

Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Romans 13:5-7.

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work. Titus 3:1.

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 1 Peter 2:13-14.

Husbands

Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Colossians 3:19.

Wives

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord . . . as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:6.

Parents

And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4.

Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3.

Employees

Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. Ephesians 6:5-8.

Employers

And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. Ephesians 6:9.

His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified,
died and was buried.

He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ is
true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary;
and that He is my Lord,
Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature,
purchased and won me from
all sins, from death and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood,
and with His innocent suffering and death;
in order that I might
be His own,
live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness;
even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

2.3 The Third Article

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the Communion of Saints,
the Forgiveness of sins,
the Resurrection of the body,
and the Life everlasting.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord,
or come to Him;
but the Holy Ghost has
called me by the Gospel,
enlightened me with His gifts,
sanctified and kept me in the true faith;
just as He
calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth
and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.
In this Christian Church He daily and richly
forgives me and all believers all our sins;

4 The Sacrament of Baptism

4.1 The Nature of Baptism

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with His Word.

What is that Word and command of God concerning Baptism? Jesus says: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you." Matthew 28, 18–20.

4.2 The Blessings of Baptism

What does Baptism give or profit? Baptism effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says, Mark 16, 16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

4.3 The Power of Baptism

How can water do such great things? It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no baptism; but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says, Titus 3, 5–8: "According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying."

4.4 The Meaning of Baptism

What does such baptizing with water mean? Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes, Romans 6, 4: "We are buried with Christ by baptism into death, that just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

5 The Office of the Keys

5.1 What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is the special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth: to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners, but to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

5.2 Where is this written?

The evangelist writes, John 20, 22–23: "Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'"

5.3 What is Confession?

Confession consists of two parts: one, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the pastor or confessor as from God himself, and in no way doubt, but firmly believe that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

5.4 What sins should we confess?

Before God we should acknowledge ourselves guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know about, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the pastor or confessor we should acknowledge those sins only which we know and feel in our hearts.

5.5 Which are these?

Here consider your own situation according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee; whether you have been disobedient, dishonest, lazy; whether you have injured anyone by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, wasted anything, or done any harm.

6 The Sacrament of the Altar

6.1 The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written? The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'"

10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force, or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Conclusion:

I the Lord your God am a jealous God,
visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children
to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,
and showing mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments.
Therefore we should fear his wrath
and do nothing against these commandments.
But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments.
Therefore we should also love and trust in Him
and faithfully do according to His commandments.

2 The Apostles' Creed

2.1 The First Article

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my
body and soul, eyes, ears
and all my members,
my reason and all my senses,
and still preserves them;
that He richly and daily provides me with
food and clothing,
home and family,
property and goods,
and all that I need to support this body and life;
that He protects me from all danger,
guards and keeps me from all evil;
and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me;
for all which I am in duty bound
to thank and praise,
to serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.

2.2 The Second Article

And in Jesus Christ,

The Young

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:5–6.

All Christians

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. . . . I exhort . . . that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 2:1.

Christian Questions with their Answers

*Drawn up by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament of the Altar
After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Supper, the pastor may ask, or one may ask himself:*

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?*
Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.
2. *How do you know this?*
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. *Are you also sorry for your sins?*
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. *What have you deserved from God by your sins?*
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death and eternal damnation. Romans 6:21 and 23.
5. *Do you also hope to be saved?*
Yes, such is my hope.
6. *In whom, then, do you trust?*
In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
7. *Who is Christ?*
The Son of God, true God and man.
8. *How many Gods are there?*
Only one; but there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
9. *What, then, has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.
10. *Did the Father also die for you?*
He did not; for the Father is God only, the Holy Ghost likewise; but the Son is true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.
11. *How do you know this?*
From the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.
12. *How do those words read?*
"Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying,