

The Presbyterian Church needs consistency. To be consistent it must enforce the old statute, or disown its parent. It must now, as then, prevent believers from meeting together for edification in the absence of ordained ministers, or allowing them to come together; it must also allow them to break bread in obedience to and remembrance of their absent Lord. What a boon such a privilege would be, more especially to those who seldom see ordained ministers. What a victory for satan when this privilege was wrested from the children of God! Who will raise a voice in their behalf? For to do so is to incur the odium of many of whom we should expect better—things that accompany salvation at the least.

But the embargo upon the children of faith applies as well to most of the eldership, and consequently is a flat contradiction of a fundamental doctrine of the church, viz, the parity of the eldership. One class called teaching elders, who yet may be teaching youths, are empowered to “dispense” (an anti-scriptural word surely). Another class who in all respects may answer to Paul’s required qualifications, are simply allowed to assist.

Finally, the Presbyterian church needs *spiritual power*. It has been remarked that our students have more spiritual power before they are ordained than after. This is not to be wondered at. For the words *not licensed, not ordained*, stand between God and the services of his sons just as the words, *it is corban*, stood between the Jew and his children’s obedience. The one narrows the provisions of grace, as the other narrows the commands of God, and because of its blighting spiritual results is a far more heinous sin. But the inventors of “it is corban” worshipped him in vain, what of the inventors and supporters of “not licensed?”

Surely it is a pressing duty to free the church from this doubly fatal error. Its enormity is my plea for devoting so much time to overthrow it. *Veritas prevalebit*. Dagon must not stand before the ark of Jehovah, no matter how many uncircumcised Philistines may be found to uphold it.

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