

Women's Thursday Bible Class - Larger Catechism -2021

#1 Lesson

Introductory thoughts – overall

exhortations – I Cor. 16:13-14, Jude 3 - "The faith"

Be courageous in the truth

Do everything in love

*value of just reading the Scriptures regularly - layers and connections

Procedure we will follow: You have copy of LC with Scriptures to substantiate the wording of LC. We will choose some to read in class. **PLEASE** look these up on your own if you need more.

The Westminster Larger Catechism inculcates a remarkable system of Christian **doctrine** (belief)and **ethics** (behavior).

Now, in preparation for understanding precise wording of the WLC,beginning with #122.

God is the only one with _____authority.

All other authority is _____.

All are under some authority, which is reflected in the societal structures, stations, roles, circumstances .

Authority comes with parameters. God sets lawful authority with responsibilities.

Q. and A.122 Matthew passages by Jesus as a summary of our duty to our fellow man, that are the sum of the Law and Prophets, and Golden Rule - Mat. 22:39, 7:12

First Table – Commandments 1-4 - Duty to love GOD

Second Table – 5-10 Duty to fellow man (neighbor)

Q.& A. 123 - fifth commandment – a connecting link between

Q. & A.124- look at obvious primary meaning of terms, but catechism indicates that Bible has a much wider scope

- natural parents
- term " by God's ordinance"
- 3 divine institutions – home. church, state

Q. & A. 125 -

What truth concerning positions of authority in human society is taught by this catechism question?

What obligations rests upon persons in positions of authority?

What obligations rest upon persons who are under authority of others?

What is meant by " according to their several relations"?

Give examples – list on back

Q.& A.126 - general scope of 5 th, "mutually owe" (meaning reciprocal)

Service – a call to spend and be spent

Terms " superiors, inferiors, and equals" beg defining

So what 3 kinds of relationship are possible between persons with respect to the degree of their authority? There is a distinction in role, status, function...

What we are NOT talking about: equal in nature, equal before the law, equal in Christ

Why could these terms be offensive to the Western 'egalitarian ' culture?

How has a misunderstanding about the distinction between various relations, roles lead to much confusion about " equality"? (mantra of our culture)

What happens when you eliminate the authority structures that God has put into place?

Discussion perhaps here on the breakdown of authority in society, at all levels, and the presence of tyranny

Q. &A. 127-132 explain this IN DETAIL.

Q. & A.127 -honor which inferiors owe superiors – What is to be attitude? Actions?

Proper respect, pray for and give thanks, imitate

Obedience to lawful commands

What is to be our response to their faults and failings?

*Important to understand the concept of our authority being God's ministers on our behalf

Q. & A.128 - sins of inferiors

Neglect of duty, envying, contempt, making them the butt of ridicule ,

Distinction between **lawful and unlawful authority** must be kept in mind

Next week: we will cover Q. & A.129-133.