

2. But who is to show forth the Lord's death in this ordinance? Is it a private, a social, or a public act? It is never observed in the closet, or in the family, but always as a public act of the Church. Hence, communion is shewing forth the Lord's death, *in a Church capacity*; and should be observed only by the Members of the Church. What is done in a Church capacity can be properly done by none but the Church. Whatever is done in a Church capacity is an act of *Church* fellowship, but not an expression of individual *christian* fellowship.

3. Communion is never, in any Church, or by any communicant, designed to be an expression of the fellowship of all present as Christians. A communicant may often not know, by sight or name, five members in a Church of five hundred, where he has just become a member, and is at the communion. Were this ordinance designed to be an expression of christian fellowship, it would be long before this new member could properly partake. Indeed, many might never be able to do it.

In receiving a person into the Church, we judge of his piety, but at the Lord's table we are passing no judgment upon the christianity of any; but, as a Church, are commemorating the Lord's death. Hence, the charge against Baptists, that they condemn others in their communion is untrue. The persistent declaration of open communionists, that Baptists in their communion express doubt of the piety of others, is a false accusation. If, as we have seen, communion is not an expression of christian fellowship, then withholding the communion is not a denial of such fellowship. In strict communion, therefore, we do not say, we are more holy than others, because it is no part of the design of the ordinance, to make any such comparison. As this act, in a Church capacity, is an expression of Church fellowship, withholding the communion is refusing Church fellowship. When we do not go to the communion with others, we do not say we do not fellowship them as Christians; but we do say emphatically, that we do not fellowship their manner of building up Churches. No man can commune with a Church, without practically saying he fellowships the order, ordinances and discipline of that Church. To communicate with any Pede-Baptist Church,