

Christ Presbyterian Church

Officer's Training

Lesson #9

AN OUTLINE OF THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

Lesson #9

Chapter XIX: Of the Law of God

XIX: i, ii, iii, iv

Varieties of God's Law

- A. The law and Adam
 - 1. A covenant of works
 - a. Obey and live
 - b. Disobey and die
 - 2. Man had ability to obey
- B. The Ten Commandments (Moral Law)
 - 1. Man fell by disobedience
 - 2. The law was as written in the Ten Commandments
 - a. Duty to God
 - b. Duty to man
- C. The Ceremonial law
 - a. For worship (*Hebrews 10:1; Colossians 2:17*)
 - b. Now abolished (*Ephesians 2:15, 16*)
- D. The Judicial law also abolished

XIX: v, vi, vii

The Purpose of God's Law

- A. Moral law is still in effect and will always be. (*I John 2:3, 4, 7; Romans 3:31; Romans 6:15; James 2:8-10*)
- B. Law is not for salvation. (*Romans 6:14; Galatians 3:11*)
- C. The law is still very useful to believers.
 - 1. Tells them God's will (*Romans 7:12; I John 2:3, 4*)
 - 2. Exposes sin (*Romans 7:7; Romans 3:20*)
 - 3. Makes believers trust Christ (*Romans 7:22; 8:2*)
 - 4. The threats and promises of the law help (*Psalms 89:30-34; 19:11; John 15:10*)
 - 5. The Spirit brings man's lives into harmony with God's will (*Titus 2:14; Galatians 5:16,17*)

Lesson #9

Chapter XX: Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience

Introduction:

The previous chapter in the Confession dealt with the Law. Now the Confession links law with the glorious liberty that belongs to the sons of God.

XX: i

Christian Liberty

- A. Christ bought liberty for believers (*Titus 2:14; I Thessalonians 1:10*)
- B. Liberty consists of
 - 1. Freedom from (*Galatians 1:4; Colossians 1:13; I Corinthians 15:56, 57*)
 - a. Guilt
 - b. God's wrath and curse
 - c. Love of world
 - d. Bondage to Satan
 - e. Control of sin
 - f. Sting of death
 - g. Eternal punishment
 - 2. Freedom for (*Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:18; Romans 8:14, 15; I John 4:18*)
 - a. Access to God
 - b. Obedience to God
 - c. Love for God
- C. Under the New Covenant freedom is greater (*Galatians 5:1; Romans 8:21; II Corinthians 3:17*)

XX: ii

The Christian's Conscience

- A. God alone is Lord of the conscience (*Romans 14:4; Acts 5:29*)
- B. Man's commandments cannot bind the conscience (*Matthew 15:9*)
- C. God's Word binds the conscience
- D. To obey men out of compulsion is to violate liberty of conscience

XX: iii, iv

Liberty is not licence

- A. To practice sin in the name of liberty is to destroy true liberty (*Galatians 5:13; I Peter 2:16; II Peter 2:19*)
- B. The lawful powers in Church and State are to be obeyed (*I Peter 2:13, 14, 16; Romans 13:1-8; I Corinthians 5:1, 5, 11, 13*)

Lesson #9

Chapter XXI: Of Religious Worship and the Sabbath Day

XXI: i, ii

Worship in General

- A. The light of nature tells men they are to worship God (*Romans 1:19, 20; Psalms 19:1-6*)
- B. “The acceptable way of worshipping” God is set by God in the Bible.
(*Deuteronomy 12:32; Matthew 15:9*)
- C. God only is to be worshipped (*Matthew 4:10; John 5:23*)
- D. God is to be worshipped only through the Mediator, Jesus Christ
(*John 14:6; I Timothy 2:5*)

XXI: iii, iv, v, vi

Worship in Particular

- A. Prayer in worship
 1. Required by God (*Philippians 4:6; I Timothy 2:8*)
 2. Accepted in the name of the Son (*John 14:13, 14*)
 3. According to the Spirit and God’s will (*Romans 8:26; I John 5:14*)
 4. Made in a “known tongue” (*I Corinthians 14:14*)
 5. For whom to pray
 - a. Men who are living
 - b. Those yet to be born
 - c. Not for the dead
- B. The Scriptures in worship
 1. To be read (*Acts 15:21; Revelation 1:3*)
 2. To be preached (*II Timothy 4:2*)
- C. Singing in worship (*Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19*)
- D. The Sacraments in worship
- E. Other occasional practices
- F. Worship is free and may be done in secret or in families as well as in large assemblies.

