

provision for such an emergency, it is not safe for me to do so, when in doing it, *my* practice would not be conformed to *Apostolic* practice.

"But you admit," it is urged, "to other acts of communion and fellowship, and why not to this?" I reply that other acts and forms of communion do not, while this does involve the question of church organization. Any two or three meeting together, can hold communion in every other way in which Christian love and fellowship are expressed. They can speak one to the other, read together, pray together, sing together. Now, could I adopt the principles of the Plymouth Brethren, (many of whom I dearly love, and with many of whose views I have a close sympathy,) who ignore all church organization, I could extend this fellowship at the Lord's table to all Christians, baptized or unbaptized. Were I merely consulting my own feelings this would be indeed the most agreeable course to me. But when I consult the Word of God, I find the grand outlines of church constitution therein defined, giving visibility to the church. I find the church visible to be composed of saints, or such as profess to be saints, and give credible evidence of their being such. I find that they have made a profession in baptism, and that these baptized professors, seeking the guidance of the Spirit of God in the exercise of their judgment, select their elders and deacons, who preside over the church. This church organization, moreover, expediency demands as necessary to the exercise of discipline, and the doing of things decently and in order. It is only within the church, or in a church capacity, that the ordinance of the supper can be celebrated. (1 Cor. xi. 18-22.) This, then, makes a clear distinction between this ordinance and all other social acts or means of religious fellowship. While we cheerfully hold and would seek to cultivate the most friendly and intimate fellowship with all who love the Lord Jesus, we are debarred (painful though we feel it to be so,) from fellowship at the table of the Lord, if the