

II. As magistrates may lawfully call a synod of ministers, and other fit persons, to consult and advise with about matters of religion; ^b so if magistrates be open enemies to the church, the ministers of Christ, of themselves, by virtue of their office, or they, with other fit persons upon delegation from their churches, may meet together in such assemblies.^c

III. It belongeth to synods and councils ministerially to determine controversies of faith, and cases of conscience; to set down rules and directions for the better ordering of the public worship of God, and government of his church; to receive complaints in cases of mal-administration, and authoritatively to determine the same: which decrees and determinations, if consonant to the word of God, are to be received with reverence and submission, not only for their agreement with the word, but also for the power whereby they are made, as being an ordinance of God, appointed thereunto in his word.^d

IV. All synods or councils since the apostles' times, whether general or particular, may err, and many have erred; therefore they are not to be made the rule of faith or practice, but to be used as a help in both.^e

V. Synods and councils are to handle or conclude nothing but that which is ecclesiastical; and are not

II. ^b Isa. xlix. 23; 1 Tim. ii. 1, 2. [2 Chron. xix. 8 to the end. 2 Chron. Chapters xxix. and xxx. throughout.] Matt. ii. 4, 5; Prov. xi. 14. ^c Acts xv. 2, 4 [See in letter ^a], 22, 23, 25.

III. ^d Acts xv. 15, 19, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. [See in the Bible.] Acts xvi. 4; Matt. xviii. 17, 18, 19, 20.

IV. ^e Eph. ii. 20; Acts xvii. 11; 1 Cor. ii. 5; 2 Cor. i. 24.