

Calvin's constant focus is on the difference between the true Church and the false Church. Today within the Ecumenical Movement and even from the "Evangelical" critics of the Separatist movement there is practically no reference to Calvin's distinction of the true and the false Church. Calvin does not want schism by individual members in a true Church. But a false Church of hierarchical status such as the Papal See of Rome in the days of John Calvin, was, of course, very much different.

Book 4, chapter 2, of the Institutes, is where Calvin spends considerable time making comparison between the false and the true Church. This is the place where one would expect to find most concisely that matter which Calvin would give regarding the Separatist view of the Church. In this section it is found that a Church which does not hold to the teachings of Jesus and continue in the sacraments is really not a church at all in Calvin's estimation, even though it may use the title. It follows, therefore, that if one separates from it there is no schism, but instead an honorable carrying out of the Word of God.

Bearing this in mind, Calvin goes ahead to point out how it is that when falsehood has come into the Church in a capitol way, it corrupts the whole body:

"but as soon as falsehood has forced its way into the citadel of religion, as soon as the sum of