

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 23

Of the Civil Magistrate

1. God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be under Him over the people, for His own glory, and the public good: and, to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defence and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil doers.

2. It is lawful for Christians to accept and execute the office of a magistrate, when called thereunto: in the managing whereof, as they ought especially to maintain piety, justice, and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each commonwealth; so, for that end, they may lawfully, now under the new testament, wage war, upon just and necessary occasion.

3. The civil magistrate may not assume to himself the administration of the Word and sacraments, or the power of the keys of the kingdom of heaven: yet he hath authority, and it is his duty, to take order, that unity and peace be preserved in the Church, that the truth of God be kept pure and entire; that all blasphemies and heresies be suppressed; all corruptions and abuses in worship and discipline prevented or reformed; and all the ordinances of God duly settled, administered, and observed. For the better effecting whereof, he hath power to call synods, to be present at them, and to provide that whatsoever is transacted in them be according to the mind of God.

4. It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honour their persons, to pay them tribute or other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience sake. Infidelity, or difference in religion, doth not make void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them: from which ecclesiastical persons are not exempted, much less hath the Pope any power and jurisdiction over them in their dominions, or over any of their people; and, least of all, to deprive them of their dominions, or lives, if he shall judge them to be heretics, or upon any other pretence whatsoever.

SERMON WORKSHEET
Sunday 4th September, 2011 - PM service
“Where The State Fits In”

READINGS: 1)..... 2)..... TEXT:

INTRODUCTION

As with other Confessions the third part deals with the P..... side of things
If the 1st Table of the law is relating to God vertically the 2nd Table is about: *Tick right box*
a) how we relate to Him vortextually [] b) how we relate to Him horizontally []
Chapter 23 ties in with the fourth commandment: TRUE / FALSE ? *Cross out wrong one*
That the State is an institution set apart by God is clear from Romans :

1 - THE PLACE CIVIL GOVERNMENT HAS

Civil government has its own S..... - which is the position God gives it
The same thing as the “public good” is what we call the “C..... good”
Recognising the State as a divine institution fits in with D..... principles
Within a few decades of Paul’s writings the Emperor:
a) was having Christians murdered [] b) had become a Christian []
The idea republicanism is best is from Proverbs : ... talking about many advisers

2 - THE RESPONSIBILITIES THE CHRISTIAN HAS

Some Christian groups believe that being involved in politics is C..... your faith
When Paul said we are to be in this world but not of it he meant that we’re to always:
a) keep sacred and secular separate [] b) go & show we’re different in all of life []
In theory there should be no one B..... for holding public office than a Christian
You cannot honestly have peace on this earth unless you have the W..... to secure it
Chamberlain showed that when he came back in 1938 with the treaty H..... had signed
Romans : also applies to the despotic rulers of the world

3 - THE FUNCTION THE STATE HAS

The Article 3 we have is the reworked American version: TRUE / FALSE ?
Prince Maurice of Orange followed the advice of our Article 3? YES / NO ? *Cross wrong one*
In Matthew : Jesus shows that the State and the Church work in different spheres
When a false religion dominates in a country the State becomes an A..... father

4 - THE PRIVILEGES THE CHRISTIAN HAS

God’s Word to you is to P..... for the rulers of this land and all lands (1 Tim.2:1-2)
People coming to be S..... and to know the truth is what honours God
Praying for someone is first of all:
a) asking God to get inside them [] b) being changed so God works through you []
This Confession of faith was written in the R..... period
Opposing a false religion ruling a nation could mean supporting a government in E.....
We are to be part of a priesthood before the Lord as 1st Peter : says
Has God voted for you? YES / NO ?