

Gracious God, you have called people to serve you and serve one another in this world. Help and guide us all that we might serve you and our neighbors in love and mercy. Help our leaders do justice that benefits all society. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*In this lesson, we look at the interaction between the secular and the religious worlds – Luther's Two Kingdoms.*

### Part 1 Two Kingdoms

Read Romans 13:1-7 (And refer to the chart attached to this lesson)

1. Where does the authority of the government/rulers come from according to Paul in verse 1?

2. In verse 4, how does Paul seem to express about the benefit of the governance of ruling authorities?

3. Also in verse 4, we are told by Paul about the other role of the governance of the ruling authority. What is that servant role?

4. We are told by Paul in verse 4, what the means of governing is when there is disobedience (or at least to force compliance). What is that method of governing?

5. Given the above, when and why should we be compliant to government rule?

Read John 18:28-19:16 (And refer to the chart attached to this lesson)

6. As Pilate is questioning Jesus is he acting as an agent of the left hand of God or the right hand of God? How do we know that?

7. In verse 19:11, how do we know that Pilate's authority comes from God?

8. Jesus, himself, actually articulates Luther's notion of the Two Kingdoms in verse 36.
  - a. What does Jesus say?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. If Jesus' kingdom were from this world what method would his disciples be using to stop Jesus from being crucified?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. But given that Jesus' kingdom is from the right hand of God what tool or method do they have at their disposal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. In the end, Jesus is killed. The government (left hand) does this at the urging of the religious leaders (right hand). Of course we find this unjust, but how does it "violate" Luther's idea of how the left and right hand of God SHOULD function as Two Kingdoms?

### Read Matthew 22:15-22

10. How does Jesus answer the question about whether it is lawful to pay taxes?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What things should be rendered unto Caesar? What should be done with them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What things should be rendered unto God? What should be done with them?

### Part 2 What Does This Have to Do With My Life?

13. We just had an election (actually a luxury from the standpoint of both the Bible and Luther). Some people are happy and some are not. Nevertheless, how might we understand how our leaders are to act given Luther's Two Kingdoms? (This, of course, would be true regardless of who was to have won)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. Pick one of the major issues today and try to analyze it and how we might handle it using Luther's Two Kingdoms?

## The Two Kingdoms

<b>Name (As Seen from the Beginning)</b>	Kingdom of the World	Kingdom of God
<b>Name (As Seen from the End)</b>	Kingdom of Satan	The World to Come
<b>Origin of “Two Governments”</b>	God’s Left Hand (Creation)	God’s Right Hand (Re-Creation)
<b>Purpose</b>	Restrain the wicked/keep order	Make people new
<b>Method of Governing</b>	First use of the Law	Second Use of the Law
<b>Means of Governing</b>	The sword: used by parents and princes	The Word: used by preachers publicly and all priests privately
<b>Righteousness</b>	Civil: By force and works Restrain evil and reward Good	Hearing by faith
<b>Blessings</b>	Temporal	Eternal
<b>Danger</b>	Exploit weak/neighbor and make gospel into law of the land: Religion by princes	Exchange law and gospel; rule by priests

\*\* Both kingdoms come from God’s grace; both operate the way they do because of sin/rebellion

\*\* These two kingdoms/governments must be kept separate and not confused, otherwise one will be guilty of confusing law and gospel in a tyrannical way as under the pope or the peasants

\*\* The two kingdoms are united in God (God’s two hands) and in us (our offices in the world and our lives as believers)