



CONCORDIA
BIBLE INSTITUTE
Christ in Every Word

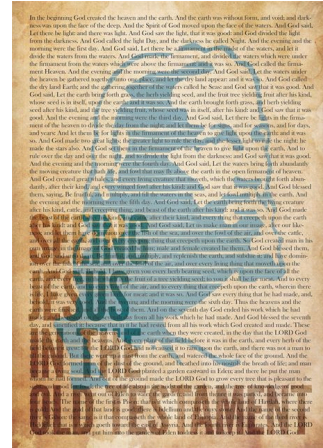
CBI e-Bulletin

May 2025

Welcome to this month's edition of the Concordia Bible Institute (CBI) e-Bulletin!

Continue reading to discover the relationship between all earthly masters and fathers according to the Bible, the new series that has just begun in Dr. German's podcasts, and more!

CBI exists to provide Christ-centered Bible instruction through distinguished experts who teach "Christ in Every Word" of the Old and New Testaments. Under the direction of Dr. Brian German and in cooperation with the Department of Theology at Concordia University Wisconsin, CBI offers podcasts, face-to-face seminars, and other special events to strengthen faith and spread belief in the one true God. If your congregation would like to host a seminar, please reach out to us at Concordia.Bible@cuw.edu.



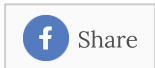
"For the whole Christ is in every word and wholly in each individual word. When He is denied, therefore, in one word, He is totally denied, for He is in every word."

-Martin Luther (*Luther's Works*, 25:238).

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Masters as Fathers?

Question: "Thus all who are called masters stand in the place of parents and derive from them their power and authority to govern. In the Scriptures they are all called fathers..." (Fourth Commandment, paragraph 142, Tappert translation). Can you verify that "all who are called masters...are all called fathers" in the Bible? Thanks in advance.

Answer: Excellent question! As you noted, the excerpt you referenced is from Luther's Large Catechism on the Fourth Commandment. Let's begin by seeing Luther's remarks in their wider context. Below is the Kolb/Wengert translation of the entire paragraph in which they appear, with some particularly key points italicized.

"Furthermore, in connection with this commandment, we must mention the sort of obedience due to superiors, persons whose duty it is to command and to govern. For *all other authority is derived and developed out of the authority of parents*. Where a father is unable by himself to bring up his child, he calls upon a schoolmaster to teach him; if he is too weak, he seeks the help of his friends and neighbors; if he dies, he confers and delegates his responsibility and authority to others appointed for the purpose. In addition, he has to have servants—menservants and maidservants—under him in order

to manage the household. *Thus all who are called masters stand in the place of parents and must derive from them their power and authority to govern. They are all called fathers in the Scriptures because in their sphere of authority they have been commissioned as fathers and ought to have fatherly hearts toward their people.* Thus from ancient times the Romans and peoples speaking other languages called the masters and mistresses of the household *patres et matres familias*, that is, housefathers and housemothers. Again, their princes and overlords were called *patres patriae*, that is, fathers of the whole country, to the great shame of us would-be Christians who do not speak of our rulers in the same way, or at least do not treat and honor them as such” (141-42).

Here Luther makes it clear that all worldly authority is derived from parental authority. Though we might not typically think of it in this way, the authority of the policeman is actually an extension of the authority of the parent. The Fifth Commandment is “downstream” from the Fourth Commandment. When parents send their child to school, they are entrusting that school with some of the authority that has most properly been given to them.

Your question, however, has to do with verifying that the Bible calls earthly masters “fathers.” One of the earliest examples of this to my knowledge would be Joseph the patriarch. In Gen. 45:8 Joseph tells his brothers, “it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me *a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.*” Joseph obviously isn’t Pharaoh’s biological father, though he is indeed Pharaoh’s “father” by virtue of ruling over all the land of Egypt (recall Luther’s words above about “*patres patriae*, that is, fathers of the whole country”).

Another example comes from the book of 1 Samuel, where David calls Saul “father” in this way: “See, *my father*, see the corner of your robe in my hand...” (1 Sam. 24:11). David’s biological father, of course, is Jesse, but here David calls Saul “father” because of Saul’s kingship over Israel—and when Saul is not being a very upstanding king! A closely related example comes from Isaiah, who prophesied the following about Eliakim, the royal steward or lead administrator to King Hezekiah: “In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah... And *he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah*” (Is. 22:20-21).

One final example, this time from a slightly different angle, comes from the book of Job. In one place Job speaks of the care he extended to those around him like this: “*I was a father to the needy*, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know” (Job 29:16). Job’s care of the poor was *fatherly* care. Note, too, that all these examples would be in addition to the many places where the Bible speaks of *spiritual* fatherhood, such as the king of Israel calling the prophet Elisha “father” (2 Kgs. 6:21), or the Corinthians calling the apostle Paul “father” (1 Cor. 4:15), and so on.

While not every earthly master or secular authority in the Bible is explicitly called “father,” the Bible does indicate by these examples that all earthly authorities are rightly called “fathers.”