XXI: vii, viii

The Christian Sabbath

- A. The law of nature is that time is to be given to worship of God
- B. The Bible says one day in seven
 1. Last day of the week from creation to resurrection
 2. First day of the week from the resurrection on
 3. We are to keep the Sabbath holy
 - a. Set aside regular work and recreation
 - b. Take up worship of God

Lesson #9

Chapter XXII: Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

XXII: i, ii, iii, iv

Lawful Oaths

- A. An oath is made by men to men with God as witness (*II Chronicles 6:22, 23*)
- B. Swear only by God's name and not in vain (*Deuteronomy 6:13; Exodus 20:7*)
- C. There are proper times for oaths (*Ezra 10:5; James 5:12*)
- D. An oath must be kept (*Psalms 24:4; Joshua 9:18, 19*)

XXII: v, vi, vii

Lawful Vows

- A. A vow is made by men to God (*Psalms 66:13, 14; Psalms 76:11*)
- B. A vow is voluntary and made to get what we want (*Genesis 28:20-22*)
- C. Certain vows are not to be taken

Lesson #9

Chapter XXIII: Of the Civil Magistrate

XXIII: i, ii

God and the State

- A. Civil authority established by God (*Romans 13:1-5*)
- B. God did this for His glory and our good (*I Peter 2:13, 14*)
- C. Christians may serve as civil rulers, even waging war (*Proverbs 8:15, 16; Psalms 82:3, 4*)

XXIII: iii, iv

Church and State

- A. Church and State have separate duties (*John 18:36; Ephesians 4:11, 12*)
 - 1. State serves the Church
 - 2. State never controls the Church
- B. Men's duty to the State
 - 1. Pray (*I Timothy 2:1, 2*)
 - 2. Obey (*I Peter 2:17; Romans 13:5; Titus 3:1*)

Lesson #9

ASSIGNMENT:

1. The Westminster Confession of Faith
Read: Chapters XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII
Read: G. I. Williamson, pages 137-177
2. The Book of Church Order of the P.C.A.
Read: Chapters 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. After Adam's fall the law continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness. Where was it delivered? By whom? And in how many commandments? (WCF, XIX/II) _____

2. What is this law commonly called? (WCF, XIX/III) _____
3. Are the ceremonial laws and the judicial laws of the people of Israel now binding under the New Covenant? (WCF, XIX/III, IV) Yes No
4. Who is bound by the moral law? (WCF, XIX/V) _____

5. Since true believers are not under the law as a covenant of works to be thereby justified or condemned, of what use is the law to them? (WCF, XIX/VI) (1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____
(5) _____
(6) _____
(7) _____
6. Does this put the Christian under legal bondage instead of the grace of the Gospel?(WCF,XIX/VII)
 Yes No

Lesson #9, Questions continued:

7. The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the Gospel that is also common to believers under the law is very great. In what does it consist? (WCF, XX/I)

- (1) _____ (7) _____
- (2) _____ (8) _____
- (3) _____ (9) _____
- (4) _____ (10) _____
- (5) _____ (11) _____
- (6) _____ (12) _____

8. What freedoms do believers under the Gospel enjoy that those under the law did not? (WCF, XX/I)

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

9. Who is lord of the conscience and the rule of conscience? (WCF, XX/II)

- (1) _____ (2) _____

10. Does Christian liberty mean lawlessness and license to sin? (WCF, XX/III, IV) Yes No

11. Who has instituted the acceptable way of worshipping God and what limits does this put on our worship? (WCF, XXI/I) (1) _____

- (2) _____
- _____
- _____

12. Compare Chapter XXI/I with Chapter I/VI and answer the question whether this means that nothing may be done regarding worship except what is commanded in the Bible? (GIW, pg 160f)

- Yes No

Lesson #9, Questions continued:

13. Besides prayer, what other elements does God in His Word prescribe for true worship? (WCF, XXI/V) (1) _____

(2) _____ (5) _____

(3) _____ (6) _____

(4) _____ (7) _____

14. Which day is the Christian Sabbath and how is it to be kept holy? (WCF, XXI/VII, VIII)

(1) _____

(2) _____

15. May an oath taken oblige (obligate) to sin? (WCF, XXII/IV) Yes No

16. What is the difference between an oath and a vow? (GIW, pg 177) _____

17. Regarding civil government: (WCF, XXIII/I, II, III)

(1) is the magistrate ordained of God? Yes No

(2) may he punish evil doers? Yes No

(3) wage war when just and necessary? Yes No

(4) administer the word and sacraments? Yes No

(5) protect the Church? Yes No

(6) exercise discipline in the Church? Yes No

18. Who are the parties in a case of process? (BCO, 31-3) _____

19. What must be done in case of personal offense before the injured party becomes a prosecutor? (BCO, 31-5; Matthew 18:15-16)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Lesson #9, Questions continued:

20. What is every member of a court of Jesus Christ to bear in mind? (BCO, 32-1; Galatians 6:1)

21. May a minister be divested of office without censure? (BCO, 34-10) Yes No

22. May a charge be established without more than one witness or one witness with corroborative evidence? (BCO, 35-3) Yes No

23. Which censure if any may be administered in private? (BCO, 36-3; see also 36-2, 36-3, etc.)

24. What should the rulers of the church do frequently after any person has been suspended from the Sacraments, and why? (BCO, 37-2)

(1) _____

(2) _____