

PROCLAMATION ON RELIGION

Charles I (1600–1649), King of England and Scotland (1625–1649)

Whitehall, 10 December 1641

His Majesty, considering that it is a duty most befitting, and that most obliges sovereign authority in a Christian king to be careful (above all other things) of preserving and advancing the honor and service of Almighty God, and the peace and tranquility of the Church, to which end His Majesty with his Parliament has it under consideration how all just scruples may be removed, and being in the meantime sensible that the present division, separation, and disorder about the worship and service of God, as it is established by the laws and statutes of this Kingdom in the Church of England, tends to great distraction and confusion, and may endanger the subversion of the very essence and substance of true religion,

Has resolved, for the preservation of unity and peace (which is most necessary at this time for the Church of England) to require obedience to the laws and statutes ordained for establishing of the true religion in this Kingdom whereby the honor of God may be advanced, to the great comfort and happiness both of His Majesty and his good subjects.

His Majesty does therefore charge and command that Divine Services be performed in this, his Kingdom of England and dominion of Wales, as is appointed by the laws and statutes established in this realm, and that obedience be given by all his subjects, ecclesiastical and temporal, to the said laws and statutes concerning the same; and that all judges, officers, and ministers, ecclesiastical and temporal, according to justice and their respective duties, do put the said Acts of Parliament in due execution against willful contemners and disturbers of divine service contrary to the said laws and statutes.

His Majesty does further command that no parsons, vicars, or curates, in their several parishes, shall presume to introduce any rite or ceremonies other than those which are established by the laws and statutes of the land.

Henry Gee and William John Hardy, eds., *Documents Illustrative of English Church History* (London: MacMillan and Company, 1914):562–563.