

are partakers of the Holy Spirit, and worship the Father in spirit and in truth, are the body of Christ, the house of God, the flock of the Good Shepherd—the holy, universal Christian Church.

A visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments are duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

As the Church of *Jerusalem*, *Alexandria*, and *Antioch*, have erred; so also the Church of *Rome* doth err, not only in their living and manner of Ceremonies, but also in matters of Faith.

XXII. *Of the Authority of a Church.*

A CHURCH hath power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and to establish forms of worship and to declare its own faith and discipline: yet it is not lawful for any Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, as the Church ought not to decree any thing against the same, so besides the same it ought not to enforce

any thing to be believed as necessary to Salvation

The Creeds as set forth in the Prayer Book of this Church ought to be received and believed; for they may be proved by Holy Scripture.

XXIII. *Of the Authority of General Councils.*

GENERAL Councils (forasmuch as they are an assembly of men, whereof all are not governed by the Spirit and Word of God) may err, and sometimes have erred, even in things pertaining unto God. Wherefore things ordained by them as necessary to salvation have neither strength nor authority, unless it may be proved that they are taken out of Holy Scripture.

XXIV. *Of Ministering in the Congregation.*

IT is not lawful for any man to take upon him the office of public preaching, or Ministering the Sacraments in the Congregation, before he has been lawfully called, and sent to execute the same. And those we consider to be lawfully called and sent, who having been called to this work by the Holy Spirit, have public authority given unto them in the Congregation, by those duly appointed to ordain Ministers in the Lord's vineyard.