

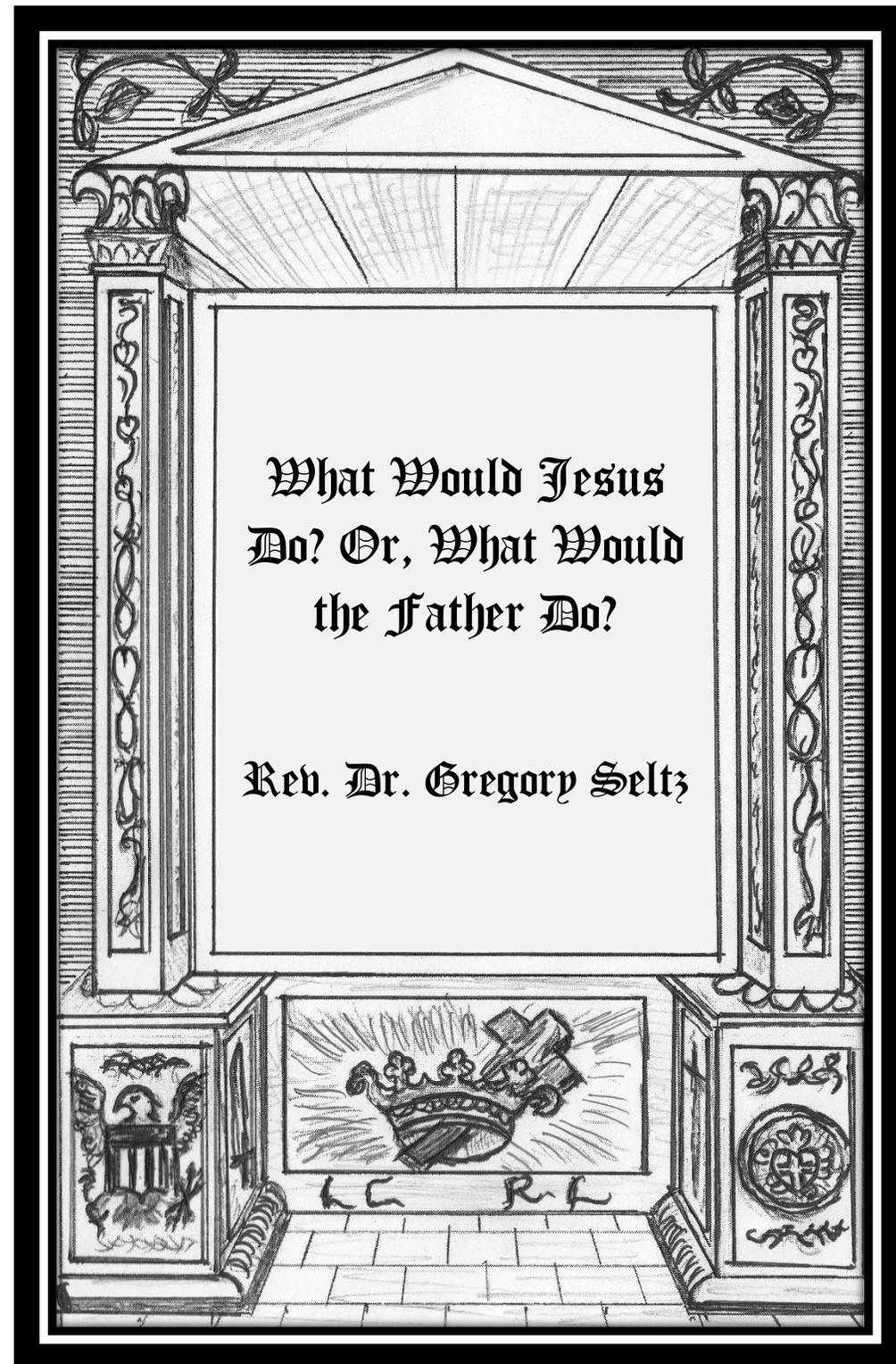


LCRL is a religious Liberty organization in Washington D.C. The Center provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of religious liberty, Life, and Marriage seeking to engage in discussions in D.C. to establish partnerships and resources in our nation's Capital for the sake of our Churches, Schools, Universities, and Seminaries.

We are in D.C. to be an ENCOURAGING support to those who are already working very hard on the Hill to protect our religious Liberty, to protect and promote the sanctity of life, to guard the basic protections for traditional marriage, to promote the value of private and parochial education.

We are in D.C. to be an EDUCATING resource for our Churches, Schools, Universities, pastors, and laypeople – Why? Because Christians more and more need be prepared to engage public issues for the sake of the community and the Gospel.

We are in D.C. to be an ADVOCATE for our Churches, Schools, and Universities... Why? Because the government is encroaching more and more into the arena of the Church and its work, and Gods' people have a role not only in sharing the Gospel, but in helping society/culture in being humane, civil, and temporally just. (see Jeremiah 29:11ff)



## What Would Jesus Do? Or, What Would the Father Do?

Christians often confuse their involvement in public issues on morality or policy by citing the phrase "What would Jesus do?" Unfortunately, that confuses the way the Bible talks about how God works in the world. In general, the church teaches that the Father is the creator of the world, the one who orders the world, and we can see that ordering throughout the cultures of the world and in the consciences of people in the world. The Bible also teaches that the Father sent His Son Jesus to redeem and restore the world through His cross and resurrection. So, what's the point? Well, when it comes to how the church should seek to reach out to people, to share the

Good news of the Gospel... That's a "What would Jesus do?" type of question. That's a turn the other cheek type of answer. That's a "serve others as God in Christ serves you." That's how God orders His Right-Hand Kingdom work, the work of His church.

But that's not how He orders governments and magistrates and law-enforcement etc. That's a "What would God the Father do?" type of question. That's an "if a person won't work, neither shall he eat," type of issue. That's "let the punishment fit the crime," type of issue. That's a "Fathers... Love and respect your wife and children; Wives... Respect and love your husbands and love your children; Children respect your parents," type of issue. "What would God the Father do?" is a question of how to order a safe, prosperous, and humane world with sinful, broken people at the helm. God the Father does that through the fundamental laws written in the hearts of people. The common dignity afforded to all people because they are created by God, that's a foundation for a civil society. The challenge is to encourage strong families, Fathers, Mothers, having and raising children in the context of love and respect, that can ward off many ills. Honoring the temporal liberties of freedom of religion and freedom of speech so that people can freely serve others, that's a temporal life worth striving for. What would the "Father have us do?" I think that in the American Context it is that we are to "put our temporal liberties to work for the sake of the common good and for the sake of the proclamation of the eternal liberties that only Christ can give as a gift.

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? OR, WHAT WOULD THE FATHER DO? It's a both/and thing!