

This is introducing it into the church. The bible would be much better to keep error out of the church, because it contains no error. To say that they are more explicit and plain than the Bible, is to charge the Holy Spirit with incompetency. To say that they are more *concise* than the Bible, and therefore to be preferred, is to allege that the Bible is redundant. We are aware that human creeds are so *concise*, that they contain little else than human speculations. To say that they are a necessary bond to bind Christians together, is to deny the efficacy of Christian love. 'Love is the bond of perfectness.' It is the *only* divinely constituted bond of union.

"2. Their tendency is evil, only evil, and that continually. The history of the Church, from the time of the fabrication of the Nicene Creed, until the present period, is a continual demonstration of the truth of this position.

"3. There is no divine warrant for their use, either from precept or example. And the reason is very obvious: inspired truth, unmodified and uncommended, was the only authorized constitution of the church.

"4. They are the fruits of an unauthorized and sinful legislation in the church. Christ has never vested the legislative power in the church. That power he has wisely reserved to himself. That creeds are legislative enactments no one can doubt. They are made the laws of the church.

"5. They supersede the Bible. This is evident from the fact, that they constitute the basis of sectarian churches and ecclesiastical judicatories. Persons for admission are examined by the creeds. All their judicial proceedings are conformed to the same rule. Delinquents are tried by the Creed, and not by the Bible.

"6. They tend most powerfully to perpetuate the enormous evils of sectarianism. Specifications here are unnecessary.

"7. They eject real Christians from the church. A change of views which is acknowledged not to affect the Christian character of a person, is a sufficient reason for his ejection from the church, according to the creeds. Thousands have been cast out of the church for no better reason.

"8. They prevent real Christians from coming into the church. They cannot *conscientiously* comply with all their self-made terms of membership. Thus the privileges of the church are denied to the members of Christ's body.

"9. They prevent an increase of scriptural knowledge. If a man have imbibed error, it is *disorderly*, according to the creed, to retract them. If he shall gain any new light, he must be regarded as a heretic, and be treated accordingly. The creed stands with a drawn sword to prevent any member of the church advancing in the way of scriptural knowledge. It will not allow the mind to transcend its narrow limits. All beyond is forbidden ground.

"10. They are almost invariably made by the few, and imposed on the many. A few in one generation will fabricate the systems of faith for all coming generations. To question their infallibility, in ages afterwards, is regarded as truly schismatical in the Protestant, as it is in the Catholic church, to question the infallibility of the Pope.