

And therefore deservedly that saying of Paul's is praised. "Everything is permitted to me, but not everything is beneficial." Likewise, in this case, we must ponder not whether it is permitted, nor what our law permits, nor what the moment demands, but what is beneficial to have happen. Indeed I know that this beyond-wild license of Christians, I know that these crimes and adulteries proceeding not so much wisely as without punishment deserve nothing other than that they be constrained by the strictest boundaries of the law. However, it is not necessary that Evangelical preachers assert their power which human vengeance advises. But that the spirit of lenience moderate itself, reflecting in itself not what is permitted, but what in each matter is beneficial. Whatever is permitted to the magistrates,