

The Augsburg Confession of 1530

Article XVI: Civil Government

✦ Our churches
teach that
lawful civil
regulations are
good works of
God.



Roman: Justitia / Greek: Themis / Egyptian: Maat/Isis

Matt. 22:21, Mark 12:17, Luke 20:25

+ **Mark 12:17** “Then Jesus said to them, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.” And they were amazed at Him.”

❖ 2 They teach that it is right for Christians to hold political office, to serve as judges, to judge matters by imperial laws and other existing laws, to impose just punishments, to engage in just wars, to serve as soldiers, to make legal contracts, to hold property, to take oaths when required by the magistrates, for a man to marry a wife, or a woman to be given in marriage [Romans 13; 1 Corinthians 7:2].



It is more to the honor of a Christian soldier, by faith to overcome the world, than by a monastical vow to retreat from it; and more for the honor of Christ, to serve Him in a city than to serve Him in a cell.


(Matthew Henry)

Romans 13:1

† Romans 13:1 “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.”

1 Corinthians 7:2

+ 1 Corinthians 7:2 “But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.”




❖ 3 Our churches condemn the Anabaptists who forbid these political offices to Christians.

❖ 4 They also condemn those who do not locate evangelical perfection in the fear of God and in faith, but place it in forsaking political offices. 5 For the Gospel teaches an eternal righteousness of the heart (Romans 10:10). At the same time, it does not require the destruction of the civil state or the family.

Romans 10:10

+ **Romans 10:10** “For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”



❖ The Gospel very much requires that they be preserved as God's ordinances and that love be practiced in such ordinances.

✚ 1 Corinthians 14:40 “Let all things be done decently and in order.”

✚ Colossians 2:5 “Though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”

❖ 6 Therefore, it is necessary for Christians to be obedient to their rulers and laws. 7 The only exception is when they are commanded to sin. Then they ought to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29).

Acts 5:29

✚ **Acts 5:29** “Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!”