

## Large Catechism Lesson 9

### Part 1: The Fourth Commandment pt. 3

*“The church is the pioneer in displaying the implications of God’s kingdom of peace brought in Jesus Christ. She does so by a relentless questioning of every aspect of her life as we learn slowly what it means to be a people of peace in every aspect of our existence” (Stanley Hauerwas, The Peaceable Kingdom, 132).*

#### **Opening Discussion: Just War Theory**

Augustine (354-430 AD) | Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 AD)

Ensures that war is morally justifiable through series of criteria.

#### 2 Major Emphases

##### i) Law to War (*ius ad bellum*)

- 1) Defensive (Self-defense)
  - Intended to keep people safe
  - Not for acquisition nor retribution
- 2) Intention is peace
  - The goal is to bring back peace.
- 3) Proportionate to the End Sought
  - Is the price paid worth the end sought?
- 4) Last resort
  - All diplomatic avenues are exhausted
- 5) Reasonable expectation of success (cf. Luke 14:31-32)

##### ii) Law in War (*ius in bella*)

- 1) Proportionality
  - Employ the appropriate amount/type of force needed to achieve ends
  - Don’t overdo it.
- 2) Discrimination
  - No civilians attacked (‘noncombatants’)

#### Questions

- To whom does warfare belong?
- How does Bonhoeffer fit in here?
- Is Just War Theory ‘biblical’? Why?
- Is Just War Theory definitive or helpful? Why?
- How do the 2 realms shape our understanding of war?
- Can Christians serve as soldiers (without detriment to their salvation)? Why/why not?
- Has the United States engaged in a ‘just war’?
- In the left-hand realm, what is always the role of vocation?
- What is Quietism? Is it permitted with the 2 realms distinction?

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-Spiritual fathers

-Why do we have pastors?

- 'Absolution man'

-The receptive life of the Christian

-What is the relationship between the pastoral office and the priesthood of all believers?

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-How do offerings during worship services fit within the Two Realms?

-What is the connection between the Lord's Prayer 4<sup>th</sup> petition and the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment?

-*Larva Dei* (Masks of God)

¶167-178

-Head & Helper relationship

-To whom are heads in submission?

-Do children exist for the sake of parents or do parents exist for the sake of children? Why?

-The Naked Public Square

*"The truly naked public square is at best a transitional phenomenon. It is a vacuum begging to be filled. When the democratically affirmed institutions that generate and transmit values are excluded, the vacuum will be filled by the agent left in control of the public square, the state. In this manner, a perverse notion of the disestablishment of religion leads to the establishment of the state as church. Not without reason, religion is viewed by some as a repressive imposition upon the public square. They would cast out the devil of particularist religion and thus put the public square in proper secular order. Having cast out the one devil, they unavoidably invite the entrance of seven devils worse than the first" (Neuhaus, 86).*

*"And whatever the intention, because the naked square cannot remain naked, the direction is toward the state-as-church, toward totalitarianism" (Neuhaus, 89).*

### **Closing Discussion: Proverbs 22:6**

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

How does this Proverb connect to the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment?

How is the proverb true and untrue?

What are this proverb and the Large Catechism saying and not saying?