

exercise and improve the same for the benefit of the church; and the church ought to be subject to the gifts bestowed on the minister from the Lord, while he is rightly administering in his place, whose place it is to lead in the actings of the church, and to administer the ordinances of the gospel, and to devote himself to the work of teaching, warning, rebuking and exhorting the people, publicly, and from house to house.

6. The Deacon's office or work is to take care of the poor, and to have the oversight of the temporal affairs of the church, and to minister at the Lord's table.

7. Every believer is commanded to be faithful, to improve every gift and talent which is bestowed on him; in order to which, there ought to be such a gospel freedom that the church may know where every particular gift is, that it may be improved in its proper place, and to its right end: viz. the glory of God and the good of his people; and the church ought to be subject to such improvements.

8. There is a mutual obligation between minister and people; the former, to administer in things religious and spiritual, according to the gifts God has given; the latter, to communicate of their temporal or worldly substance for his comfort and support, and that by an equality as nearly as can be ascertained, that one may not be burthened and another eased. But this is not to be effected by force or compulsion, or by the sword of civil power; but it is to be a free-will offering, agreeably to the Scriptures of truth. And every member deficient in this matter ought to be disciplined by gospel rule, as for any other breach of covenant, or neglect of performing christian duty.

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## THE COVENANT.

We do now, in the presence of the great allseeing, and most glorious God, and before angels and men, give up ourselves to the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and avouch Him this day to be our God, our Father, our Saviour, and our Leader, and receive him as our portion forever.

We give up ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ, and engage to adhere to him as the Head of his people in the cov-