

for ours? Even Theodore Parker, the prince of creed-killers, could not throw away his creed, without throwing away himself. He had his religious creed in the form of unwritten religious intuitions—"instinctive intuitions" as he called them. Nor did he fail to *write* and *publish* his "intuitions," and contend, with all his might for this written creed or "Confession of Faith," thus doing the very thing against which he continually hurled the shafts of his fiery rhetoric.

(10.) *A creed adopted by the assembled wisdom of the Church, is more likely to be trustworthy than the creed of an individual, though he be a minister and theologian.*

We have seen that the people need some brief statement of the central vital doctrines of the Bible. Shall this statement be made by the individual minister? But he may be unskillful and unsafe in analyzing Bible truth and constructing a creed at once scriptural and adapted to the exigencies of the times. For while the power to instruct and edify the Church is not a rare gift, this power of analyzing and generalizing is a rare gift. Moreover individuals are often eccentric. Large bodies are seldom eccentric. The consequence is that in those so-called "Christian" churches, in which there is no formal creed, minister and people become vague in their views of saving truth, and degenerate into inextricable confusion of doctrine. An erratic, audacious, self-conceited, imprudent and dogmatic minister—unchecked by any confederated church authority, or solemnly announced creed, can do more harm than can be successfully antagonized by ten ministers who are his superiors in everything but his audacity.

(11.) *Written creeds are authorized by Scripture, precept and example.*