdom of power. With his right hand he has redeemed the world and leads his children to eternal life with the care of a true Father. This is his kingdom of grace. (Prof. Arnold Koelpin)

Prayer

All of these duties cannot be done without the help of God. Therefore, God encourages us to pray to Him. What is prayer?

354) Matthew 15:8-9 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

Prayer is an act of worship where we speak to God from the heart.

Why would a holy God listen to us?

355) Ephesians 2:11-18 Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. He . . . has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

356) Ephesians 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

357) 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

358) John 14:6⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Jesus' sacrifice has opened up the heavens to us. Since we are looked at as holy we can now approach God and talk to Him.

359) Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

360) John 9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.

361) Job 35:12-13 He does not answer when men cry out because of the arrogance of the wicked. Indeed, God does not listen to their empty plea; the Almighty pays no attention to it.

God tells us to pray to Him and promises to hear us. God only listens to the prayers of Christians. Therefore prayer is an awesome privilege given only to us.

How should we pray?

362) Matthew 6:5-14 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Consider prayer as a private conversation between you and God.

363) Matthew 6:9-14 “This, then, is how you should pray: ”“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

364) Matthew 6:31-34 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Pray for spiritual things first. Trust that the LORD will take care of all of your physical needs. Use the Lord’s Prayer on a regular basis.

365) 1 Timothy 2:1-4 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Make it a point to pray for your leaders whom God puts in places of authority.

366) Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

367) Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Do not be tentative to pray about anything; but make sure to do so with an attitude of gratitude for all that the Lord has already given you in Christ. Feel free to pray at any time and anywhere to the LORD who promises to be with you and hear your prayer. Your prayers can include praise of God, confessing your sins, thanksgiving, and requests.

So here you have a basic summary of the Lutheran World View as shown us from the Bible. It centers and focuses on Christ, who redeemed us and keeps us in this world as His servants. All we do is focused on what He did for us in Christ and how He will give us eternity in heaven through His blood and righteousness.