

cuted, yet was his resentment never provoked, nor was his zeal ever abated. He was stedfast in all things unto the end.

Next in importance to stedfastness of faith and conduct, stands that of attachment to the Church to which we belong. If we examine her doctrines, we find them in exact accordance with the plain declarations of the Holy Scriptures—if we examine her *constitution and government* we find them to be such as were recognized by our Lord and fully established by his holy Apostles. If we examine her rites and ceremonies, we shall find them in conformity to the Word of God, and the practice of the primitive church. The more carefully we investigate her claims, the more fully will we be persuaded that she is the pure Apostolical Church of Christ, equally removed from the practice of degrading superstitions, and the baneful influences of fanaticism, and, having every thing relating to Externals done decently and in order.—It is true indeed that she contracts some slight defilement while in her militant state, and during her contact with a corrupt world, but the few spots, which some may deem unsightly, and which we all could wish to see removed do not materially mar her beauty—She is still venerable and lovely—under the watchful care of Him who has promised to be with it even unto the end of the world. When we reflect upon the disorders and divisions which exist amongst professing christians, in all countries where christianity has been introduced, by the conduct of those who pretending to recognize no other rule than the word of God, yet pervert and distort its plainest statements, as to church government, for the purpose of acquiring notoriety and supporting their own crude theories and systems. When we reflect upon the astounding but **UNDENIABLE** fact, that skepticism, unitarianism, and other heresies, also scisms and divisions without number prevail almost universally in those countries, in which although *the Bible be the only recognized rule of faith*, yet Episcopacy has been set aside, and forms of church government of man's invention and contrivance have been substituted for that form established by the inspired Apostles. When I say, we reflect upon this astounding but humiliating fact, can we for a moment entertain a doubt of the danger and peril of interfering and tampering with divine institutions, even in a case of *the most urgent necessity*. When moreover we reflect upon the prevalence of the unhallowed spirit of opposition to the appointments of God, which in former times caused the earth to open wide her jaws and swallow up Corah and his rebellious companions, and on the contempt and ridicule which are brought upon Christ's holy religion, by the conduct of those, who of their *own mere motion* are setting themselves up as teachers of christianity, it matters not how ignorant and unqualified soever they may be—can we be influenced by any other feelings than those of affection, and veneration for our Apostolic Church, and can we for a moment allow our stedfastness in attachment to her to be