

throughout the Institutes. Chapter 1 of this volume (from which all of the citations previously considered in Dr. Carnahan's book are taken) is a chapter which deals with the true Church and presupposes a true Church for its background. This is a very important point to remember when citing from the Institutes.

Calvin is dealing in book 4, chapter 1, on the presupposition of a Church which is basically true, not only in creed but also in practice to that which is prescribed by Christ. Consequently, Calvin says,

"But because pastors are not always sedulously vigilant, are sometimes also more indulgent than they ought, or are prevented from acting so strictly as they could wish; the consequence is, that even the openly wicked are not always excluded from the fellowship of the saints. This I admit to be a vice, and I have no wish to extenuate it, seeing that Paul sharply rebukes it in the Corinthians. But although the Church fail in her duty, it does not therefore follow that every private individual is to decide the question of separation for himself."

Calvin is not discussing the Separatist movement of the Church, and it cannot be rightly claimed that he offers any criticism of the of the principle of separation from apostasy. Rather he is discussing the Lord's table in a true Church, and how it is that every man ought to examine himself. Thus Calvin cites from Cyprian and points out that there may be that which is impure but in the true Church it ought to be corrected and should not become a major stumbling block.