

This is strong language. Calvin feels that anything would be better than perjuring of the truth of God.

"Christ had predicted not of strangers but of men who should give themselves out for pastors, that they would be ravenous wolves and false prophets, and had, at the same time, cautioned to beware of them. Where Christ ordered me to beware, was ~~that~~ to lend my aid? And the apostles declared that there would be no enemies of the Church more pestilential than those from within who should conceal themselves under the title of pastors. (Matthew 7:15, Acts 20:29, 2 Peter 2:1, 1 John 2:18). Why should I have hesitated to separate myself from persons whom they forewarned me to hold as enemies?"

To paraphrase on this his answer is:

"No, poor Christians, a few unbelievers, a few pastors not in doctrinal agreement, do not render the Church impure but why should there be hesitation to separate oneself from those whom Christ has already said will be ravenous wolves and his enemies?"

This is precisely the position of the Separatist movement today. Why should any believer hesitate to separate himself from those who are the enemies of Christ through a denial of Him and His person? It would seem altogether irrational to say that such separators were disrupting the unity of the Church when what they were doing was maintaining the truth concerning Jesus and His loving and saving grace.

Calvin's further testimony at Geneva was that he would have liked to have seen peace in the Church but he would not restore peace to the Church at the expense of truth. Calvin did not desire division but what Calvin did desire was unity which "began and ended in Thee", the