

1689 London Confession, Chapter 5: “Of Divine Providence,” excerpts

1. God the good creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom, does uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all his creatures and things, {Heb. 1:3; Job 38:11; Isa. 46:10-11; Ps. 135:6} from the greatest even to the least, {Mt. 10:29-31} by his most wise and holy providence, to the end for which they were created, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will; to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, infinite goodness, and mercy. {Eph. 1:11}
2. Although in relation to the foreknowledge and decree of God, the first cause, all things come to pass immutably and infallibly; {Acts 2:23} so that there is not anything befalls any by chance, or without his providence; {Prov. 16:33} yet by the same providence he orders them to fall out according to the nature of second causes, either necessarily, freely, or contingently. {Gen. 8:22}
3. God, in his ordinary providence makes use of means, {Acts 27:31,44; Isa. 55:10-11} yet is free to work without, {Hos. 1:7} above, {Rom. 4:19-21} and against them {Dan. 3:27} at his pleasure.
4. The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God, so far manifest themselves in his providence, that his determinate counsel extends itself even to the first fall, and all other sinful actions both of angels and men; {Rom. 11:32-34; 2Sa 24:1; 1 Chr. 21:1} and that not by a bare permission, which also he most wisely and powerfully bounds, and otherwise orders and governs, {2 Ki. 19:28; Ps. 76:10} in a manifold dispensation to his most holy ends; {Gen. 1:20 Isa 10:6-7,12} yet so, as the sinfulness of their acts proceeds only from the creatures, and not from God, who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin. {Ps. 50:21; 1Jo 2:16}...
7. Just as the providence of God in general reaches to all creatures, so in a more special way takes care of his church, and arranges all things for its good. {1 Tim. 4:10; Am. 9:8,9; Isa 43:3-5}

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