



The Gospel Way Catechism

Question 12: What is our responsibility?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Define the word authority. What are the characteristics of “good” and “bad” authority? How can you tell the difference between them?

Name some things that you are responsible for. How do you know that you are? How do you respond to being responsible?

QUESTION 12: What is our responsibility?

ANSWER: Our responsibility is to represent God by ruling wisely over his good creation, exercising authority in life-giving ways. We are called not to abandon or abuse our authority, but to serve as stewards.

KEY TERMS:

Authority (*exousia*) – right to govern, rule over, dominion, control, jurisdiction

Stewardship (*oikonomia*) - the management, oversight, administration of others' property

“lording over” (*kurieuo*) – have influence or power over

PRINCIPLES:

God created humanity with purpose: to be good stewards of what God gives.

(Genesis 1:27-28, 2:15, 9:1-3, Psalm 8)

Jesus is the ideal ruler. He is both the Authoritative King and the Suffering Servant. We should follow His example. (Matthew 20:20-28, 28:18-20)

Humanity should aspire to responsible stewardship of God’s creation and the Gospel message while remaining under the King’s authority. (Luke 12:35-48)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

As we live in a broken world and see authority consistently misused, how can we intentionally focus on being stewards in the areas God places us?

Do we practically live as though we have a King who has authority over us, or have we become our own kings and taken authority from Jesus? How can we correctly orient our lives around the One who has all authority?