

Things Most Surely Believed Among Us:
An Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith
Chapter 24: Of the Civil Magistrate

I. INTRODUCTION

II. THE ORDINATION OF MAGISTRATES (Paragraph 1)

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 defence and encouragement of them that do good, and for the punishment of evil doers.

A. THE ORDAINER OF CIVIL MAGISTRATES

B. THE POSITION OF CIVIL MAGISTRATES

C. THE PURPOSE OF CIVIL MAGISTRATES

D. THE POWER OF CIVIL MAGISTRATES

III. THE OFFICE OF MAGISTRATE (Paragraph 2)

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

A. THE LAWFULNESS OF PUBLIC OFFICE

B. THE DUTIES OF PUBLIC OFFICE

C. THE PARTICULAR PREROGATIVE OF PUBLIC OFFICE

IV. OUR DUTIES TOWARD MAGISTRATES (Paragraph 3)

3. Civil magistrates being set up by God for the ends aforesaid; subjection, in all lawful things commanded by them, ought to be yielded by us in the Lord, not only for wrath, but for conscience sake; and we ought to make supplications and prayers for kings and all that are in authority, that under them we may live a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty.

A. THE FOUNDATION OF OUR DUTY

1. Our Governing Authority Is Established by God

2. Our Governing Authority Is a Minister of God to Us for Our Good

B. OUR DUTY TO SUBMIT TO THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE

1. The Extent of Our Submission

2. The Reasons for Our Submission

C. OUR DUTY TO PRAY FOR THE CIVIL MAGISTRATE