

Nbr. 72 – October, 2025

### **The Gospel Confers a Divine Dignity**

*From a lecture by Dr. Gerhard Aho*

The Law leaves us naked, but God clothes us with the garment of Christ's righteousness. He calls us His children, heirs, saints, household, temple. Our disgrace was laid on Christ, so that everything Christ has could become ours.

This is the only dignity that matters. It is an eternal dignity. The prestige, superiority, and applause people that crave and strive for – these all] stand under the judgment of God.

Christians have a divine dignity that cannot be taken away from them. It will not make them tense and anxious.

*See? WOW!* When we bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people, it does things. It confers a divine dignity.

### **The Next Page**

Page 2 of the present newsletter is from the CPH Lifelight Foundations course *The Christian's Mission*. This course can be just the thing for those who have just completed adult catechetical study. It reviews much of what they have learned, and makes application to mission by God's people.

Also, please note the audio segments accessible from <https://www.cidlcms.org/outreach-course-companion-audio.html> These are *Issues*, *etc.* interviews that accompany each session of the course. Using these interviews, an instructor can "flip the classroom" for a study group: ask participants to listen to the appropriate interview corresponding *before* they attend class. Time during the class session can be maximized for Q&A and discussion.

### **"Partners and Practice in the Gospel"**

... is the name of CID's cooperative effort with a couple of other LCMS Districts and Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ to make OAFIC teams available to serve congregations in evangelism. These teams of 3 to 5 older adults can assist churches in neighborhood canvassing, "dry run" practice of evangelistic skills, and enhancing the congregation's evangelistic outreach in a nearby nursing home.

Details and model schedules can be found at <https://www.cidlcms.org/ppg/index.html> Be sure to follow the link there to download a camera-ready black-and-white informational brochure. Make copies of this brochure as needed.

Would your congregation, or some other in your circuit, be potentially interested in utilizing the services of an OAFIC adult team within the next year? If so, let me know!

### **Mark Your Calendar Today!**

Our next C-WOW meeting is set for Saturday, November 22, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please make a special effort to join us then. Last year, only a handful were involved in the zoom call.

This annual meeting is designed primarily for C-WOWs. Evangelism Commission members and Circuit Visitors from circuits lacking a C-WOW are also invited to monitor the proceedings.

The annual meeting forms a prime time for me to share information with you. I also try to learn from you about successes, questions, and challenges from the "front lines" of evangelism – that is, in our congregations.

Next month's newsletter will say more. Right now, please mark your calendar for Nov. 22!



**Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers**

*Worth considering:*

**Going on the Offensive with the Gospel**

Our status as priests comes as a gift from God, a privilege He gives us. He has not whisked us out of the world.

At times, you might find in this fact some reason for regret. If God had simply taken you to heaven as soon as you were converted, you would be spared the temptations and trouble of this world.

Yet the Lord didn't want to do things that way because He wasn't finished giving. He wanted to give to you yet again. This time, He gives you and me the privilege of representing Him, of being His priests, who can both call on His name and speak His Word.

In many ways, the world can be frustrating and offensive to us Christians. For instance, we see that the world around us is, well, worldly. It gets caught up in itself or in the things money can buy or in the pleasures of the moment. We can think long and hard about how terrible all this is, but the Lord has given us the gift of being able to go on the offensive against that kind of thing by taking His Word to people. "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news" [Isaiah 52:7a].

Other things in the sinful world offend and disgust us too, such as a lack of regard for God's Word. So often, people don't think about the Scriptures at all. If they do, it seems to be to hold the Bible up to ridicule, to create doubts concerning it, or to announce their own pet theory, which they deem as good as anything in Scripture. Ultimately, the best defense for God's Word *is* God's Word. He gives us the great privilege that we can unleash this

powerful Word upon people. In the midst of their doubts, questions, and unbelief, He gives us a Word that is "sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12).

We can get frustrated by people who just sit there waiting for God to "zap" them out of the blue, especially because we know God works through His Word and through people who spread His Word. He gives us the gift of being people who can spread His Word! Instead of wallowing in our frustration that others are simply sitting there waiting for God to zap them, we can bring them the Christ-centered Word, which is His own power to save.

In any case, however, we are motivated for the mission God has given us as His priests not simply because we are against all the things in the world that offend or frustrate us. At bottom, mission is not about our feelings.

Nor, at bottom, is it being *against* things. We are *for* mission because God in Christ is *for* us. He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. However exciting it may be that the Gospel is for everyone else, can the Christian ever do other than rejoice that it is for me? With this pointed and powerful Good News, the Lord catches us up into His mission.

*Text of the above "Worth Considering" feature has been taken, by publisher's permission, from lesson one of LifeLight Foundations: The Christian's Mission (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2011), Leaders Guide, pp. 11-12.*

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**Circuit Witness and Outreach Workers**