

Such, then, we conceive to have been the capital error of all creed-makers. They have marred the symmetry of that divine form of sound words given it by the hand of Inspiration. They have broken the connexion, and have put asunder that which God had joined together. The golden chain of divine truth, the links of which have been joined by the skilful hand of Inspired Wisdom, have been rudely broken asunder by the unskilful hand of the creed-maker.

Every human creed is consequently without the divine form, and void, being destitute of divine power, and consequent darkness pervades the minds of the people.

Hence so long as we receive a human creed as the form of sound words in preference to that which, like its author, is perfect and divine, we deprive ourselves of that which alone can save, sanctify, unite, and bless the children of men.

Every truly enlightened Christian, who prays for the conversion of the world and the union of believers in the bonds of Christian fellowship, will, therefore, as a loyal subject, uses only that form of sound words, as the grand instrument furnished for this desirable purpose, by the Head of the church himself. Such a one must be the uncompromising opponent of all church standards of human contrivance, as means of conversion; or as bases of ecclesiastical union. And from the fact that such ecclesiastical standards or orthodoxy are common amongst us—he is to regard them as the signs of the times, and he can make it as clear as a sunbeam that the present are those perilous times of the latter days, in which professors, under the forms of religion, shall be money-lovers, despisers of good men, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

The religious reformer of the nineteenth century must feel, in all its weight and importance, that solemn charge given by the Apostle to Timothy—"To preach the word, to be instant in season, out of season: to reprove, rebuke exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine;" for the prediction he now sees fulfilling, seeing the time has come, that many have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing teachers, and will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own desires have heaped to themselves teachers, having itching ears, who have turned away the ears of the people from the truth unto fables. By thus contending for, and holding fast the form of sound words, the faith formerly delivered to the saints, he may consistently pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven."—*Harbinger*.