

Large Catechism Lesson 8

Part 1: The Fourth Commandment pt. 2

Opening Discussion: Length of the 4th Commandment

- 1) Why would the 4th commandment require such an extensive discussion for Luther?
- 2) Why should the 4th commandment require a similar (if not further) extensive discussion in our lives?

4th Commandment continued

¶141-142

Who has given parents their authority?

All other authority flows and is born from whom?

What other authorities, then, are entailed under the 4th Commandment?

Luther uses a wider sense of the word 'father'. Under this sense, who are our other fathers?

¶143-144

What would be today's version of the master and servant relationship?

- How should that relationship function?
- What does the master owe his servant?
- The servant his master?

¶145-149

What point is Luther making with his example of a servant girl?

Excursus: Vocation

What is vocation?

- What is another word for vocation?
- What comes to mind in a discussion about vocation?
- As creatures, what is our end goal: to escape the creation or to live in it?

What are examples of holy vocations?

- How is there spiritual significance to the ordinary?

"God does not tell us to love humanity in the abstract, but to love our neighbor: the actual, tangible human being whom He calls into our lives" (Veith, The Spirituality of the Cross, 98).

"Good works and vocation (love) exist for the earth and one's neighbor, not for eternity and God. God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does" (Wingren, Luther on Vocation, 10).

"The doctrine of vocation helps sort out and gives dignity and significance to each of the roles we are asked to play" (Veith, The Spirituality of the Cross, 104).

How is the government included under 4th Commandment?

What makes this aspect of the 4th Commandment challenging?

Read Romans 13:1-7 & 1 Peter 2:13-17

-What do these verses teach us about the governing authorities?

Excursus: The Two Realms

Christians understand that following Christ and living in the world are not easily held in lockstep.

-Discussing the interface between church and state is always a hot-button issue.

-But do not limit this discussion to just church and state!

“Kingdom” Vocabulary

-What are different ways we use the word “kingdom” within the Christian faith?

Luther’s “two kingdoms doctrine”

-“Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed” (1523)

-Commentary on Psalm 82

<u>God's Rule of Creation</u>		
_____ Hand	<p>_____ are here. (Always standing in both realities)</p> <p>_____ are God's Realms. _____ are his activity. _____ are important. _____ realms exist/cooperate with each other.</p> <p>The distinction is _____.</p> <p>At the _____, the 2 Realms will be united into the one kingdom of Christ.</p>	_____ Hand
_____ Realm		_____ Realm
Coram _____		Coram _____
The _____ is central.		The _____ is central.
Uses the _____		Uses the _____
_____ Servants		Servants of the _____
Aim/goal: _____		Aim/goal: _____
Works toward _____ (in progress)		_____ now before God
Right function of the _____		Restoration of the _____

Axioms to maintain:

- 1) Distinction without divorce
- 2) Cooperation without confusion

Potential dangers:

1) Wall between the realms (e.g. ‘Separation of Church & State’, quietism, cultural conservatism)

2) Confusing the two realms (e.g. ‘Christian America’, popes with armies, Constantinianism)

Discussion Questions on the Two Realms

- 1) Where is vocation done – the left or the right hand?
 - Family life?
 - The State?
 - Ministries of the church?
 - Marriage?

- 2) Which realm has Satan invaded?
 - What are some of his tactics?

- 3) Why can Christians occupy offices like a prince, a soldier, or an executioner and not sin?

- 4) When government wields the sword why is it not 'un-Christian'?

- 5) Some will use the 2 Realms to criticize Lutherans in the 1930s for the rise of the 3rd Reich.
 - How does the two realms actually work against this criticism?

- 6) What if we do we want rebel/have a revolution against the authorities?

- 7) What is your place/station? Your obligation?
 - To whom do I owe honor?
 - Over whom do you have authority?