

First Baptist Church of Clinton, Louisiana  
 1689 Second London Baptist Confession  
 “Chapter 23, Of Lawful Oaths and Vows, and Chapter 24, Of the Civil Magistrate”  
 March 31, 2019

#### CHAPTER 23, “Of Lawful Oaths and Vows”

- Paragraph 1 – An Oath Defined.
  - Scripture: Deut 6:13; 10:20; Isa 65:16
  - Oath taking consists in three things.
    - First in swearing in truth, righteousness and judgment.
    - Second, we call upon God as a witness.
    - Third, we call upon God as a judge.
- Paragraph 2 – The Sanctity of an Oath
  - Made to God alone.
  - Oaths Must be Warranted by God's Word. Scripture: Compare Matt 5:33-37; Jas 5:12 with Isa 65:16; Heb 6:16; 2 Cor 1:23; Gal 1:20; Rev 10:6
- Paragraph 3 – The Solemnity of an Oath. Oaths must be completely truthful. There must be no speculation or lies.
- Paragraph 4 – The Sincerity of an Oath. You must not interpret the language of an oath in a way that is contrary to its plain sense.
- Paragraph 5 – The Nature of Vows. They are to be made only to God. Vows should never be rash, but always grave. Never illegitimate vows.

#### CHAPTER 24 “Of the Civil Magistrate”

- Paragraph 1 – The Basis of the Civil Magistrate (or the government)
  - God is the basis of all authority.
  - “*Supreme Lord and King*” - Implies that there are lesser Lords and Kings.
  - Why is government ordained?
    - For God's glory. How does gov't glorify God? 1 Tim 2:1-2
    - For the public good. Good here is defined by the moral law of God, particularly in the second table. Romans 13.
  - How may the government exercise its authority?
    - By the power of the sword
    - For the defense and encouragement of the good
    - For the punishment of evil doers
  - Scripture: Romans 13:1-10; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Titus 3:1-2
- Paragraph 2 – The Lawfulness of the Civil Magistrate
  - Christians may lawfully hold the offices of the civil magistrate.
  - Christian office holders must enforce the wholesome laws of the political entity.
  - They may justly wage war.

- Paragraph 3 – The Responsibilities of Citizens to the Civil Magistrate (government)
  - Christians must submit to the government in all things lawful.
  - Motive to Submission: Not only from fear of a penalty, but for conscience sake.
  - Prayer: The Bible teaches us to pray for the government.