

WCF 22 - Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.
~ Isaiah 45:23~

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed--Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.
~Ecclesiastes 5:4-5~

I. Introductory Thoughts

A. Terminology

1. **Oath:** A solemn affirmation or declaration, made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed.
2. **Vow:** A promise made to God

B. Why this Chapter?

1. Place in the Confession
2. Prominence in our Lives

C. What Oaths/Vows Involve

1. 3rd Commandment:
2. 9th Commandment:

II. Lawful Oaths

A. Nature (1)

1. **Biblical Examples**
2. **Occasion**
 - a. **Setting: Public**
 - b. **Matter is Serious**
 - c. **Matter need confirmation**

B. Name (2)

1. **Only by the Lord's Name**
2. **Only for the Lord's Honor**

C. Obligation

1. It is Binding (3)

2. Forbids Equivocation (4)

III. Lawful Vows

A. Biblical Occasions

B. Nature (5)

C. Purposes (6)

D. Sinful Vows

Best option, live a life of integrity and obedience to God, by the Spirit, in union with Christ the Son