

Of Church Censures

Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 30

Lesson Plan (Chapter 30)

- 1.** Who governs the Church?
 - 2.** What Power Do Church Officers Hold?
 - 3.** Why are Church Censures Necessary?
 - 4.** How Should Censures Be Administered?
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1. Who Governs the Church?

1. The Lord Jesus, as King and Head of His Church, hath therein appointed a government, in the hand of Church officers, distinct from the civil magistrate.

2. What Power Do Church Officers Hold?

2. To these officers the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed; by virtue whereof, they have power, respectively, to retain, and remit sins; to shut that kingdom against the impenitent, both by the Word, and censures; and to open it unto penitent sinners, by the ministry of the Gospel; and by absolution from censures, as occasion shall require

3. Why are Church Censures Necessary?

3. Church censures are necessary, for the reclaiming and gaining of offending brethren, for deterring of others from like offenses, for purging out of that leaven which might infect the whole lump, for vindicating the honour of Christ, and the holy profession of the Gospel, and for preventing the wrath of God, which might justly fall upon the Church, if they should suffer His covenant, and the seals thereof, to be profaned by notorious and obstinate offenders.

4. How Should Censures Be Administered?

4. For the better attaining of these ends, the officers of the church are to proceed by admonition, suspension from the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for a season; and by excommunication from the Church, according to the nature of the crime, and demerit of the person.

Lesson Review

- 1. Who governs the Church?** Jesus and His Officers
 - 2. What Power Do Church Officers Hold?** The Keys of the Kingdom
 - 3. Why are Church Censures Necessary?** Reclaim Sinners, Deter Sin, Purify the Church, Vindicate Christ, Prevent Wrath
 - 4. How Should Censures Be Administered?** Admonition, Suspension, Excommunication
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Coming Soon

- ❖ *Easter Week (No Wednesday Night)*
- ❖ *Of Synods and Councils*
- ❖ *Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead*
- ❖ *Of the Last Judgment*

Next (Next) Week ...

