

And it goes back to ~~the~~ various tradition, gathering together. But the church of Scotland tried to follow the views of Calvin. Now, Calvin, as you know, was not able to follow his own views in Geneva. He ~~insisted~~ insisted upon them at certain outstanding points, and he tried to work in the direction of his views, of what ch. govt. ought to be. But the church of Geneva was a state church and is a state today. The working within the framework of a situation there, Calvin ~~tried~~ tried to insist on the independence of the church in spiritual matters. But the actual ultimate control of the church in Geneva was in the ~~hands~~ hands of the state, and there was just absolutely no way to change it. Calvin could have left it, but he couldn't ~~change~~ change that feature. He was able to ~~win~~ win the leadership of state to where they were ready to do whatever he wanted them to do, but they weren't ready to change the organization so that succeeding leaders of the state would not be ~~free~~ free to direct the church as they thought. And so, this ~~was~~ was, in Calvin's opinion, a point, not of the type over which a separation should occur. Calvin made a very sharp line between those features which render a church apostate and make it impossible for a true Christian to continue in it, and those features, which while a ~~man~~ man might differ with them, he should go along and should not ~~feel~~ feel any duty or responsibility of separating from it. It is very important that all of us make those distinctions.

My observation has been that fine Christian people in old established denominations, as a rule, take the attitude that this is where my parents went to church, this is where my grandparents went to church, and I was born in this denomination, I am going to ~~die~~ die in this denomination, and they will put up with everything. ^{They} they will have the most ~~terrible~~ terrible situations and they will put up with it. But finally they reach the point that it becomes so terrible that they can't stand it any longer ~~and~~ and they step out. And when they step out they go to the opposite extreme. When they were in ~~it~~ it they would put up with anything. Now they have stepped out and now you have to have a perfect church right away. And everybody in the church has got to do exactly what they think is the right way. And if not, they will