

reason for the Separatist movement is that most of the major church denominations have departed from the teaching of Jesus, the teaching of the apostles, and the teaching of the entire Word of God.⁷

5. Calvin in no way elevated the authority of any organization to that of the authority of Scripture. The doctrine of the Bible was clearly the authority for the Church. Simply because an organization was extant, even though highly developed and even highly respected, did not imply superiority of the doctrine of the organization over the doctrines of Scripture. As the soul governs the body, so to Calvin did the doctrine govern the Church. Consequently, an organization could be broken, or abandoned, or drastically abrogated, if it departed from that which Scripture maintained.⁸
6. Calvin did not feel any obligation to support an apostatized church hierarchy regardless of what its label or credo may have been. There were foundational statements accepted in the Church of Rome, with akknowledge of the Gospel and with an admonition to preach the Gospel, but these had become so overcoated by other aberrations that had become vain by the traditions of man.⁹
7. Calvin refused to acknowledge a "True Church", if it did not in doctrine and practice conform to the teaching of Christ