

we not *all* a right to assemble on the same theological platform and enter into partnership. Or, in other words, have we not a right to organize a church? For what is a church, in the lower sense, but a partnership between men having a common religious creed?

In this whole process, observe, there is no force used, no "liberties" are violated, no rights invaded.

Why then, all this tirade against creeds? In embracing and defending a creed, we exercise a right not denied us in other matters. A creed is supposed to be the statement of a fundamental religious doctrine, to defend which is no more infringement of personal freedom than to hold and defend the fundamental principles or axioms of any secular science. If as members of a scientific organization, or literary society, or political party, we have a right to adopt, record, and defend our common principles, platform or creed, we claim the same right as members of the church. If the opposition will grant us even this right, we shall at least have a fair field for the fight.

(2.) *A common creed, written or unwritten, is a necessary basis and bond of Church fellowship and organization.*

To perpetuate Christianity on the earth, we must have churches, or organizations of individuals. These individual elements of the organization must be attracted and cemented by some common principles. These common principles are of the nature of a creed. No society, secular or religious, can organize, thrive, and endure, unless there be at its foundation some common creed or platform of common principles, as a basis and bond of union. We defy the champions of Liberalism or Agnosticism to make the experiment!

For proof of our position we appeal to all history, to common observation, and to common sense.