

Again he says, "Let them alone; they be blind, leaders of the blind, and if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Not only the blind leaders, but their equally blind followers. Now without wishing to judge uncharitably, does not the word of God warrant us in saying, that those now who either teach or follow the doctrines of men, given to us in creeds, catechisms, disciplines, and such like, are pursuing the footsteps of the scribes and Pharisees? Oh! I fear that many will discover, when it is too late, God cannot be worshipped by "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men," nor by following the doctrines of men.

I am aware that those who believe in creeds, and who defend them, endeavour to prove that the doctrines contained in them are taken from the word of God. This however I will not admit, nor can it be proved. On the contrary, any one who is at all familiar with the creeds and disciplines of our modern, as well as ancient sects, and who are familiar also with their bibles, are aware that much that is taught in these man-productions cannot be found in the word of *truth*. Some there are amongst the sects who are aware of this, and who, in defending themselves, find themselves placed in a strange dilemma. They will not boldly assert that their ministerial assemblies, or conferences, have the power claimed by the *Hiculi* of the Roman hierarchy; but when pressed upon the subject, they are driven into a position in which they virtually assert the same thing. They contend that their churches (meaning I suppose their ministers,) have a right to draw up creeds, articles, and rules, which are to be taught, believed, and followed by their respective bodies.

Now if this is not giving to their ministers the same power as that claimed by the pope in this particular, I think there may be a dispute without a difference. Ask them to prove that God authorized their ministers, or any other ministers, to draw up creeds or confessions, and to enforce the observance of them upon his people,—they cannot do it,—and although they cannot do this, and although they admit that their ministers are neither apostles nor inspired men, yet they still think that these ministers have powers greater than those committed to the apostles. If you ask such persons for scriptural proof for many of their practices, such as baptizing infants, having god-fathers and god mothers, —allowing one man to rule a church,—trying members by a committee,—they must either admit, that, like the Pharisees and scribes of old, they are following the doctrines and commandments of men, or else