Dr. Brian German
Director of the Concordia Bible Institute




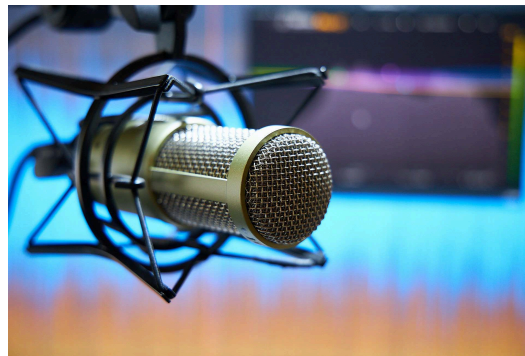
Ask Dr. German

Do you have a question you would like to ask Dr. German?
Just go to our website, ConcordiaBible.org, and click on Ask Dr German at the top.

Read the Bible in a Year

Do you have a goal to read the Bible in a year? Or simply looking to add to your devotions? Follow along with the calendar below. A new calendar will be sent in each newsletter. Start any time, and in a year you will have read through the entire Bible!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Titus, Philemon	2 Psalm 121 Hebrews 1-4	3 Psalm 122 Hebrews 5-7
4 Psalm 123 Hebrews 8-10	5 Psalm 124 Hebrews 11-13	6 Psalm 125 James 1-3	7 Psalm 126 James 4-5	8 Psalm 127 1 Peter 1-2	9 Psalm 128 1 Peter 3-5	10 Psalm 129 2 Peter
11 Psalm 130 1 John 1-3	12 Psalm 131 1 John 4-5	13 Psalm 132 2 John, 3 John, Jude	14 Psalm 133 John 1-2	15 Psalm 134 John 3-4	16 Psalm 135 John 5-6	17 Psalm 136 John 7-8
18 Psalm 137 John 9-10	19 Psalm 138 John 11-12	20 Psalm 139 John 13-14	21 Psalm 140 John 15-16	22 Psalm 141 John 17-18	23 Psalm 142 John 19	24 Psalm 143 John 20-21
25 Psalm 144 Acts 1-2	26 Psalm 145 Acts 3-4	27 Psalm 146 Acts 5-6	28 Psalm 147 Acts 7-8	29 Psalm 148 Acts 9-10	30 Psalm 149 Acts 11-12	31 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Acts 13-14



Podcasts - New Series: Numbers

Dr. German has just begun taking us through the book of Numbers on his podcast. You can listen to our weekly podcasts by subscribing on iTunes, Google Play, or Spotify.

When new episodes become available they will automatically be downloaded to your device. Just click [here](#) to subscribe through our website, or click the image below!



You can also catch up, or seek out other series, topics, or books of the Bible in the podcast archives on the [CBI website](#). CBI podcasts are around 30 minutes each.

Archive Videos of Dr. Saleska Available



Videos from CBI archives continue to be gradually uploaded to the CBI website. These videos were taken from teaching by Dr. John Saleska and others, from as far back as 2001. You are welcome to view them at any time!

- Visit [here](#) to view all the videos we have available so far.
- Current teachings available include Dr. Saleska on Parables of the Kingdom, Christ Crucified Everywhere in Scripture, Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Do Miracles Still Happen? and Prayer According to the Scriptures. The most recent series added was Christ the Preacher - the Sermon on the Mount, from the Spring of 2008.
- **Adding This Month:** The Triune God

Concordia Bible Institute Endowment

CBI has established the Concordia Bible Institute Endowment fund for the purpose of maintaining and expanding CBI's ability to provide pastors and congregations of the Church with Christ-centered Bible instruction.

Please help spread the word about this endowment and pray for its growth. For ways to contribute and resources about this endowment, please visit concordiabible.org/contribute and designate "Concordia Bible Institute Endowment" on your method of giving.

Please contact Jeff Klocko, Director of Donor Relations, for details about this exciting opportunity. He can be reached at 262.243.2170 or jeff.klocko@cuw.edu.



Saleska Scholarship for Pre-Seminary Students

Please help Concordia University Wisconsin provide more financial aid to Pre-Seminary students by praying for and giving to the Saleska Scholarship Endowment. Gifts can be given by congregations, groups, and individuals.

- Visit concordiabible.org/Saleska for more information and to give (scroll down to the bottom of the page to see all of our resources).
- Help us get the word out to those who want to help Pre-Seminary students and to those who knew Dr. Saleska.
- Click here to watch our video: <https://youtu.be/vqLfzI9Wlkw>

If you know someone who may be interested in the Pre-Seminary program at CUW, you may reach out to Dr. LaFevé, CUW's Pre-Seminary Director, at Joshua.LaFevé@cuw.edu.

Website

Visit our website at concordiabible.org to learn more about CBI.

Contribute

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Concordia University Wisconsin
Attn: Office of Advancement
12800 North Lake Shore Drive
Mequon, WI 53097

"Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament" photo courtesy of <http://www.prayercollege.org/tag/messiah>

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