

Christian Faith and the Common Life.

Outline of Topics.

1. How far are the various spheres of common life (e.g. family, national, State, economics) to be regarded as a manifestation of the will of God?

Is there a hierarchy of such spheres?

2. Has God a purpose for the ordering of the various spheres of the common life as well as for the action of Christians in these spheres?

Is there, e.g. a Christian judgment on the structure of society?

3. If God has a purpose for the ordering of the common life, what are the sources and grounds of the Christian's knowledge of that purpose (e.g. the Bible, the teaching of the Church, nature and history)?

In what respects does the Christian differ from the non-Christian in his understanding of that purpose?

Has the Church as a corporate society a specific capacity for understanding and interpreting God's purpose in these spheres of life?

4. The bearing on all these questions of the fact of sin and evil.

5. What is the relation between creation and the moral law?

Is the moral law to be known (a) through reason, (b) through revelation, or (c) through both?

How far is there a common ground between Christians and non-Christians for practical action?

6. In how far has man, in virtue of creation, certain natural rights and liberties?

7. How far are human existence and behaviour conditioned, for better or for worse, by sub-personal factors? How far are these controllable by human thought and will?

8. Are the various spheres of life subject to relatively independent and diverse laws of their own? If so, what is the extent and what are the limits of that autonomy?

9. May there be a difference in the will of God for a Christian in regard to his action as a private person and his action in office and in public capacity?

10. Is the Christian law of love realisable in all spheres of life? If not, what are the limits to such realisation, and what alternative principles are applicable and binding (e.g. justice and loyalty)?