

kingdom of God, the one fold of Christ, the one body of Christ, and that body so thoroughly organized that every member has its own office, and all the members are members one of another. It is organized by having rulers and ruled, all under Christ. The apostolic ministry and apostolic faith are essentials of the true church; if one or other be wanting, it cannot be the Church of Christ. The apostolic ministry, especially the apostles or bishops, have been, during these eighteen hundred years past, the visible centres of the church's unity. It is the duty of the private members to obey those who are set over them, and it is only those who continue in fellowship with the chief rulers of the church, that continue in the church's unity. All true bishops are bishops of the whole church throughout the world, even as the apostles were all apostles or bishops (Acts i. 20,) of one and the same church. To this one only Church of Christ God has given the Holy Scriptures with all the promises of grace and salvation recorded therein. The Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, &c., to whom the New Testament epistles were directed, were all members of this one only church. So also were given to the church all other parts of the Bible. The members of the church, and they only, are the heirs of promise. Therefore, such people as do not belong to the church, or who leave the church, have no right to a single promise of Scripture. They may have printed copies of God's will and testament, namely, the Bible, and may read even devoutly what is therein promised; but they cannot lay claim to what is promised, they not being heirs. "*God adds to the church such as shall be saved,*" as we are told in Acts ii. 47; and indeed God instituted the church for the very purpose of gathering all into one loving brotherhood, for the purpose of training them together for unity in heaven. But if we reject this heavenly institution, and take up with some rival institution, some human invention, or sect, or society, instead of Christ's Church, then we can have no assurance of salvation, or of pardon of our sins, or of heaven hereafter. Christ has promised to be with His church alway, even unto the end of the world; but it must be *His Church*, not a sect fighting against it. Christ has promised to be in the midst of two or three who gather together in His name; that is, by His authority, in accordance with His laws, and for His glory, as all Protestant commentators tell us. But schismatics hold their meetings in opposition to His authority, in violation of His laws. They are not with Him, but against Him: they are not gathering with Him into His Church, but scattering abroad, and therefore have no promise from Christ to be in the midst of them. To say that the Holy Ghost teaches or inclines people to leave the historic Church of Christ, seems exceedingly like the awful sin against the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit Himself tells us

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