

II

It rests now to make some application of this discourse by the present design which gave the occasion of writing of it. Herein are 4 things to be propounded: first the persons, 2ly, the work, 3ly, the end, 4ly, the means.

5 1. For the persons, we are a Company professing our selves fellow members of Christ, In which respect only though we were absent from each other many miles, and had our employments as far distant, yet we ought to account our selves knit together by this bond of love, and live in the exercise of it, if we would have comfort of our being in Christ, this was notorious in the practice of the Christians in former times, as is testified of the Waldenses from the mouth of one of the adversaries Aeneas Sylvius, "mutuo [solent amare] penè antequam norint," they use
10 to love any of their own religion even before they were acquainted with them.

2ly. for the work we have in hand, it is by a mutual consent through a special overruling providence, and a more then an ordinary approbation of the Churches of Christ to seek out a place of Cohabitation and Consortship under a due form of Government both civil and ecclesiastical. In such cases as this the care of the public must oversway all private respects, by
15 which not only conscience, but mere Civil policy doth bind us; for it is a true ruler that particular estates cannot subsist in the ruin of the public.

3ly. The end is to improve our lives to do more service to the Lord the comfort and increase of the body of Christ whereof we are members that our selves and posterity may be the better preserved from the Common corruptions of this evil world to serve the Lord and work out
20 our Salvation under the power and purity of his holy Ordinances.

4ly. for the means whereby this must be effected, they are 2fold, a Conformity with the work and end we aim at, these we see are extraordinary, therefore we must not content our selves with usual ordinary means whatsoever we did or ought to have done when we lived in England, the same must we do and more also where we go: That which the most in their Churches
25 maintain as a truth in profession only, we must bring into familiar and constant practice, as in this duty of love we must love brotherly without dissimulation, we must love one another with a pure heart fervently we must bear one another's burdens, we must look only on our own things, but also on the things of our brethren, neither must we think that the lord will bear with such failings at our hands as he doth from those among whom we have lived...

30 Thus stands the cause between God and us, we are entered into Covenant with him for this work, we have taken out a Commission, the Lord hath given us leave to draw our own Articles we have professed to enterprise these Actions upon these and these ends, we have hereupon besought him of favour and blessing: Now if the Lord shall please to hear us, and bring us in peace to the place we desire, then hath he ratified this Covenant and sealed our
35 Commission, [and] will expect a strict performance of the Articles contained in it, but if we shall neglect the observation of these Articles which are the ends we have propounded, and dissembling with our God, shall fall to embrace this present world and prosecute our carnal intentions, seeking great things for our selves and our posterity, the Lord will surely break out in wrath against us to be revenged of such a perjured people and make us know the price of the
40 breach of such a Covenant.

Now the only way to avoid this shipwreck and to provide for our posterity is to follow the Counsel of Micah, to do Justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God, for this end, we must be knit together in this work as one man, we must entertain each other in brotherly Affection, we must be willing to abridge our selves of our superfluities, for the supply of others

45 necessities, we must uphold a familiar Commerce together in all meekness, gentleness, patience
and liberality, we must delight in each other, make others Conditions our own rejoice together,
mourn together, labour and suffer together, always having before our eyes our Commission and
Community in the work, our Community as members of the same body, so shall we keep the
50 unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, the Lord will be our God and delight to dwell among us,
as his own people and will command a blessing upon us in all our ways, so that we shall see
much more of his wisdom power goodness and truth then formerly we have been acquainted
with, we shall find that the God of Israel is among us, when ten of us shall be able to resist a
thousand of our enemies, when he shall make us a praise and glory, that men shall say of
55 succeeding plantations: the lord make it like that of New England: for we must Consider that we
shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us; so that if we shall deal falsely
with our god in this work we have undertaken and so cause him to withdraw his present help
from us, we shall be made a story and a by-word through the world, we shall open the mouths of
enemies to speak evil of the ways of god and all professors for God's sake; we shall shame the
60 faces of many of gods worthy servants, and cause their prayers to be turned into Curses upon us
till we be consumed out of the good land whether we are going: And to shut up this discourse
with that exhortation of Moses that faithful servant of the Lord in his last farewell to Israel Deut.

Beloved there is now set before us life, and good, death and evil in that we are
Commanded this day to love the Lord our God and to love one another to walk in his ways and
to keep his Commandments and his Ordinance, and his laws, and the Articles of our Covenant
65 with him that we may live and be multiplied, and that the Lord our God may bless us in the land
whether we go to possess it: But if our hearts shall turn away so that we will not obey, but shall
be seduced, and worship other gods, our pleasures and profits, and serve them; it is propounded
unto us this day, we shall surely perish out of the good Land whether we pass o ver this vast Sea
to possess it.

70 Therefore let us choose life,
that we, and our seed
may live by obeying His
voice and cleaving to Him,
for He is our life and
75 our prosperity.