

*remedy the evil as it respects the Christian Church at large.* For if the bishops of the Anglican Church are successors of the Apostles, then those who dissent from them, and did not *receive ordination from a papal Bishop*, are intruders into the office, and schismatic in their denominations. Let us trace this sentiment in the various branches of the Christian Church, and see the propriety of it.

Let us, first, apply it to the Society of Friends, a denomination which is the most opposed to Episcopacy of any of the Christian Church. For while the Anglican Communion, more than any other, looks upon the *mode* as essential, the Friends, more than any other, look upon it as vain.

It is written in the Scripture, "Thou shalt smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered;" which plainly implies that it is just to judge of a ministry by those who attend on that ministry, and whose sentiments and conduct correspond with it. The piety of the Friends, and their conscientious example, are evident to all. Should you ask them whether they believe in Christ, from thousands you would have the reply that they *did*.

Upon the principles of the gospel, then, *all who acknowledge the gospel must believe them to be Christians*; for it is explicitly and repeatedly asserted, that he who believeth on the Son shall be saved.

How did these persons become Christians?

How did they hear of Christ?

Did they, contrary to the intimation of Scripture, *hear without a preacher*?

Have they been saved aside from the divine establishment; that is, aside from the foolishness of preaching? Yet many of them never heard an Episcopalian preacher.

Rather, do not their doctrines and practice correspond with the sentiments of *their own preachers*?

To proceed from the Friends, there are the Methodists and the Baptists, in their various orders. The Presbyterians, in their extensive jurisdiction, and the Congregationalists, in their innumerable societies. Shall we call all these schismatics, and deluded in their sentiments, and false in their practice?