

the doctrine of the Apostles. We read in Acts ii. 42 "They that were added continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine," &c. We have no more authority to admit to communion those who reject these doctrines—the doctrines of the Bible, than we have those who are not baptized.

Some may think these are little matters to differ about, but what God has revealed we have no authority to dispute.—Where God has prescribed the bounds we must not step over them. Again, it is said these are only shades of difference in our religious opinions, but that is a great mistake. It is indispensable to our peace and success, "that we all speak the same thing, and that we be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment," "so that with one mind and one mouth we may glorify God."

Fourthly, Fellowship is another qualification for communion. They who held the Apostles' doctrine "continued in fellowship," and "were of one heart and one soul." Between us and other denominations this oneness does not exist, nor can it, while our opinions differ so widely. We believe they are in gross error; they may believe the same with regard to us. "Two cannot walk together except they be agreed." Is it not harmony in our religious views that unites us in spirit and effort? where the former does not exist, the latter therefore cannot reasonably be expected.

It will appear evident to every reasonable mind, from a consideration of the foregoing, that the want of the last three qualifications, namely, membership with the Church of Christ, harmony in the doctrines of the Bible, and gospel fellowship, must as positively preclude from communion some who may have been immersed, as the want of immersion does others. If the Word of God were silent on this subject, and we were disposed to commune with all who practice immersion, we, without regard to these qualifications, would still be plunging into great difficulties, as we might then be compelled to commune with unbaptized persons, and also with those from whom we have