

Reading Questions: Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian Man, On Governmental Authority, Friendly Admonition to Peace*

1. How can Christians be free from all and also servant of all? What does this have to do with the difference between faith and works?
2. What is the purpose of commandments? What is the purpose of the promise? Where are each found?
3. What role do good works play in salvation? Why does a Christian do good works according to Luther?
4. Should a Christian obey the temporal authority of government? Why?
5. Can government mandate our beliefs? Why or why not?
6. How common does Luther think Christians are? Are most people Christians in nominally Christian societies? What is the significance of Luther's view for his argument about why we should obey temporal/governmental authority?
7. How does Luther interpret the revolt of the Swabian peasants when he addresses the princes and lords? How does this compare with what Augustine would say about it?
8. Why should the peasants refrain from rebellion? What consequences does Luther fear coming from it?
9. What should Christians do if they are oppressed according to Luther?
10. What is the significance of Luther addressing the "Princes and Lords" at the beginning of the *Friendly Admonition* in light of his view about rebellion and Christianity? Think here about what he says. Why would he address them in the way that he does?
11. Who is ultimately guilty in the dispute between the lords and the peasants according to Luther? Why?
12. What kind of freedom do Christians enjoy, even if they are oppressed or enslaved?