

Augsburg Confession

Fall 2025

Week 8 – Article XXIII, – “The Marriage of Priest”

Article XXVII, “Monastic Vows”

Review

- ❖ Eph. 4:11 – *Christ instituted the Office of the Holy Ministry. This passage is all one Office of the Holy Ministry with a diversity of callings*
- ❖ *Two words are used in I Cor 4:1 to describe the pastor: Entrusted servant.*
- ❖ We reviewed the qualifications for a Pastor in I Tim 3:1-7
- ❖ The Church seeks God's will in the calling of pastor, which is not based on the pastor's marital status or economic impact on the congregation but on the needs and welfare of the Gospel, for receiving God's Word and Sacraments.

Marriage

Review Augsburg Confession Article XXIII (Pg. 23) “The Marriage of Priest:

- ❖ Key Points of Article

Question 1 - *Genesis 1:26-28 describes how Man and Woman were created in His own image. What does God say about Marriage in general?*

Question 2 - *What does God say about marriage in general according to the following scriptural texts?*

Genesis 2:18-25 -

Mark 10:6-9 -

Ephesians 5:22-23 -

Hebrews 13:1-8 -

Question 3 - *"Four hundred years ago in Germany, for the first time, priests were violently forced to lead a single life." After the Medieval Church imposed the order that priests should not marry, what problem arose in the church?*

Question 4 - *Does God forbid pastors to be married (1 Timothy 3:2)? Is it wrong for a pastor to remain single?*

Scenario 1

At the last elders' meeting, one of the elders commented that the church bylaws make the elders responsible to care for the pastor's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. This elder then asked Pastor Andrews how he was doing. The elders got more than they expected. Pastor Andrews stated that he was really struggling with balancing ministry and family. Pastor Andrews and his wife had three young children. His wife sits alone with the children in church, trying to keep them quiet, while those around look annoyed. His children are in sports and music, and Pastor Andrews said he misses half their events due to meetings and pastoral visits. Pastor Andrews told the elders that his wife was struggling with being home alone most nights taking care of the children while Bible classes, meetings, and pastoral situations kept him away. One of the elders blurted out, "Well, maybe that's why priests don't get married."

Question 5 - *How might this conversation continue in a positive light?*

Monastic Vows

Article XXVII (Page 34), "Monastic Vows."

Fill in the Blanks (Numbers represent sentence numbers)

They [Rome] taught that monastic vows were equal to _____ (11). They taught that a monastic life merited _____ of sins and _____ before God (11-12).

They claim that monasticism is a lifestyle instituted to merit _____ and _____ (16).

They even preach that it is a state of _____ (16)!

Question 6 - *What does the Bible say about being saved through works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:20)?*

Vocation

Fill in the Blanks (Numbers represent sentence numbers)

They put monasticism far above all other kinds of life _____ by God (17).

It means to ask for and expect from God His help in all things with confident assurance that we are to live according to our _____ in life, being diligent in outward good works, serving in our _____ (49-50)

Question 7 - *How do these passages describe Christians within their holy orders, or vocation?*

1 Corinthians 6:11 –

1 Peter 2:9 -

2 Corinthians 5:17 -

Galatians 5:22-23 -

Ephesians 2:10 -

Galatians 5:13 -

Question 8 - *Which vocation would you say is more holy?*

Being a monk or being a faithful husband?

Being a nun or changing your baby's diaper?

Serving on the altar guild or being an obedient child.?

Being a church council member or helping out at the nursing home?

Being a pastor or being a mechanic?

Light in the World

Fill in the Blanks (Numbers represent sentence numbers)

There are on record examples of men who _____ themselves in monasteries because they wanted to forsake marriage and participation in _____ (56-57). They called this _____ from the world (57).

Question 9 - *Even though Christians are not a part of this world, they do live in this world (Romans 12:2; John 15:19). We do not hide from society, nor do we flee from the world. What is the Christian's role in the world?*

Matthew 5:13-16 -

Philippians 2:12-18 -

John 13:35 -

Scenario

Michael and his father, Dale, are on a fishing trip. Being out on the boat is so peaceful. The air is warm, the eagles are flying high above, and the evergreens surround the lake like a fence protecting them from the worries and troubles of the world. Michael and his dad talked about much of the unrest in the world: war, racial violence, Christian persecution. Then Michael said, "I think I'll just be a hermit. I'm just going to stay here and live off the land-away from everyone and everything. Life would be so much better if I could escape it all."

Question 10 - *As a Christian parent, how might Dale respond to his son?*