



Confession de foi des Vaudois au Synode de Chanforan (1532) en anglais

Waldensian Confession of faith of Chanforan (1532)

Made with general consent by the ministers and heads of Families of the Churches of the Valleys of the Piedmont, assembled in Angrogna the 12th of September of the Year 1532.

The following articles having been framed, read, approved, and signed by all that were present, they with one accord did swear to believe, hold and observe them inviolably, as agreeing with the holy Scriptures, and containing the sum of the Doctrine which was taught them from father to son according to the Word of God.

1. That divine service cannot be performed but in spirit and in truth: because God is a Spirit, and whosoever will speak to him must do it in spirit.
2. All those that have been, and shall be saved, have been elected of God, before the foundation of the world.
3. It is impossible that those who have been appointed to salvation, should not be saved.
4. Whosoever upholds free-will denies absolutely predestination, and the grace of God.
5. No work is called good, but that which God has commanded, and no work is bad but that which he forbids.
6. A Christian may swear by the Name of God without contravention of what is written in Matthew 5, provided that he that swears does not take the Name of God in vain. Now it is not in vain, when the oath tends to God's glory, and to the good of a man's neighbour: moreover, one may swear before magistrates, because he that exercises the office of magistrate, whether a believer or unbeliever, holds his power from God.
7. Auricular confession is not commanded of God, and it has been determined according to holy Scripture, that the true Confession of a Christian is, to confess to God alone, to whom belongs honour and glory; there is another kind of Confession, which is when one reconciles himself to his neighbour, which is spoken of in St. Matthew, chapter 5. The third manner of Confession is, when one having offended publicly, and to every man's knowledge, does also publicly confess and acknowledge offense.
8. We ought to cease on the Lord's Day from our works, as men zealous of the honour and glory of God, also out of charity towards our servants, and to apply ourselves to the hearing of the Word of God.

9. It is not lawful for a Christian to take revenge upon his enemy in any manner whatsoever.
10. A Christian may exercise the office of magistrate over other Christians.
11. There is no certain determination of time for any Christian fast, and it cannot be found in the Scripture, that God has commanded and appointed any special days.
12. Marriage is not forbidden to any, of what quality and condition soever he be.
13. Whosoever forbids marriage teaches a diabolical doctrine.
14. Whosoever has not the gift of chastity is bound to marry.
15. The ministers of the Word of God ought not to remove from place to place, except it be for some great good to the Church.
16. It is not a thing repugnant to the Apostolic communion, that ministers should possess some estate proper to themselves, for the subsistence of their families.
17. Concerning the matter of the sacraments, it has been determined by the holy Scripture, that we have but two sacramental signs left us by Jesus Christ; the one is baptism, the other is the eucharist, which we receive, to show that our perseverance in the faith is such as we promised when we were baptized, and moreover, in remembrance of that great benefit given to us by Jesus Christ, when he died for our redemption, and washed us with his precious blood.

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