

A Faith to Live By

An Independent Study of the
Westminster Confession of Faith

How to use this study guide effectively each week:

1. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would use the week's material to increase your knowledge of God and His Word. (see Psalm 119:1-8)
2. **Read the Confession of Faith** (WCF) sections listed. Read the proof texts too.
3. **Memorize the Scripture** verse(s) listed.
(Sometimes they may not line up with the particular WCF sections, but they all build to give good memory references for the overall chapter.)
4. **Work through the discussion questions.**
It is best to write down your answers.
The questions may sometimes be difficult. Think, pray, ponder. Don't worry if you don't have answers to everything! We will discuss at our monthly meeting.
Our main goal is thoughtfulness on the matters of God's Word, not getting everything right or clear the first time through.
5. **Come to the monthly discussion** prepared to interact with the material.

May

Week 1 (5/12)

- Read: WCF 23.1-2

- Memorize: 1 Peter 2:13-14

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

- Study questions:

Section 1

1. What is the origin of the civil government?

2. What is the purpose of the civil government?

3. What means have been given to the civil government to accomplish its purpose?

Section 2

4. Should Christians be involved in civil government?

5. How should a Christian serve in civil government?

Week 2 (5/19)

- Read: WCF 23.3

- Memorize: Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

- Study questions:

Section 3

6. What limits are there to civil authority?

7. What is the threefold duty of the civil government?

(1)

(2)

(3)

Week 3 (5/26)

- Read: WCF 23.4
- Memorize: Matthew 22:21
Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."
- Study questions:

Section 4

8. What are the duties of citizens toward the civil government?

9. Are there any limitations to these duties?

Monthly Discussion: Thursday, June 6 @ 7:00pm