Seek the Welfare of the City

The Belgic Confession, Article 36

1. **The Scripture: Jeremiah 29:4-7**

   Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

2. **The Doctrine**
   a. God has appointed the magistrates, investing them with the sword.

   b. The magistrate is called to "protect the sacred ministry, that the kingdom of Christ may thus be promoted."

   c. Everyone has the duty to subject himself to the magistrates.

3. **The Use**
   a. "Obey them in all things which are not repugnant to the Word of God."

   b. "Show due honor and respect to them."

   c. "Supplicate for them" in prayers.