

&c., unless we can plainly, and in expressions of terms, prove it so. Such language as this hath strangely divided our spirits, and hardened our hearts one towards another.

If we would live in peace, let us make the best construction of one another's words and actions. Charity judges the best, and it thinks no evil; if words and actions may be construed to a good sense, let us never put a bad construction upon them. How much hath the peace of Christians been broken by an uncharitable interpretation of words and actions? As some lay to the charge of others that which they never said, so, by straining men's words, others lay to their charge that they never thought.

10. Be willing to hear, and learn, and obey those that God by his providence hath set over you; this is a great means to preserve the unity and peace of churches: but when men (yet, and sometimes women) shall usurp authority, and think themselves wiser than their teachers, no wonder, if these people run into contentions and parties, when any shall say they are not free to hear those whom the church thinks fit to speak to them. This is the first step to schism, and is usually attended, if not timely prevented, with a sinful separation.

11. If you would keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, be mindful, that the God whom you serve is a God of peace, and your Saviour is a Prince of peace, and that "his ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace;" and that Christ was sent into the world "to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace."

12. Consider the oneness of spirit that is among the enemies of religion; though they disagree in other things, yet to persecute religion, and extirpate religion out of the earth, here they will agree; the devils in hell, and the devils in the earth, all the devils in hell, and all the devils in the world, make one at this turn. Shall the devil's kingdom be united; and shall Christ's be divided? Shall the devils make one

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