

WCF. 20 Our Glorious Freedom!

[Falls Church – An OPC Family Watch Your Life and Doctrine Course 2020]

Westminster Conf. of Faith, Chapter 20, Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

We must understand the true balance between two apparent opposites: our obligation to keep the commands of God, and our liberty.

20.1 Two Kinds of Freedom: Freedom From and Freedom For.

What do we have freedom FROM?

The Law and Death. Romans 6:14 Christ kept the law in perfect obedience, and freed us from the obligation to keep the law as a means of obtaining life. 1 Cor. 15:54-57

Sin.

The guilt of sin. Titus 2:14

The power of sin. John 8:36 Rom. 6:22 Romans 8:28-29 Ps.119:71

The presence of sin. Galatians 1:4 1 John 2:15-17; 3:2 Rom.12:1-2

The burden of the ceremonial law. Hebrews 10:19-22

What do we have freedom FOR, or freedom unto?

Fellowship with God. Acts 26:18

Greater boldness to come to the throne of grace. Hebrews 4:16

Fuller communication of the Spirit of God. Rom. 8:9-17,21 Gal. 5:1.

What freedom is common or the same for both OT believers and NT believers?

Same freedoms. Freedom FROM and Freedom FOR. Rom.5:1 & 8:33,34

What freedoms of NT believers exceed the freedom of OT believers?

Freedom from ceremonial law, access to throne, closer to Spirit.

To whom is liberty attributed in 2 Corinthians 3:17? _____

20.2 The Individual Conscience.

Who is Lord of the conscience? Acts 5:29

What is the only director of the conscience? 1 Cor. 7:17-23 Romans 14:13-23

Can you trust your conscience?

20.3 Attack on License.

What happens to Christian liberty when one uses it as a license to sin? Rom. 6:1,15

What is the proper context for freedom of conscience? Galatians 5:13

20.4 Freedom vs. Law.

Where does our freedom stop? Or, ...for what is our liberty not intended? 1 Peter 2:16

How does the state/government relate to us with regard to sin and liberty? Rom 13:1-6

WCF. 21. We are Called to Worship God

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Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 21 - Of Worship and The Sabbath Day

John 4:23-24, “...*the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.*...” Hebrews 12:28-29, “...*since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’”*

21.1 - The Grounds of Worship (= reasons for worship)

What are the two grounds that show us there is a God, and that He is worthy of worship?
General and special revelation. Romans 1:21 Psalm 19, Acts 17:24b Deut 12:32

Does God accept worship that is done in any other way than how and when He commands? No. Matthew 15:9 Acts 17:25

What ideas does Satan introduce for our worship? Matthew 4:9

Where does the worship of God take place? Only where He chooses. Dt15:1-20.

How free are we concerning whom we worship? Why not? Exodus 20:4-6.

How much value do self-made religious practices, and worldly principles have for godliness and pleasing God? No value. Colossians 2:23

21.2 - The Object of Worship

Whom should we worship? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 4:10 Quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13, and 10:20 Also see John 5:23.

Are we free to worship anyone else...angels?? No! Col. 2:18-19, Also Col.3:1,2.

By whose mediation can we approach such a holy God, to worship Him? Only through Christ. 1 Timothy 2:5. John 14:6 Ephesians 2:18

21.3 - Elements of Worship - Prayer. John 15:7

21.4 - Elements of Worship - Prayer. Philippians 4:6 Colossians 4:2-4.

21.5 - Elements of Worship - Common and Unusual.

Common: Bible Reading, Preaching, Sacraments, and Singing.

2 Timothy 4:2 Acts 2:42, 1 Thess. 5:27 1 Timothy 4:13 1 Cor 11:23-29.

Occasional: Oaths, vows, fastings, and special occasions.

Psalm 116:12-14 Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

21.6 - Location of Worship Christ is the holy ground. Mal.1:11 John 4:21,23-24 1 Tim. 2:8

21.7 - Time of Worship - Corporate LORD's Day At the resurrection, the time shifted.

Genesis 2:2-3 Exodus 20:8-11 Isaiah 56:2-7 Mt 5:17-18 Mark 2:27-28

Romans 13:8-10 James 2:8-13 Hebrews 4:4-11

21.8 - Time of Worship - Private LORD's Day The day is to be kept.

Isaiah 58:13-14 Matthew 12:1-13

WCF.22.We Are People of Our Word!

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Wesminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 22 Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

What is an oath? An oath is a promise made to men, of which promise God is witness.

What is a vow? A vow is a promise made specifically to God.

22.1 - Calling on God as Witness.

Upon whom do we call to witness what we are promising? God.

What are we asking God to do? To hear the oath, and to judge us by the truth or falsehood of what we do. Solomon's prayer of dedication of the temple in 2 Chronicles 6:22-23

Are there NT examples of calling on God as witness? Yes, 2 Cor.1:23 Rom. 1:9.

22.2 - Swearing By God's Name.

What is the only name in which it is lawful to swear an oath? Only on the name of God. Deuteronomy 10:20, Deuteronomy 6:13,

How could we swear deceitfully? By taking an oath in the name of God, but not intending to fulfill the oath. Leviticus 19:12.

Are there appropriate times during which the authorities may place you under an oath when you give testimony? Yes. Matthew 26:63,64, It is not only proper, but is our duty to take oaths upon proper occasions.

22.3 - Taking Proper Oaths.

Is an oath rashly taken, binding? (Must it be kept?) Yes, an oath binds to performance, but not to sin. Psalm 15:4.

22.4 - Binding Oaths. Must we keep our oaths?

22.5 - Taking Vows Seriously.

Why would someone bother to take a vow for something that is a Christian duty anyway? We can commit ourselves to particular actions and particular duties, in order to obtain the blessing that comes from fulfilling our duties.

22.6 - Making a Vow to God.

22.7 - Avoiding Unbiblical Vows. Give an example of a vow to avoid.

WCF.23&24 How God Cares for Us Through Institutions

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Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 23, Of The Civil Magistrate

God is not only the Lord of the church, but also the Lord of the state. The government is a divinely ordained institution. This chapter does not spell out a monarchy, nor a democracy as the only form of government that is Biblical.

Romans 13:1-6

1 Peter 2:13-14

1 Timothy 2:2

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 24, Of Marriage and Divorce

24.1 - Monogamy

Genesis 2:24 Ephesians 5:21-33

24.2 - Purposes of Marriage

1. Help for the man and woman.
2. Propagation of the race.
3. Provision of godly seed to the church.
- 4.

24.3 - Who May Marry

Since marriage is a relationship, we must give consent to it.

Arranged marriages would be allowed, as long as the parties gave consent to it.

Do not become unequally yoked to infidels, nor to those who hold heresies. 2 Cor. 6:14

24.4 - To Whom One May Be Married.

Marriage is lawful for all, but that does not mean we are free to marry anyone.

Your family and your wife's family are people you may not marry.

24.5 - Divorce and Remarriage.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24 24:1-4 Malachi 2:10-16. Matthew 1:18-20 Matthew 19:1-6.

Mosaic penalty for adultery was the death penalty. Following the application of the death penalty, the living spouse was free to remarry, because the adulterous spouse was dead. The teaching here is that this implies that in the New Testament, those who have had their marriages broken by the adultery of their spouses, are free to remarry.

24.6 - Dissolving Marriage Bond.

1 Corinthians 7:5

1 Timothy 4:1-3

Hebrews 13:4