

Some will probably say, O how uncharitable. What! is it uncharitable to draw conclusions from premises laid down by themselves? But you reply, their articles say nothing about John's baptism! Do you think their articles (parts of which are very erroneous as I may shew at another time) contain all that they believe and preach. Is there one word in them on the subject of John's baptism, which they continually preach? This they do either ignorantly, not being able to distinguish between the baptism of Christ and the baptism of John, or wilfully knowing better, but to give the more plausible appearance to their error in repelling children from baptism, whereby they are the better enabled to carry their point and to promote party divisions.

I am fully satisfied that the rejection of infants from baptism is neither founded upon the word of God, or the Apostolic or primitive practice, but is a departure from all these, and is now made use of for party purposes as it was among the Anabaptists in Germany, whereby the flock of Christ is not only more and more divided, but also scattered abroad. I know there are many well minded persons who are ignorantly led away by this error, thinking perhaps that it is in itself a matter of no great moment, and not considering that the people who hold this tenet, also hold other tenets equally erroneous and calculated to subvert both religion and morality. Thus these simple, upright, but misled people, who renounce their Christian baptism, and submit to the baptism of John, by so doing not only separate from the Church of Christ, but also unite with a people whose tenets are contrary to the word of God in many other essential points. And these are the people who wish forsooth to identify themselves with the Churches of England and Scotland! But I want to know when did those Churches renounce their Christian Baptism for the Baptism of John? I never heard of the event, and I am sure I never shall. It is really astonishing the deception that is practised in the above instance, and in many other instances by the supporters of the system we have now in review. True indeed there may be a few who know not the depths of satan, as others of them speak, who oppose Christ and his ministers through ignorance, rather than malice; these I trust, by grace, shall yet be delivered from the snare into which they are fallen, and experience the glorious Gospel liberty of christians. May they speedily see, and forsake their errors, and turn to the Lord Jesus, from whom many of them have grievously revolted. Indeed they boastingly say that Baptists do not often turn Churchmen, Methodists, &c. although these frequently turn Baptists. But they are not the first who gloried in what they ought to be ashamed of, for many join them who would not be retained by us; and why do not Baptists join christian Churches, the reasons are obvious, no system gives such allowance to sin as theirs does, and it is easy to lose one's christian virtue, but not so easy to recover from such a state.

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