

**Luther....Government Not to Prescribe Religion....** If an emperor or a prince asked me what my faith is, I would, of course, tell him, not because he commands it but because I am bound to confess my faith publicly before every man. But in case he went further and commanded me to believe so and so I would tell him: My good sir, tend to your civil government; you have no authority to intrude on God's jurisdiction. Therefore I shall not obey you. You certainly cannot tolerate an invasion of your own sovereignty. If anyone passes the border against your will, you shoot at him with guns. Do you think then, that God will let you thrust Him from His throne and sit down in His place? St. Peter calls civil authority only a human ordinance. Therefore magistrates have no power to lay hands on God's ordinance and legislate concerning faith. What Luther Says #3849