

The Lutheran Day School
and the Three Estates: Family, Church, and State
Part 3 of 3

Question: *Since the church is the assembly of all believers in Christ among whom the Gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered, and to obtain faith in Christ God instituted the ministry of the Gospel and Sacraments through which the Holy Spirit creates faith in Christ, by what rationale according to God's Word would a Lutheran congregation run a day school?*

THE GREAT COMMISSION—Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.

¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

- Jesus received all authority from the Father in heaven and on earth because of His death and resurrection whereby He redeemed all of creation.
- Jesus redeemed marriage and family and reconstituted humanity to reflect His image in procreation and in the benevolent dominion over the creation.
- The estates of the Family and the State are implicit in procreation and dominion.
- The Church acts by the authority of Christ to "make disciples" of all nations (ethnic groups) by teaching everything that Jesus commanded: repentance, faith, the forgiveness of sins, the goodness of creation, marriage, and family, the role of government, the order implicit in the Ten Commandments, Christian prayer for all people, the service of love in Christian vocation, the Church as the congregation of all believers in Christ, the Sacraments, the hope of the resurrection and the life of the world to come.
- Disciples of Jesus are made by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to observe [cling to, believe, follow, and live by] all that Jesus has commanded [spoken by His authoritative Word].
- The Church, therefore, comes to the aid of the Family and State chiefly by her teaching all things that Jesus commanded, and then by her acts of mercy to support the family and the state when there has been a breakdown in the capacity of those estates to fulfill their calling under God.
- Jesus promises to be with us wherever His Word and Sacraments are faithfully taught, administered, and lived by.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST MOTIVATES CHRISTIANS IN THE THREE ESTATES—Ephesians 5 and 6

5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For ^[a]this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.

Walk in Light

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the ^[b]Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather ^[c]expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are ^[d]exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴ Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.”

Walk in Wisdom

¹⁵ See then that you walk ^[e]circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of ^[f]God.

Marriage—Christ and the Church

²² **Wives**, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ **Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might ^[g]sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, ^[h]of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

Children and Parents

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Bondservants and Masters

⁵ **Bondservants**, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that ^[i]your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

PEACE LUTHERAN ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT:

*Peace Lutheran Academy partners with parents in Christian education
for a life of faith in Christ and service to others.*