

Lawful Vows

Michael Woody / LBCF 23:5

Survey of Scripture

1. A vow, which is not to be made to any creature, but to God alone, his to be made and performed with all religious care and faithfulness (Psa 76:11; Gen 28:20-22)
2. But popish monastical vows of perpetual single life, professed poverty, and regular obedience, are so far from being degrees of higher perfection, that they are superstitious and sinful snares, in which no Christian may entangle himself. (1 Cor 7:2,9; Eph 4:28; Mat 19:11)

What Does This Teach Us?

These words are similar

1. These two words are used together in Numbers 30:2 in a manner, which suggests their _____ in meaning.
2. Both are _____ promises.
3. Both are _____ sanctioned.
4. Both ought to be made _____ and kept _____.

These words are different

1. Oaths are solemn promises made before the _____, but to men.
2. The purpose of the oath is _____. The purpose of the vow is _____.
3. In an oath, _____ is generally the party, and God is invoked as the _____; in a vow, God is both the _____ and the _____.

What are vows?

1. A vow is a solemn promise made to God, and may be either personal or social; a vow is like a _____.
2. A vow is to be made to _____ alone; and, therefore, to make vows to saints departed, as Papists do, is superstitious and idolatrous.
3. Vows ought to be entered into _____, and in the _____ of faith, or in dependence upon the _____ of Christ for enabling us to perform them
4. A vow has an intrinsic _____, distinct from the obligation of the law of God. In the law, God binds us by his authoritative command; in a vow, we bind _____ by our own voluntary engagement