

What is a Lutheran?
Part X - the Table of Duties

Let's talk about it:

- 1) What comes to mind when you hear the word "duty"?
- 2) What's the difference between a duty and an obligation?
- 3) Why have "marital duties" become such an incendiary topic of late?

Part X - Section 3 of the Small Catechism

A) The duties of pastors, bishops, and overseers (I Tim. 3:2-4)

- 1) What are the chief duties of pastors according to their office
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- 2) What other "duties" are often delegated / assigned to pastors?

- 3) How are these duties and expectations made known?
- do pastors get a "job description" when taking a call?

B) What parishioners owe their pastor (I Tim 5:17-18, Gal, 6:6-7, et al)

- 1) What are some of the duties of being a member of a congregation?
- 2) What is meant by the "culture" of a congregation?
- 3) What causes PCW (professional church worker) burnout?

C) The role and responsibilities of earthly governments (Rom. 13:1-4)

- 1) Explain the concept of "Divine Right" based on Romans 13
- 2) Why do governments exist?
- 3) What is one to do when the civil authorities neglect their duties?

D) The duties of citizens (Romans 13:5-7)

- 1) Should I pray for leaders who belong to the opposite party?
- 2) Why should we *willingly* pay taxes?
- 3) What are some other "duties" often laid on citizens?

E) Your husbandly duty (I Peter 3:7, Ephesians 5:25-31)

- 1) What does Peter mean by "the weaker partner"?
- 2) How are husbands to be a Christ to their wives?
- 3) What does it mean to "be a man"? (is all masculinity "toxic")

- F) Your wifely duty** (Eph. 5:22-24, I Cor. 7:1-7, Proverbs 31:10-31)
- 1) What does it mean to “submit” to another?
 - 2) Why is it not a duty for the wife to love her husband?
 - 3) What is a woman?
- G) Parental duties** (Eph. 6:4, Luke 11:11-13)
- 1) How do parents “exasperate” their children?
 - 2) What is to be the chief duty of parents?
 - 3) What other “duties” have been placed on parents by the culture?
- H) “Be a good boy, and...”** (Eph. 6:1-3, Exodus 20:12, I Tim. 5:1-4)
- 1) What do children “owe” their parents?
 - 2) At what age / milestone does # 1 no longer apply?
 - 3) How have children’s roles changed since Paul’s / Luther’s time?
- I) To widows - widowers, divorcees, older singles,** (I Peter 5:5-6, Ruth)
- 1) What is the Church to do for those “suddenly single”?
 - 2) What is the duty of those who find themselves solo?
 - 3) How do we keep to the principles of these duties given the changed world we find ourselves in in 2024?
- J) To youth / young adults** (I Peter 5:5-6, I Tim 4:11-14, 5:1-2)
- 1) What does it mean to “respect your elders”?
 - 2) Why is youth (or the appearance of youth) so highly prized?
 - 3) What duties do the young and single have due to their “vocation”?
- K) To workers** (Eph. 6:5-8, Matthew 20:1-16, Col. 3:22-25)
- 1) What is the chief duty of an employee?
 - 2) How does the concept of “covenant” come into play in this vocation?
 - 3) How does this duty fit in with the 7th Commandment?
- L) Employers / supervisors** (Col. 4:1, Eph. 6:9, Matthew 20:1-16)
- 1) What is a “minimum” wage?
 - 2) Does one’s faith have anything to do with how one runs a business?
 - 3) What is the definition of “success”?

M) **To everyone** (Rom. 13:9, Dt. 6:5, Col. 3:17, I Cor. 10:31)

1) How does all duty ultimately come back to love?

2) As Christians, what is our chief duty (prime directive)?

3) Does “doing our duty” depend on another person’s response?

4) Does “doing our duty” get us anything from God (Luke 17:10)

*Let each his lesson learn with care
And all the household well shall fare.*

- Dr. Luther