

#839 The Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg – Martin Luther and Just War, part 2, Article 16 of the Augsburg Confession

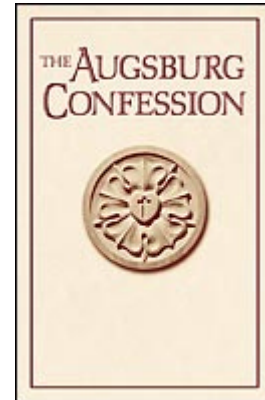
Here is the first part of Article XVI of the Augsburg Confession of 1530:

The Augsburg Confession

Article XVI: Of Civil Affairs.

Of Civil Affairs they teach that lawful civil ordinances are good works of God, and that it is right for Christians to bear civil office, to sit as judges, to judge matters by the Imperial and other existing laws, to award just punishments, **to engage in just wars**, to serve as soldiers, to make legal contracts, to hold property, to make oath when required by the magistrates, to marry a wife, to be given in marriage.

They condemn the Anabaptists who forbid these civil offices to Christians.



The Augsburg Confession is presented to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V (June 25, 1530)



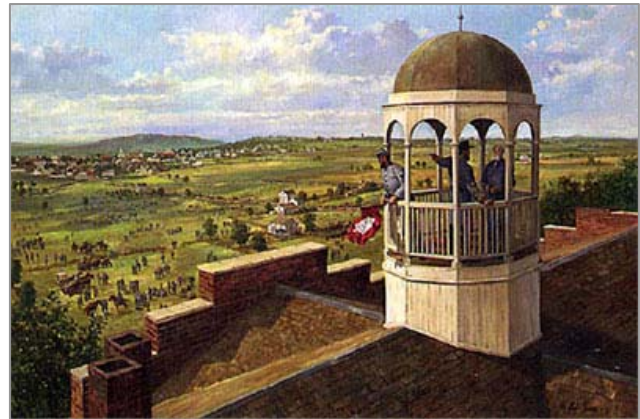
*1 Chronicles 28:3 (KJV) But God said unto me [King David], **THOU SHALT NOT BUILD AN HOUSE FOR MY NAME, BECAUSE THOU HAST BEEN A MAN OF WAR, AND HAST SHED BLOOD.***

[Note: Radio Messages [#130–#135](#) and [#151–#162](#) on this website cover “The False Doctrine of Just War.” But, so as to abbreviate the matter, readers of this Unsealing should ask themselves these questions. Should northern Lutherans have been attempting to kill southern Lutherans and vice versa at the Battle of Gettysburg, in the name of serving their respective governments? Should northern Baptists have been attempting to kill southern Baptists and vice versa at the

Battle of Gettysburg, in the name of serving their respective governments? Should northern Presbyterians and Methodists have been attempting to kill southern Presbyterians and Methodists and vice versa at the Battle of Gettysburg, in the name of serving their country? The Lord brought the Battle of Gettysburg to the site of the first Lutheran Theological Seminary in America to, so to speak, put the “just war” doctrine in the face of the *sword*-bearing side of the Protestant Reformation Church.]

Key Understanding: *Why the Lord ordained the greatest battle in the history of the New World to occur at Gettysburg. Martin Luther and the Lutherans are representative of the Protestant Reformation. The 1530 Augsburg Confession, in Article XVI, provided for “just war” on behalf of the Protestant Reformation. It is because of this errant “just war” position that the Lord made a statement by bringing the greatest battle in the history of the New World – the July 1-3, 1863, Civil War battle at Gettysburg – to the first Lutheran seminary in the New World (right).*

(above right) A modern picture of the Lutheran Theological Seminary. *(below right)* The seminary was occupied by both the Union and the Confederates during the various parts of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg.



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