

the teachings of the apostles are clearly corrupted. From this, Calvin would say, every man ought to remove himself. There is no fear of being a schismatic; there is fear of being corrupted if one does not.

The conclusion of this section might be drawn from the book by Wilhelm Niesel, entitled "Theology of Calvin." Describing Calvin's view of the Church, Niesel points out that Calvin did not defend or extenuate error (page 196). Then speaking of Calvin, he says, "When the message of salvation is no longer heard and the sacraments are perverted or set aside, then Christ is no longer preached and His Church no longer exists in such circumstances, whatever appearances may be. In such a case, the only possible course is secession". This is a flat and an accurate statement of Calvin's view on the Separatist aspect of the Church. "When Christ" says Niesel, "ceases to be known as the living Lord, then in spite of its outward forms and ordinances, the Church no longer exists". Then from this point he goes further to make the logical conclusion already signalled in Calvin by saying, "If they (the believers) are compelled to secede, there is no breakup of Church unity but a discrimination of the true and the false".

If someone points to the Separatist movement today and says that it is occupied largely with the separating of wheat and tares, those holding the Separatist view would be willing to point out that this is not so. It is the dividing between the true and the false. It is schism after the nature of Calvin's schism. It is the discontinuation of that which is no