

then, as under the Old Dispensation, we find three grades of the Ministry: *Christ*, the *Apostles*, and the *Elders* or the "*Seventy*."

On the night of the Saviour's betrayal, He instituted the Sacrament of the *Lord's Supper*. Just before His ascension, He gave to His Apostles their great commission, "to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, baptizing them in the name of the Holy Trinity." * Their authority to go, and to send others, came to them in these words which constituted a commission that can never expire, until the Church has done its work in the conversion of the world: "*As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*" †

Christ did not call His Disciples together and organize them into a Church, and then direct and empower them to elect and ordain their own ministers. He did not do thus, because these ministers were *His* ministers — the ministers of God; and their successors, to the end of the world, were to be *His* ministers, deriving all their power and authority as such from Him, and from Him alone. In

* Matt. xxviii. 18, 19, 20.

† John xx. 21.