

Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 24: Civil Government

I. The Divine Appointment of Civil Government (Par. 1)

- A. Its Ordained Position: *“God, the supreme Lord and King of the whole world, has ordained civil authorities to be under Him and over the people...”* (Rom. 13:1, 2, 4, 6)
- B. Its Ordained Purpose: *“...for His own glory and the public good.”; “to defend and encourage those who do good and to punish evildoers.”* (1 Pet. 2:13, 14)
- C. Its Ordained Power: *“For this purpose He has armed them with the power of the sword...”* (Rom. 13:4)

II. The Christian’s Involvement in Civil Government (Par. 2)

- A. Its Ethical Propriety: *“Christians may lawfully accept and carry out the duties of public office when called to do so.”*
- B. Its Special Concern: *“In performing their office they must especially maintain justice and peace, according to the wholesome laws of each kingdom or other political entity.”*
- C. Its Peculiar Prerogative: *“To carry out these duties they are authorized now under the New Testament to wage war in just and necessary situations.”* (Prov. 16:10, 12; 20:26; 25:2; Luke 3:14; Rom. 12:17-21; 13:2-4, 6)

III. The Christian’s Subjection to Civil Government (Par. 3)

A. The Duty of Obedience

- 1. Its Ground: *“Because civil authorities are established by God for the purposes stated...”*
 - 2. Its Extent: *“...we should submit in the Lord to them in everything lawful that they require.”*
 - 3. Its Nature: *“...we should submit in the Lord to them in everything lawful that they require.”*
 - 4. Its Motives: *“We should submit not only for fear of punishment but also for the sake of conscience.”*
- B. The Duty of Prayer: *“We ought to make requests and prayers for kings and everyone in authority, so that under their rule we may live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty.”* (1 Tim. 2:1, 2)