

Six Affirmations

extract from Proposition XV § ii

§ ii. Almost all of our adversaries argue that some specific things are lawful, and they allow themselves to do them, considering them not at all inconsistent with the Christian religion. However we find that these things are not at all lawful for us, and the Lord has commanded us to lay them aside, although doing so has caused considerable suffering and affliction* and has brought upon us the world's hatred and malice. Because these things are distinctive and make us known upon sight, we cannot hide ourselves without proving unfaithful to our testimony, and our struggles and trials have become even more numerous and difficult, as will be made clear later. I have tried to describe these things briefly in this Thesis, but they may be explained at greater length in the following six affirmations:

1) It is not lawful to address people with such flattering titles as "Your Holiness," "Your Majesty," "Your Excellency," "Your Grace," "Your Lordship," "Your Honor" etc. nor to use the flattering words which are commonly called "compliments."

2) It is not lawful for Christians to kneel or prostrate themselves to anyone, nor to bow the body or remove the hat to them.

3) It is not lawful for Christians to use superfluous clothing which is not of any use except for ornament and vanity.

4) It is not lawful among Christians to practice games, sports, gambling, or comedies, considering them recreations, because they are not consistent with Christian silence, gravity, and sobriety. Laughing, playing sports and

games, making fun, joking, and chattering* are not Christian liberty, nor harmless mirth.

5) It is not lawful for Christians under the Gospel to swear at all, not only in common discourse, which was forbidden under the law of Moses, but not even in legal procedures before the magistrate.

6) It is not lawful for Christians to resist evil, nor to make war or fight for any reason.

Sources: Robert Barclay, *Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, Proposition XV § ii (Glenside PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 2002) p. 432 and Roberti Barclaii, *Teologiae verè Christianae apologia*, facsimile (Amsterdam: Jacob Claus, 1676) p. 334.