

Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly



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Declarations Concerning Warfare and Military Service

This document consists of pastoral direction (Zechariah 7:7) to the Membership of our Churches concerning Military Service in the United States Military as it exists today.

- Scripture teaches the duty of individuals to abide by God's commandments and establishes a Liberty of Conscience which is to be exercised in adherence to the Word of God, the Holy Bible.
 - James 4:12; Acts 4:19; Acts 5:29; 1Cor 7:23 Romans 14:4-23; 1 Corinthians 10:23-33
 - Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 20 (The Secondary Standard of the RPCGA)
- God, the Author of Scripture, is the God of the whole earth, over all world leaders, governments, and military commanders, and He will judge the governors of the earth, and nations themselves as to how they have obeyed or disobeyed Him.
 - Psalm 22:28; 82:1-8; Proverbs 14:34; Ecclesiastes 5:8; Romans 13:1-10
 - Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 23
- Governments historically have used their military force for good, or for evil: for defense of the homeland and its citizens, or for the projection of imperial, immoral power. Therefore, Christian men must be convinced that their service is in accord with the Word of the Lord, in order to serve Him conscientiously, and have the right of conscience to refuse any service they consider sinful in God's sight, contrary to His Word.
 - Isaiah 10:5-19; 14:4-23; Habakkuk 2:5-14; Acts 4:19; 5:29
- The Christian's obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ requires that he cannot participate in or approve of what is unbiblical or immoral. Evils embraced by the modern United States military chain of command weaken the military's effectiveness, and draw down the displeasure of God upon our nation. Contrary to this, the Christian is required to obey God in calling things that are evil, evil, and approving of that which is good. (Isaiah 5:18-21) Some of these evils are:
 - Transgenderism: Deuteronomy 22:5
 - Homosexuality: Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9
 - Inclusion of women in the war-fighting force: Judges 4:4-9; Psalm 68:12; 1 Timothy 2: 9-15; 5:11-15
 - Morally dubious military aggression on foreign soil: Numbers 10:9; Deuteronomy 20:1-15
- Because biblical liberty of conscience is a protected right and seeing that to abstain from the participation in or approval of evil is required of the Christian, and that this is a duty even during military service, forced acknowledgement of or participation in the evils mentioned above cannot be enjoined upon him, seeing that these decisions of military command are contrary to the revealed will of the God of all the earth.
 - Exodus 23:7; Romans 12:17; Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:22

The conclusion drawn from the biblical material surveyed is that Christians should be fully convinced in their minds, from the Word of the Lord, that they will be able conscientiously to serve in the United States Military by considering *all* aspects of their service before they take vows before the Lord, and that to conscript anyone to service against their conscientiously held religious belief is immoral, and cannot justly be required of a follower of Jesus Christ. Further, given the current estate of the United States Military, in light of its commitments to the sins listed above, along with other potential moral compromises, the uprightness of such service is doubtful before the God of all the earth.