

Introduction to the Office of King

The Third Genus: Apotelesmaticum - Whatever the Savior did and still does to save sinful mankind (His official acts) may not be ascribed to either of His natures exclusively, but must be ascribed to both natures conjointly.

Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, VIII

78] ... He can be, and also is, present where He will, and especially that in His Church and congregation on earth He is present as Mediator, **Head, King,** and High Priest, not in part, or one-half of Him only, but **the entire person of Christ is present, to which both natures belong, the divine and the human; not only according to His divinity, but also according to, and with, His assumed human nature, according to which He is our** **79]** **Brother, and we are flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone.** Even as He has instituted His Holy Supper for the certain assurance and confirmation of this, that also **according to that nature according to which He has flesh and blood He will be with us, and dwell, work, and be efficacious in us.**

87] Therefore we regard it as a pernicious error when such majesty is denied to Christ according to His humanity. For thereby **the very great consolation is taken from Christians** which they have in the aforecited promise concerning **the presence and dwelling with them of their Head, King, and High Priest,** who has promised them that not only His mere divinity would be with them, which to us poor sinners is as a consuming fire to dry stubble, but that **He, He, the man who has spoken with them, who has tried all tribulations in His assumed human nature, and who can therefore have sympathy with us, as with men and His brethren,—He will be with us in all our troubles also according to the nature according to which He is our brother and we are flesh of His flesh.**

FC SD XII: Erroneous Articles of the Schwenckfeldians.

28] Likewise, when the Schwenckfeldians assert: **29]** 1. First, that all those have no knowledge of **the reigning King of heaven,** Christ, who regard Christ according to the flesh, or His assumed humanity, as a creature, and that the flesh of Christ has by exaltation so assumed all divine properties that in might, power, majesty, and glory He is in every respect, in degree and position of essence, equal to the Father and the eternal Word, so that there is the same essence, properties, will, and glory of both natures in Christ, and that the flesh of Christ belongs to the essence of the Holy Trinity.

Visitation Articles IV. False and Erroneous Doctrine of the Calvinists, V.:

That Christ, according to His human nature, rules absently, just as the King of Spain rules the new islands.

3. The Kingly Office

Christ is The King (Head, Ruler, Lord, etc.)

2 Samuel 7:12, “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.”

Christ's Kingdom

1. **The kingdom of power** – not limited to, but includes the entire universe and all creatures
Matthew 28:18, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’”
Revelation 17:14, “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”
2. **The kingdom of grace** – limited to the church, only over believers
Mark 1:14-15, “...Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’”
John 3:3, 5, “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’... 5Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”
3. **The kingdom of glory** – in heaven with believers
2 Timothy 4:18, “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”
Matthew 25:34, “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

Distinct, but not separate kingdoms

Ephesians 1:20-23, “which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²²And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

Matthew 5:13a, “You are the salt of the earth.”

Two Other Kingdoms:

1. **The Kingdom of this World** (as contrasted with The Kingdom of the Church)
Romans 13:1ff “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”
John 18:36-37, “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’”
2. **The Kingdom of the Devil or the Antichrist** (as contrasted with the Church)
Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love...” (Also: Luke 11:18)
John 12:31, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” (Also John 14:30, 16:11)
Ephesians 2:1-2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,