

LESSON 13

CHAPTER 24. “Of the Civil Magistrate”

Extreme Positions:

Erastianism: The state has complete authority over the church

Papism: The church has authority over the state.

Christian Theonomy- Civil government subordinate to the moral law.

I. Paragraph 1: Civil law is ordained by God

- A. The Lord is the supreme magistrate: King of kings and Lord of lords.
- B. He has ordained civil law, civil magistrates and civil law enforcement.
- C. The civil law is for the protection and comfort of the good.
- D. Civil magistrates are empowered by God to use force, even deadly force.

II. Paragraph 2: Christians as civil servants

- A. Christians may hold office in civil government and law enforcement
- B. Waging war is justified in the new covenant.

III. Paragraph 3: Christian response to civil government

- A. Submission to civil government for:
 - 1. God has ordained its existence
 - 2. Wrath's sake (i.e., fear of punishment)
 - 3. Conscience sake (submission to God's will)
- B. Pray for our civil government and its leaders

Discussion Questions:

In what ways should the church be separate from the state?

Is civil disobedience a sin?

In what ways are the civil law and moral law different?