

Westminster Confession of Faith: Session Twenty-One

WCF 20 – Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1 NKJV).

I. Introduction

Martin Luther: *On the Freedom of a Christian*

Best Antidote to Legalism/Antinomianism

II. WCF Chapter XX

- a. *Paragraph 1: The Nature of Christian Liberty*
Freedom from Guilt, Wrath, and Curse

Delivered from World, Satan, and Sin

Given Access and Obedience

NT vs. OT

- b. *Paragraph 2: Liberty of Conscience*
What Conscience is NOT

Freedom from Commandments of Men
Contrary to Word in Anything

Beside Word in Matters of Worship (Regulative Principle of Worship)

- c. *Paragraph 3: Liberty from Sin*
End/Goal of Christian Liberty

Liberty vs. License

- d. *Paragraph 4: Liberty and Authority*
Resistance to the Civil Magistrate
A Sober Thing

Never Permissible if Lawful Authority

Punishment Just if Lawful Authority

III. **Conclusion**

Liberty: The Key to a Happy Christianity

Helpful Resources

Beattie, Francis R. *The Presbyterian Standards: An Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. Richmond, VA: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1896; pp. 253-256.

Hodge, Archibald Alexander. *A Commentary on the Confession of Faith*. Philadelphia, PA: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-School Work, 1869; pp. 352-365.

Luther, Martin. "Modern History Sourcebook: Martin Luther: On the Freedom of a Christian." *Internet History Sourcebooks*. Last modified 1998. Accessed September 8, 2022.
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/luther-freedomchristian.asp>.

Sproul, R. C. *Truths We Confess: A Systematic Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Revised Edition. Orlando, FL: Reformation Trust Publishing, 2019; pp. 435-458.

Van Dixhoorn, Chad. *Confessing the Faith: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*. Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2014; pp. 259-272.