

## 21. Church & Magistrate

BC 36

### Questions

**Some claim this article supports the 2nd article of common grace.**

Speaks of a restraint of sinful deeds.

Not an internal restraint of sin in the nature.

**This article speaks of the sword power [LD 40].**

OT Proof [Gen. 9:6]

NT Proof [Rom. 13:4]

**We reject the “established church” idea [note attached to Art. 36]**

Established church = A church established as the official church of the state.

Goes with the idea that the state has dominion over the church.

Some say the state makes sure the church rightly uses the keys of the kingdom.

But the state does not have the authority to tell us what we must preach and whom we must or must not discipline.

Church & state today are not parallel with priest & king in the old dispensation.

**Our calling toward the civil magistrates**

We submit to the state unless they tell us to do something contrary to God’s law.

We also pray for our rulers [I Tim. 2:1-2].

**What do the Postmils & Premils both teach?**

God promises His people they’ll have an earthly kingdom before the final judgment.

**How do the Postmils & Premils differ?**

|                         | Premils                    | Postmils                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| When will Christ come   | Before the earthly kingdom | After the earthly kingdom |
| Who will reign on earth | Jews                       | Christians                |
| Meaning of 1000         | Literal                    | Symbolic                  |

**Where does Scripture speak of the 1000-year reign?**

In Revelation 20 [Rev. 20:1-7]

This is a spiritual reign of believers in their souls [Rev. 20:4].

We will reign in the body after the bodily resurrection [Rev. 5:10].

### Points

**We are opposed to the Anabaptists and others who:**

Rebel against civil government

Promote communism

**God makes use of the civil government for our profit [Rom. 13:1-7].**