

Belgic Confession of Faith (1561)

Article XXXII

The Order and Discipline of the Church

Leader: In the meantime we believe, though it is useful and beneficial that those who are rulers of the Church institute and establish certain ordinances among themselves for maintaining the body of the Church, yet that they ought studiously to take care that they do not depart from those things which Christ, our only Master, has instituted.

People: **And therefore we reject all human inventions, and all laws which man would introduce into the worship of God, thereby to bind and compel the conscience in any manner whatever. Therefore we admit only of that which tends to nourish and preserve concord and unity, and to keep all men in obedience to God.**

Leader: For this purpose, excommunication or church discipline is requisite, with all that pertains to it, according to the Word of God.