

L044 SOCIAL PRINCIPLES OF A CHRISTIAN SOCIETY

- ◆ Each Human life has dignity and value. This is not based on achievement nor accomplishment but on God's love and creation.
- ◆ Every person deserves the freedom to develop his/her gifts, talents, callings, and potentials.
- ◆ Christian love demands an active concern for social justice. Love is basic to unity in family and civil life.
- ◆ Government must always protect the rights of the powerless. Christian Statesmen must prefer to side with the poor. As God's people we have the special assignment to look out for the poor, the powerless and the marginalized.
- ◆ God gave humans the goods of creation in stewardship. We are managers for God of our personal and corporate property. All of us have the responsibility to share with those in need.
- ◆ Human rights take priority over property rights.
- ◆ All people have certain rights and responsibilities.
- ◆ Forgiveness must be demonstrated in relations between persons, groups, and nations.
- ◆ Each individual has an interest in all natural resources, and in the creative achievements of mankind.
- ◆ Every person has a right to the basic needs of life regardless of his apparent sins, virtues, worthiness or unworthiness. All have the right to the things necessary for life and family.
- ◆ We are called to bring God's wisdom and peace to secular society. We must participate as Christians in our cultural, commercial, national and local life.
- ◆ The family is the basic unit of the Church and of society.
- ◆ We are called to participate in the good works of our Christian community.
- ◆ Interest groups must relate to each other in justice and honesty.
- ◆ Labor is never an impersonal commodity. Workers have dignity and rights that cannot be denied.
- ◆ Nations are bound by the rules of honesty and justice in all international relations.
- ◆ We must recognize our solidarity and brotherhood within one worldwide human family.
- ◆ The lawmaking power of governments is limited by Divine Law, and the demands of justice.
- ◆ All true authority comes from God. We support and obey legitimate authority in everything but sin.
- ◆ What can be done well locally should usually not be taken over by a larger controlling unit.
- ◆ The Christian Gospel has answers for world and local problems. All worthwhile solutions originate with God, and succeed only by His grace.
- ◆ A good end does not justify a wrongful means.
- ◆ True Christian society has few good models. It has seldom come close to its potential. We have the power to do much better.
- ◆ Christianity is not tied to any economic system, culture, or form of government.
- ◆ Individual members of societies, institutions, or nations, share in responsibility for the policies and actions of their groups to the full extent of their power to act in each situation.
- ◆ Future generations have rights in land and resources.
- ◆ The Kingdom of God will finally prevail. We are called to model the kingdom.