

1 2018 Synod ... Report of the Special Committee on Christ's Mediatorial Kingship

2 This Report is to update the Synod of our progress. Your Committee was appointed by the 2014 Synod at
3 the request of the *Understanding the Times Committee* to (1) consider the Biblical basis of the doctrine of
4 the Mediatorial Kingship of Christ, and (2) present principles for application in today's RPCNA context.

5 Since last Synod we met in October 2017 and multiple times via video conferencing. We have researched
6 the development of the doctrine of Christ's Kingship over the last 460 years from multiple sources
7 (i.e. Synod minutes, theological works, conf. lectures) producing an 80-page draft for internal purposes.
8 Our next focus is to outline areas of application for this doctrine in light of our 21st century Western
9 context. It may seem that we have moved too slowly, but we have not asked *yet* for the ten years that it
10 took for the Committee on Worship to thoughtfully and carefully produce something for the church.

11 For the benefit of those delegates who were not present at last year's Synod, here is our collation of our
12 Standard's statements on the Biblical duties and qualifications of the Civil Magistrate.

13 **Regarding Scriptural Duties of the Civil Government**

14 Our standards teach that "*God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world [has]*
15 *ordained civil magistrates, to be, under Him, over the people, for His own glory, and the*
16 *public good.*"¹ For this reason, He has "*armed them with the power of the sword, for the*
17 *defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evildoers.*"²
18 In addition, He "*has given the exercise of all authority to the Lord Jesus Christ*" as the
19 God-man mediator.³

20 Every civil government "*should restrain and punish its subjects for those sinful actions*
21 *which fall under its jurisdiction,*"⁴ "*in accordance with the will of God*"⁵ and "*the*
22 *authority and law of Christ,*"⁶ which is declared in "*the moral law*"⁷ and "*summarily*
23 *comprehended in the Ten Commandments.*"⁸

24 In accordance with the Ten Commandments, civil magistrates are to "*maintain piety,*
25 *justice, and peace,*"⁹ "*to wage war in defense of life, liberty, and religion,*"¹⁰ to
26 "*guarantee to all [their] subjects every human right given by God to men,*"¹¹ and to
27 ensure that "*individual liberty is regulated by the principles found in Scripture.*"¹²

28 Civil governments "*should enter into covenant with Christ and serve to advance His*
29 *Kingdom on earth*"¹³ and are "*responsible for maintaining conditions favorable to the*
30 *spread of the gospel.*"¹⁴ This includes opposing all false worship, "*according to each*
31 *one's place and calling, removing it and all monuments of idolatry,*"¹⁵ such that Christ's
32 true visible church is "*countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrates.*"¹⁶

33 Moreover, "*the governments of church and state differ in sphere of authority*"
34 and neither "*has the right to invade or assume the authority of the other.*"¹⁷

35 Civil government, notwithstanding its duty to enforce God's moral law, "*should*
36 *never attempt to convert men to Christ by the use of force or by persecution.*"¹⁸

37 Our Testimony seeks to protect against these and other abuses of civil authority
38 by rejecting certain portions of the original Westminster Confession of Faith
39 (23.3, 31.2). Nevertheless, both church and state "*should cooperate to the honor and*
40 *glory of God, while maintaining their separate jurisdictions.*"¹⁹

1 WCF 23.1
2 WCF 23.1
3 RPT 23.2
4 RPT 23.20
5 RPT 23.24
6 RPT 23.6
7 WLC 93
8 WLC 98
9 WCF 23.2
10 RPT 23.12
11 RPT 23.20
12 RPT 20.5;
Cf. WCF 20.4
13 RPT 23.2
14 RPT 23.20
15 WLC 108
16 WLC 191
17 RPT 23.19;
Cf. 20.6;
23.20; WCF
23.3
18 RPT 23.20;
Cf. WCF 23.3
19 RPT 23.19;
Cf. 23.22;
31.6; WCF
31.5

1 **Regarding Scriptural Qualifications for Voteworthy Civil Officers**

2 Our standards teach that “*all officers and employees of a civil government are to be*
3 *servants of God for good*”²⁰ who look to Jesus Christ as “*the Divine Lawgiver,*
4 *Governor, and Judge.*”²¹

20 RPT 23.11

21 RPT 23.2

22 RPT 23.4

23 RPT 23.2

24 RPT 23.29

25 RPT 23.15

26 RPT 23.29

27 RPT 23.15

28 RPT 23.17

29 RPT 23.16

30 RPT 23.26

31 RPT 23.16

5 Every nation that rejects “*the Divine institution of civil government, the sovereignty of*
6 *God exercised by Jesus Christ,*” its duty to obey “*the will of God*”, and its
7 responsibility to “*enter into covenant with Christ and serve to advance His Kingdom*
8 *on earth*” is in great danger. Such sinful “*negligence ... makes the nation liable to the*
9 *wrath of God, and threatens the continued existence of the government and nation.*”²²
10 Hence, every civil officer who will not openly “*kiss the Son*” in worshipful submission
11 to King Jesus is a threat to national security.

12 While it is true that “*the Holy Spirit enables even unregenerate rulers to fulfill their*
13 *proper functions,*” yet “*a true recognition of the authority & law of Christ in national life*
14 *can only be the fruit of the Spirit’s regenerating power in the lives of individuals.*”²³

15 Therefore, “*when participating in political elections, the Christian should support and vote only for*
16 *such men as are publicly committed to scriptural principles of civil government*”²⁴ and who give
17 credible evidence that they genuinely “*fear God, love truth and justice, [and] hate evil*” as defined by
18 God’s Word.²⁵ A Christian pursuing civil office “*must openly inform those whose support he seeks*
19 *of his adherence to Christian principles of civil government.*”²⁶

20 The Christian may only vote “*when such action involves no disloyalty to Christ*”²⁷ and “*must*
21 *relinquish every right or privilege of citizenship which involves him in silence about, or denial of the*
22 *supreme authority of Jesus Christ.*”²⁸ He must never “*take an oath which compromises his supreme*
23 *allegiance to Jesus Christ*”²⁹ by implying his “*acceptance of unchristian principles stated or implied*
24 *in the constitution of government*” or his “*support of anti-Christian, atheistic, or secular principles.*”³⁰
25 Nor may he “*vote for officials who are required to take an oath which [he] himself could not take in*
26 *good conscience,*” since “*voting involves the voter in responsibility for any act required of the*
27 *official as a condition of holding his office.*”³¹

28 Your Committee met this past year without Revs Gamble & Edgar due to their individual resignations.
29 Our sole recommendation is that the Committee be continued.

30 **Recommendations:**

- 31 1. That the Committee be continued.

32 Respectfully submitted ~ Shawn Anderson, Bruce Backensto (Chm.), Adam Kuehner, Scott Wilkinson