

"I love the Baptists, and I wish I could feel that my English brethren (a large portion of them,) were walking more scripturally."

"There is a great diversity of views and practices among them, and hence an almost entire lack of homogeneity, and *esprit de corps*."

"The growth of the Baptist churches has not been over one per cent. a year for the last two years; this is, less than the natural growth of the population."

"Indeed, it is the common complaint at watering places, that prominent baptists when at such places, almost invariably, attend pædobaptist churches when they happen to be more popular."

"And even Mr. Spurgeon, whose position is higher on this subject than that of all the most prominent open communionists of the present day, does not seemingly plant himself squarely on the word of God."

"Hugh Stowell Brown said: 'Many of the churches have almost altogether abandoned the ordinance.' Nothing can be more evident than that the leading Baptists of England (with the exception of Spurgeon, Brown, and a few others), are carrying their followers over into the pædobaptist ranks."

"But the impression I have obtained in regard to the English Baptists, nearly everywhere, is that they generally feel no great interest in their denominational peculiarities or history. They seemingly have no very deep conviction that it is an honour to be a Baptist, but many would be something else if they could."

"It was perfectly foreseen by Mr. Hall, that the adoption of his views would do away with the Baptist name, and he directly foretells this result. His prediction is being fulfilled this day in England. As Bunyan's church has long since ceased to be Baptist, so many others have practically ceased to be Baptists, and their 'name,' will soon be 'forgotten in the city where they have so done.'"

"In connection with the loose views, and yet looser arguments of Hall, there is another consideration which has greatly helped the spread of these sentiments: viz., all the theological schools (except those of Wales) fell into the hands of the open communionists, and hence they obtained the whole prestige. They educated all the ministers. This has been the great power which has given the open communion people their status and commanding position."

"One of the best addresses I heard in London, was delivered by one of the most prominent Baptists at a specially baptistic meeting, and the speaker almost begged pardon, of any pædobaptists who might have been present, for alluding, (most appropriately too) to his own peculiar views of God's truth. I should not have noticed this had I not met the like elsewhere, so as to lead me to regard it as a custom observed by many. It vexed and saddened me; it is so nearly like begging pardon for being Baptists."

"Their views of communion are not only very loose, but the evident tendency is toward yet greater laxity. This I judge not merely from what I read, and from what I saw, but from the decided opinion of some who have long carefully studied the current of thought and action in regard to this. Eighty years ago nearly all the great names among the English Baptists were strict; but since that time the 'leaven' of Robert Hall's views has been introduced, and it bids fair to leaven the 'whole lump.'"

"Then; these open Baptists have no scruple in coming to strict Baptists for help in their benevolent enterprises; but should a strict Baptist go to them for aid—'O no! we cannot help you, of course.' Some attempt to soften their refusal by saying, 'make your church open and we will help you.' They will assist pædobaptist enterprises, but would not assist a strict Baptist. All this helps to extend laxity. Indeed, there are so-called Baptists in England—not a few—who hate, (interpret this 'love less,' if you please) earnest, larger hearted strict Baptists, more than they do the established church."

"The truth is Mr. Spurgeon's ground is anomalous, 'a shifting sand,' on this subject. He has not taken a 'thus saith the Lord,' nor firmly planted himself on the example set in every instance, by all the inspired Apostles who founded the Christian church. Had he done so, his steps would never 'well nigh slip,' and