

The Confession of Faith.

be their duties to establish, which we for the present could not see, nor our consciences could submit unto; yet are we bound to yeeld our persons to their pleasures.

L.

And if God should provide such a mercie for us, as to incline the Magistrates hearts so for to tender our consciences, as that we might bee protected by them from wrong, injury, oppression and molestation, which long we formerly have groaned under by the tyranny and oppression of the Prelaticall Hierarchy, which God through mercy hath made this present King and Parliament wonderfull honourable, as an instrument in his hand, to throw downe; and we thereby have had some breathing time, we shall, we hope, look at it as a mercie beyond our expectation, and conceive our selves further engaged for ever to blesse God for it.

L I.

But if God with-hold the Magistrates allowance and furtherance herein; yet we must notwithstanding proceed together in Christian communion, not daring to give place to suspend our practise, but to walk in obedience to Christ in the profession and holding forth this faith before mentioned, even in the midst of all trialls and afflictions, not accounting our goods, lands, wives, children, fathers, mothers, brethren, sisters, yea, and our own lives dear unto us, so we may finish our course with joy: remembering alwayes we ought to obey God rather than men, and grounding upon the commandement, commission and promise of our Lord and master Jesus Christ, who

1 Tim. 2. 2, 3, 4.
Psal. 126. 1.
Acts 9. 31.

4 Acts 2. 40, 41.
& 4. 19, & 5. 28.
29, 41. & 20. 23.
1 Theff. 3. 3.
Phil. 1. 27, 28, 29.
Dan. 3. 16, 17. &
6, 7, 10, 21, 23.
b Matth. 28. 18,
19, 20.
1 Tim. 6. 13, 14,
15.
Rom. 12. 1, 8.
1 Cor. 14. 37.
3 Tim. 4. 7, 8.
Rev. 3. 10.
Gal. 2. 4, 5.

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as he hath all power in heaven and earth, so also hath promised, if we keep his commandments which he hath given us, to be with us to the end of the world: and when we have finished our course, and kept the faith, to give us the crowne of righteousnesse, which is laid up for all that love his appearing, and to whom we must give an account of all our actions, no man being able to discharge us of the same.

LII.

And likewise unto all men is to be given whatsoever is their due; tributes, customes, and all such lawfull duties, ought willingly to bee by us paid and performed, our lands, goods, and bodies, to submit to the Magistrate in the Lord, and the Magistrate every way to bee acknowledged, revered, and obeyed, according to godlinesse; not because of wrath onely, but for conscience sake. And finally, all men so to be esteemed and regarded, as is due and meet for their place, age, estate and condition.

Rom. 13. 5, 6, 7.
Math. 22. 21.
Titus 3.
1 Pet. 2. 13.
Ephes. 5. 21, 22.
& 6. 1, 9.
1 Pet. 5. 5.

LIII.

And thus wee desire to give unto God that which is Gods, and unto *Cesar* that which is *Cesars*, and unto all men that which belongeth unto them, endeavouring our selves to have alwayes a cleare conscience void of offence towards God, and towards man. And if any take this that we have said, to be heresie, then doe wee with the Apostle freely confesse, that after the way which they call heresie, worship we the God of our Fathers, beleaving all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets and Apostles, desiring from our soules to disclaime all heresies and

Matth. 22. 21.
Acts 24. 14, 15.
16.
John 5. 28.
2 Cor. 4. 17.
1 Tim. 6. 3, 4, 5.
1 Cor. 15. 58, 59.

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and opinions which are not after Christ, and to be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the worke of the Lord, as knowing our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

I COR. I. 24.

Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith we stand.

F I N I S.

