

a divine proclamation, that through its sacred portals the only safe path to heaven runs. Would Jesus have founded it, joined his first disciples to it, called it his "body," "loved it," and preserved it, as by a perpetual miracle, even against the "gates of hell," if it were not necessary to the salvation of his followers? Did its institution spring from the suggestions of caprice, or was it the outgrowth of his wisdom and love? *You* will surely acknowledge it to be the latter. How, then, can you neglect to join yourself to it, without despising his wisdom, exhibiting a measure of *self-will* utterly unbecoming in a disciple, risking your salvation, and exposing yourself to the fate of him whose scornful rejection of the wedding garment overwhelmed him with speechless shame, when he was arraigned at the tribunal of his offended Lord?

Nor can you refuse to join the visible church without at least a show of unkindness, utterly inconsistent with that love for Christ which you profess. It is the nature of love to yield itself to the wishes of its