

Table of Duties

Lesson 3

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

The Small Catechism has six chief parts:

- The 10 Commandments
- The Creed (Apostles' Creed)
- The Lord's Prayer
- The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- Confession (and Use of the Keys)
- The Sacrament of the Altar

In addition to the six chief parts, there are two appendices:

- Prayers for evening and morning and for before and after meals
- The Table of Duties

For husbands

"You husbands, live with your wives with understanding and give the female vessel its honor as the weaker vessel, as fellow heirs of the gift of life, so that your prayer not be hindered." In the first epistle to Peter in chapter 3. "And do not be bitter against them." To the Colossians in chapter 3.

For wives

"Let the wives be subject to their husbands as to the Lord, as Sarah was obedient to Abraham and called him lord. You have become her daughters if you do good and are not timid." In 1 Peter in chapter 3.

Why is it significant that Luther included the duties for husbands and wives?

What kind of understanding is a husband told to have toward his wife?

What kind of attitude toward her husband is a wife told to have?

What other Bible passages explain duties to husbands and wives?

For parents

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, so that they do not become dispirited, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” To the Ephesians in chapter 6. [Also in Colossians chapter 3.]

For children

“Children, be obedient to your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor father and mother, which is the first commandment that has a promise, namely: that it may go well for you, and you live long on earth.” To the Ephesians in chapter 6.

All the passages used in this table of duties are from Luther’s German translation. What does that tell you about Luther’s effort to translate the Bible into German?

Why do you think fathers are specifically addressed?

What is involved in *bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord*?

Agree or disagree? “Because I’m your father.” “Because I’m your mother.”

Explain Paul’s two points about the commandment to honor and obey parents.

For servants, maids, day-laborers, and workers

“Servants, be obedient to your bodily lords with fear and trembling, in simplicity of your heart, as to Christ himself, not with service [only] before the eyes as if to please men, but as the servants of Christ, that you do such will of God from the heart with good intent. Think of yourselves that you serve the Lord and not men, and know that whatever good anyone does he will receive, whether he is a servant or free.”

For male and female heads of household

“Masters, do also the same toward them and refrain from your threats. Know that you also have a master in heaven, and with him there is no favoritism of person.” Ephesians 6.

Christianity brings dignity to every aspect of life. Explain how that is so.

How does Ephesians 6 encourage servants to do their duty?

How does Ephesians 6 remind masters to do their duty?

How do these words apply to employer/employee relationships today?

For youth in general

“Young men, be submissive to elders and thereby show humility. For God opposes the arrogant but gives grace to the humble. So humble yourselves now under the powerful hand of God, that he may exalt you at his time.” 1 Peter in chapter 5.

For widows

“A true widow who is also alone places her hope in God and remains in prayer day and night. But the widow who lives in sensual pleasures is dead while living.” 1 Timothy in chapter 5.

For the congregation

“Love your neighbor as yourself; in that statement all commandments are summarized.” To the Romans in chapter 13. “And keep on praying for all people!” In 1 Timothy in chapter 2.

Let each learn his lesson, so it will stand well in the home.

For instruction of young men, note this pattern: command, warning, encouragement.

Why is that a good pattern to follow when urging the Christian way of life?

Why do you think the table of duties contains a section for widows?

What duties are common to all of us?

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

From the Bible, give a bad example of that.

From the Bible, give a good example of that.