

substitution in one point of Scripture doctrine, order or example, more than another, if the right to change, reverse, or substitute is assumed in one respect, the liberty to thus do in all respects must be yielded, and hence the Bible would lose all its binding force.

2. This strict regard for all the points of Bible doctrine and example exhibits a deference for divine wisdom and direction which cannot fail to please God.

3. Strict conformity is safe; the smallest departure is dangerous.

In conclusion: As the Scriptures insist upon the nicest regard for the Bible pattern, and the smallest departure encourages unhallowed license; as Scripture direction in doctrine, rite and order is best fitted by divine wisdom to accomplish the purposes of grace, and the Church has ever prospered most when their conformity to the Bible order was most exact; as our practice as Close Communion Baptists is allowed by all candid men to be according to Scripture and primitive example, let us not yield our position for any cry of bigotry or unbrotherly exclusiveness, knowing that the cry is the result of an erroneous belief. Let us be encouraged by the thought that what is lost in popularity by strictness is gained in power. Let us hold to our peculiar principles boldly, firmly, in the Spirit of Christ. Thus shall we hold our true position as the preservers of the Bible in its integrity. Thus shall we gain for ourselves all the power of that truth which is the muscle and sinew of prevailing strength, and do the most to advance the benevolent purposes of divine grace.