

necessary doctrine is inverted, and the use of the sacraments is destroyed, the death of the Church undoubtedly ensues, just as the life of man is destroyed when his throat is pierced, or when his vitals mortally wounded."

In other words, a Church is no longer a Church when an increased emphasis on falsehood leads to the denial of the true faith.

Calvin continues this theme in section 2, chapter 3, book 4:

"wherefor in declining fatal participation in such wickedness, we run no risk of being dissevered from the Church of Christ. The communion of the Church was not instituted to be a chain to bind us in idolatry, impiety, ignorance of God, and other kinds of evil, but rather to retain us in the fear of God and obedience of the truth."

Calvin here succinctly says that every believer ought to know in this day and age. When a Church has departed from the faith, there is then no risk in being dissevered from the true Church of Christ by physically separating from it. There is more risk in staying in it, and being thereby contaminated.

This brought to Calvin no fear of being styled as one who is improper in his conduct. He was not ashamed to be called a Separatist on this line.

"the name of heretics and schismatics is applied to those who, by descending from the Church, destroy its communion. This communion is held together by two chains visually, consent in sound doctrine and brotherly charity."

What Calvin is saying is that when a man leaves the Church in the interest of sound doctrine, and charity among brothers, that is,