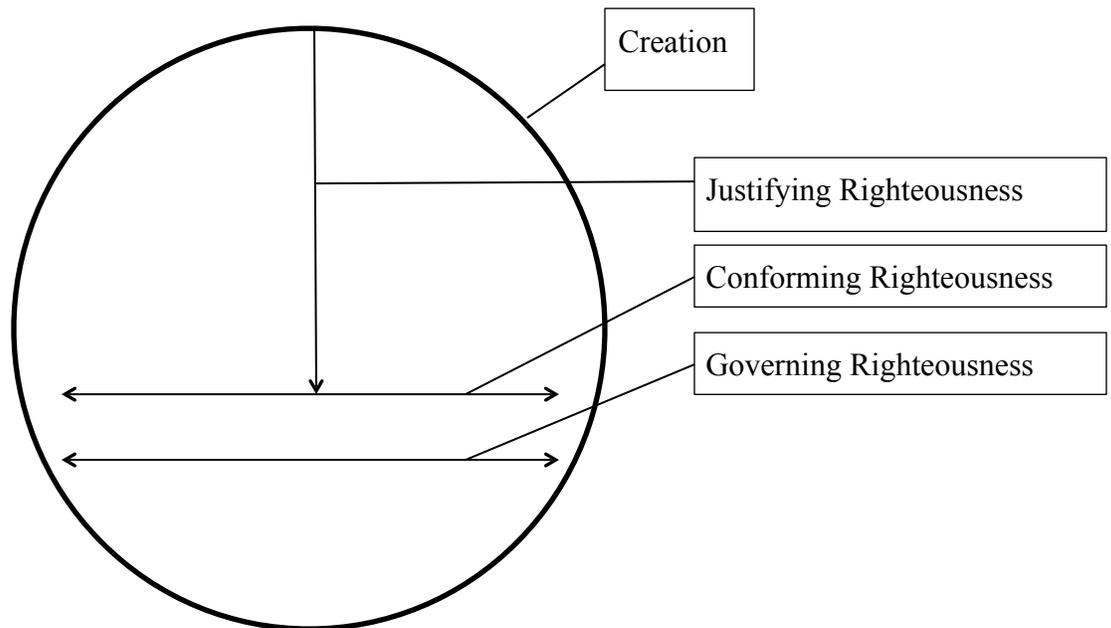


2 Kinds of Righteousness (Actually 3)

We believe, teach, and confess that the law is, strictly speaking, a divine teaching which gives instruction regarding what is right and God-pleasing and condemns everything that is sin and contrary to God's will.¹ Formula of Concord Ep V:3.

The question is what role does the law play in the life of a Christian since we are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ?



Governing Righteousness: This applies to all people no matter what their standing before God is. Governing righteousness can apply to natural law but also to actual civil law. Civil law at times in history has looked very closely to things that reflect the will of God, but civil right and wrong changes going back and forth and at times will actually go counter to the will of God. This corresponds to the “curb” as a function of the law.

Justifying Righteousness: This is our standing before God and to stand before God in righteousness only happens due to grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We bring nothing into this realm of righteousness other than a lack of righteousness. This corresponds to the “mirror.”

Conforming Righteousness: Because of justifying righteousness we are now conformed into the image of Christ and seek to live out the law of God in the realm of creation by the power of the Holy Spirit. This corresponds to the “guide/ruler”

¹ Kolb, R., Wengert, T. J., & Arand, C. P. (2000). *The Book of Concord: the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (p. 500). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

The life of a Christian is a life of repentance!

