

Series: Systematic Theology Part 4
Title: The Power of the Church
Purpose: To examine what kind of authority the church has and how church discipline should function.
Date: February 15, 2026

- I. Explanation and scriptural basis
 - A. Roman Catholic Church in southern Europe and Latin America
 - B. Calvin's church in Geneva
 - C. Church of England until 20th century
 - D. Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1620
 - E. Biblically there are 3 legitimate powers for the church to exercise
- II. Spiritual warfare - power against enemies trying to destroy individual believers
 - A. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 - we are not of this world
 - B. Ephesians 6:10-18 - armor
 - C. Two levels
 - D. Same today or different
- III. The keys of the kingdom - power to bring non-believers into the kingdom
 - A. Only once - Matthew 16:19
 - B. A "key" always implies the ability to open a door or give entrance
 - C. Open door to salvation
 - D. Exercise church discipline
- IV. The power of the church and the power of the state - how should these two be done?
 - A. Nowhere does scripture support "taking up arms" to carry out the purposes of the new covenant kingdom
 - B. Civil governments have the right to bear the sword
 - C. The two entities are completely separate
 - D. Church membership should be voluntary; the state should not enforce laws requiring or prohibiting kinds of church doctrine
 - E. Religious freedom is almost unknown outside of countries with a strong evangelical Christian witness
 - F. Not a prohibition on believers functioning within government to provide positive moral influence
- V. Church discipline - power to keep the church as an organization pure and healthy
 - A. The purpose of church discipline
 - B. For what sins should church discipline be exercised
 - C. How should church discipline be carried out

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Outline taken from *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem, 1994 edition