

(Copy)

Chatham, Ont., June 26/93.

Dear Bro.-

Being grieved at the state of things at K., and especially since we here have been made unwittingly, through a letter, to countenance a movement that, however well meant, I believe is unscriptural, and which personally I cannot allow to pass without protest, and an appeal to you to consider the following points:- Is it scriptural to leave the Lord's Table upon the plea you make? Or upon any plea until a recognized gathering has pronounced, after proper investigation, that the meeting in question has ceased to be an assembly of God? Who can remove the candlestick save Christ Himself through an assembly whose action carries with it His authority? See Rev. ii. 5. Should there not in any case be a call to repentance by God's assembly elsewhere, and their remonstrance be refused, before they could be un-churched? Can brothers as such un-church a gathering? Who is to decide authoritatively when the meeting has given up ^{the} true ground, and ceased to be an assembly of God? Surely this is not within the province of brothers, many or few, however gifted. If this were allowed, would it not be clericalism?

If evil come in it is to be dealt with, a wicked person is to be "put away" (1 Cor. v.): but are we to go outside, and leave the evil inside? I am to purge myself from "iniquity": but can an assembly of God be called THAT? If a recognized assembly, after due consideration, has refused fellowship with another meeting, THEN I must purge myself, &c. (2 Tim. ii.)

After your withdrawal is settled, a further question arises, viz. Should a table be spread without the fellowship of those (a gathering) already recognized as in the unity of the Church at large?

But the primary question, it seems to me, is the withdrawal from the meeting. Does it not look like leaving the sheep to be scattered by the wolves? If "certain men" creep in, are we not to contend for the faith? If we yield up the position, there is a lack of faith in Christ, His authority is ignored, there is a breach in the Spirit's unity, and Church ground is abandoned.

Trusting you may be led to weigh your recent action in the light of the above, for we are not ignorant of Satan's devices, and his efforts to destroy Church principles, and utterly ruin "the testimony of Christ" on earth, feeble as it is already.

I need not say that I write entirely in my own individual responsibility, and shall be glad to hear from you at your convenience.

Yours in the Lord,

(Signed) W.E. Gardiner.

Mr. C. Morris,
Knoxville, Tenn.

ESNAHDIAN BAPTIST
ARCHIVES