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LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

CTCR



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## **Bible Study guide accompanying CTCR document: “A Lutheran Response”**

1. What are some of the new challenges brought on by COVID-19 for all Canadians? For Churches? For individual Christians? Which have had the greatest impact on you?

### **Regarding the ordering of priorities for Christians**

2. Carefully read Matthew 22:36-40.

- What does Jesus say is the greatest of the commandments (and the second greatest)?
- What do these have to do with us in these days?
- What does 1 Peter 2:17 add about God’s goals for Christians?

### **Regarding the Luther’s Estates: Church, State, and Home/Family**

3. Review Luther’s Small Catechism portion called the Table of Duties. Note that therein, Luther talks about three estates: the Church, the State, and the Home (with the workplace as an extension of the society). Each estate is a unique vocation (calling) with distinct roles and responsibilities for leaders and members.

- What do you see as the key interplay within each estate?
- What do you see with the interacting relationships with and among each other.
- How do you see these estates functioning in these COVID-19 times?

### **Regarding the Family**

4. What does the Bible say about His design for marriage in these passages?

- Genesis 2:18-25
- Matthew 19:1-12
- Ephesians 5:21-33

5. What does the Bible say about the role of parents and children?

- Genesis 1:26-28
- Ephesians 6:1-4
- Matthew 12:46-50
- John 13:34-35

### **Regarding the Two Realms of Church and State**

6. Although not addressed specifically here (these deal more with Christian duties within each realm), Luther observed the conflict between Pope and Emperor over who had ultimate authority, and he specifically describes the tensions created by overlapping responsibilities, most notably between the two realms of Church and State.

7. Review Luther's Small Catechism on the Fourth Commandment. What does it say about civil authority? In relation to God's authority?

8. What do these passages say about the realm of civil government and a Christian's duty?

- Romans 13:1-7
- Matthew 22:15-22
- 1 Timothy 2:1-2

9. Because the discussion connects with the role of the Church, what do these passages say about the role of Christian leaders ...

- John 21:15-17
- Acts 20:18-21, 26-35
- Matthew 20:25-28

... and members in Christ's Church?

- John 13:35
- Acts 4:16-18
- Hebrews 13:1-9, 17

10. What does this passage say that addresses both the civil and the spiritual realms?

- 1 Timothy 2:1-8

11. If there is a tension, what does this passage say about who holds the higher authority?

- Acts 5:29

### Application discussion:

- **Under what circumstances might a Christian or a congregation choose to show civil disobedience for matters of conscience? What are the limits or exclusions? What must a Christian or a congregation be willing to accept as a consequence for civil disobedience?**

12. In what ways is obedience to God the same—and different from—obedience to the Church? In what ways might it be different? Why does this matter?

### Application discussion:

- **What does God's Word say to guide believers if the state suspends the right of the church to meet for public worship?**
- **What does God's Word say to guide the Church's action if the state restricts or regulates things like worship attendance, forbidding singing, or placing limits on communion distribution?**
- **Do the circumstances change under a pandemic (note all of these passages, but especially Romans 13:1-7 and Acts 5:29)**
- **To what degree might the fifth commandment apply to Christian care for neighbour in times of pandemic?**

### Regarding Two Kinds of Righteousness

13. The first kind of righteousness is that God considers someone righteous on the basis of faith.

- Genesis 15:6
- Romans 4
- Hebrews 11:1-12:3

14. The second kind of righteousness is the way God desires a believer to act and live in faith because the person is a child of God.

- Ephesians 4:17-5:21
- Galatians 5:22-24
- 1 John 4:7-5:5

### **Regarding Christian Freedom**

15. Christian freedom is always held in tension with Christian responsibilities. What do each of these passages say about Christian freedom? What do these passages say about each Christian exercising freedom in any culture?

- John 8:31-38
- Galatians 5:1, 13-26
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (in the context of 1 Corinthians 8-9)

### **Regarding the Sanctity of Human Life**

16. What does the Bible say about the origin of human life?

- Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2
- Psalm 139:13-16

17. Review Luther's Small Catechism on the First Article as well as the Fifth Commandment. What does it say about the sanctity of human life.

18. Who holds each person in the palm of His hand?

- Psalm 31:15
- Acts 17:28
- Psalm 71:18

19. Who alone has the right to end life?

- 1 Samuel 2:6
- Deuteronomy 32:39
- Job 1:21

## Application discussion:

- **What does the Bible suggest as a way to guide a Christian who might desire an early end to life, or for anyone in conversation who is considering a MAID choice?**

### Regarding Human Sexuality

20. Review Luther's Small Catechism on the Sixth Commandment. What does it say about sexual identity?

21. What does the Bible say about sexual identity and autonomy?

- Genesis 1:26-27
- Genesis 2:18-25
- Genesis 5:1-2
- Romans 1:21-32
- Deuteronomy 22:5

## Application discussion:

- **What do these passages suggest about the argument that there may be more than the original perfect creation of two genders: male and female?**
- **What do these passages suggest about the concept that humans should be able to choose and manipulate their gender identity?**

22. What does the Bible say about the importance of parenting in raising their children?

- Proverbs 22:6
- Luke 2:51-52
- Ephesians 6:1-4

## Application discussion:

- How might these passages (as well as those in the discussion of family) guide a Christian parent to Biblically respond to a child who struggles with gender identity and expresses a wish for a sex change or to identify as a different gender?
- How might the Church assist and support parents in this scenario?

### Regarding the Theology of the Cross

23. How do the following passages from Scripture articulate the "Theology of the Cross?"

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- Galatians 6:14
- Philippians 3:4-16
- Romans 5:3-5

24. How does a theology of the cross help guide a Christian in living his or her life and bring hope and encouragement to those struggling with sexual temptation, identity or dysphoria?

### Regarding Original sin, Temptation, and Actual Sin

25. What does the Bible say about the difference between original sin and actual sin?

- Genesis 8:21
- Romans 8:7
- Matthew 15:19
- James 1:15
- Matthew 7:17
- Galatians 5:19

26. What does the Bible say about temptation and sin?

- Matthew 4:1-11
- Hebrews 4:14-16
- 2 Timothy 2:22-24

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 1 Peter 5:8

27. What does the Bible say about those who are sinners?

- Romans 1:16
- Romans 10:4
- Colossians 1:13-14

28. What is the role of the Child of God, personally, in His Church, and within society in these days?