

—Westminster Shorter Catechism—
Lesson 21—Christ our King, Q. 26

- I. Christ is a King
 - A. His kingship was promised and prophesied throughout the OT, Gen 49.10; Isa 9.6-7; 11.1-3; Zech 9.9; Mic 5.2; Ezk 34.24; Lk 1.32-33; Rev 17.14
 - B. He has all the ensigns of royalty: a sword, Ps 45.3; a sceptre, Heb 1.8; a crown, Rev 6.2; a throne, Heb 1.8; subjects, Ps 2.8
 - C. He confessed His kingship before Pilate, Jn 18.37; 1Tim 6.13
 - D. His kingship is eternal, Heb 1.8-12
- II. Christ has a twofold kingdom
 - A. A universal kingdom as God. He is King over all things visible and invisible as its Lord and Creator, Col 1.15-17. He is the sole Monarch, the Sovereign over all, equal to the Father in all things, 1Tim 6.15
 - B. A mediatorial kingdom as the God-Man, Ps 2.6; Eph 1.22; Jn 17.2
 - 1. This kingdom is spiritual in nature, Jn 18.36
 - 2. His subjects are spiritual men, born of God, begotten by the Spirit of regeneration, Jn 1.12
 - 3. The weapons of this kingdom are not carnal, 2Cor 10.3-5
 - 4. The laws are spiritual, reaching the innermost parts of the heart, Mt 5.21-22
 - 5. The benefits are spiritual, Rom 14.17
 - 6. Its administration is
 - a) external, in the world, by way of the wheels of providence, Ezk 1; Rev 5; Rom 8.28
 - b) internal, in the hearts of His people, Lk 17.21; Ps 110.3
- III. The execution of His kingly office on behalf of His church
 - A. *He subdues a people to Himself*
 - 1. He acquires the right to this kingdom by purchasing it with His own blood, Acts 20.28; 1Pet 1.18-29
 - 2. As the people He purchased are presently enslaved in a kingdom of darkness (Tit 3.3; Eph 2.1-2; Col 1.13-14), He must overcome them and make them willing to renounce their slavery and cheerfully submit to His lordship. He does this by effectually loosing their chains and calling them to Himself, Mt 11.25-28; Isa 26.13
 - 3. He effectually calls a people to Himself out of the world and sets up His kingdom in their hearts, Ps 110.3; Ezk 36.24-27; Acts 15.12-18. Every conversion is a conquest and it's the very life-experience of a Christian that we're brought more and more under the lordship of Christ.
 - 4. The weapons by which He rescues His people and establishes His kingdom in their hearts, is His Word and Spirit, Jn 12.38; 2Cor 10.3-5; Acts 13.48-49; 19.20; 2Th 3.1; 1Pet 1.23-25
 - B. *He rules over His people in righteousness*
 - 1. He gives His church laws in His Word, 1Tim 3.14-15. Christ rules over us with such tenderness and grace, writing His Word on our hearts and putting His Spirit within us to bring us into conformity to it, that we're sweetly constrained to take His Word as the law of our life in everything we do. We rejoice to confess that we're not our own, but His, because His rule is good for us and His reign is pleasant to us.
 - 2. He gives His church officers with the power and responsibility to govern and censure, 1Tim 5.17; Heb 13.17; 1Cor 5; Mt 18.17-18
 - 3. He writes His laws on the hearts of His people and gives them His Spirit to lead them, Heb 8.10; Isa 30.21
 - 4. He presides over His church, seeing personally to its administration of His Word and Sacraments by its ministers, to its worship, to its discipling and discipline, and to its sufferings, Eph 1.22-23; Acts 9.4; Heb 12.22-25

C. *He defends His people from danger*

1. The world, the flesh, and the devil are in an all-out war against the church, and would destroy her; but Christ defends His people, Ps 121; Isa 63.9; Jn 10.28; Lk 22.32; Jn 17.12
2. He uses His angels as ministering spirits to uphold and protect them, Heb 1.14; Mt 18.10; 1Pet 5.8-10

D. *He restrains and conquers all His and their enemies*

1. He breaks the tyranny and rule of sin in their hearts, Rom 6.6
2. He puts Satan on a leash with regard to them, 1Pet 5.8-10; Job 1.12; 2.4
3. He opens their eyes to see the vanity and deceitfulness of the world, Zech 2.5; 1Cor 7.31; 2Tim 4.10
4. He'll bring them into His eternal glory where no enemy can ever enter, Jn 17.24; Jude 24-25; Heb 12.28

Reflections

1. The church *will* ride out all the storms that can blow upon it, whether from earth or hell, Mt 16.16-18
2. However weak any believer may be among his enemies, yet, “the broken ship shall surely come to land.” If the kingdom of God has been set up in your heart, then however weak your service, however strong your weaknesses, that spark of of the kingdom of His grace in you *will be preserved* amidst an ocean of difficulties, whether from within or without. All Christ’s subjects will be kept by the power of God through faith for a salvation to be revealed at the last day, 1Pet 1.5; 5.9-10
3. To refuse to bring yourself under the care and discipline of Christ’s visible church on earth is to practically refuse to have Christ rule over you, Eph 4.11-16. Likewise, to neglect to assemble as Christ’s church on the Lord’s Day is a sinful response to the Call to Worship which Christ gives to His people, Heb 12.18-29
4. As you strive against your flesh, the devil, and the world, be sure to have recourse to your Almighty King, who’s infinitely able to help you in all your straits, Eph 6.10. Make use of him daily as your King, applying to Him for strength, and trusting in Him for life, strength, defense, and victory over all your enemies, Jn 16.32-33