

Baptist Principle of Freedom of Belief

Written by Mission

Thomas Helwys stood up for the beliefs of others and a concern for religious liberty is deeply embedded in our Baptist heritage and identity.

“For our lord the king is but an earthly king, and he has no authority as a king but in earthly causes. And if the king’s people be obedient and true subjects, obeying all human laws made by the king, our lord the king can require no more. For men’s religion to God is between God and themselves. The king shall not answer for it. Neither may the king be judge between God and man. Let them be heretics, Turks (ie Muslims), Jews, or whatsoever, it appertains not to the earthly power to punish them in the least measure. This is made evident to our lord the king by the scriptures.”

Thomas Helwys - Founder of the first Baptist Church in England