

*Rule 13:* In the rules which the apostles gave to their churches in things indifferent, the Church hath a liberty; but it is not to be used but for great reason and great necessity, and for the edification of the people committed to their charge.

*Rule 14:* The canons of the ancient general and provincial councils are then laws to the conscience when they are bound upon us by the authority of the respective governors of churches.

*Rule 15:* The laudable customs of the Catholic Church which are in present observation do oblige the conscience of all Christians.

*Rule 16:* The decrees and canons of the bishops of Rome oblige the conscience of none but his own subjects.

*Rule 17:* Ecclesiastical laws that are merely such cannot be universal and perpetual.

*Rule 18:* Ecclesiastical laws and circumstances of external observances do not bind the conscience beyond the cases of contempt and scandal.

*Rule 19:* Ecclesiastical laws must be charitable and easy, and when they are not, they oblige not.

*Rule 20:* Ecclesiastical laws must ever promote the service of God and the good of souls; but must never put a snare or stumbling block to consciences.

## **1994 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

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