

The state of Christians. The Antichristian state.

The graces and offices in Christ: and first his priesthood. The offices of Antichrist: & first his priesthood.

Hitherto of the first gathering and planting of the Church.

44 How must it be further builded, accordinge vnto church gouernement?

First by communion of the graces & offices in the head of the church, which is Christ.

Secondly, by communion of the graces and offices in the bodie, which is the church of Christ.

Thirdly, by vsing the Sacrament of the Lords supper, as a seale of this communion.

45 Howe hath the church the communion of those graces & offices, which are in Christ?

It hath the vse of his priesthood: because he is the high Priest thereof.

Also of his prophetic: because he is the Prophet thereof.

Also of his kingdome and gouernement: because he is the kyng and Lord thereof.

46 What vse hath the church of his priesthood?

Whereby he is our mediatur, and we present and offer vnto our prayers in his name, because by his intertie, our finnes are forgiven.

Also he is our iustification, because by his attonement we are iustified.

Also he is our sanctification, because he partaketh vnto vs his holines and spirituall graces.

Hitherto of supplanting of the true Church.

44 How do they establish their false church & gouernment in stead thereof?

They are first vnder one chiefe Antichrist the Pope, or vnder other Antichrists, which resemble him: or sprang vp of him, and receaue their image and markes.

They draw corruptions, and partake wickednes one with another, in one common plague.

They make their supper of communion, a pledge & seale of their wretched confusion.

45 How are they vnder some one chiefe Antichrist, and receaue his image and markes?

They put religion, & holines in their fellowship vnder his abominations, and so he is their priest.

They follow his lawes and ordinances: and so he is their prophet.

They hold his gouernment, and so he is their kinge.

46 How is Antichrist their priest?

A vile person presenteth their prayers to God, as a spokesman for them and pronounceth absolutio of their sinnes: and that by flinting and limiting in popish wise.

Also hee tolerateth, and dispenseth with wickednes, to iustifie iniquitie.

Also by a vaine hallowing and blessing them selues vnder him, they draw and increase their corruption and filthines by him.

Definitions.

Diuisions.

The graces and offices in Christ: and first his priesthood.

44 The communion of graces, is a mutuall vsing of friendship and callings, to pleasure and be pleased in all christian charitie. } Communion of graces } In the Head & highest, as in Christe, by His Priesthood His rule. In the body which is the church.

Christ is the Sonne of God, made by his Father the Heade and Lorde of the Church, because he hath anoynted and filled him with his Spirit, and hath giuen him an office and charge, and the fulnes of all graces to worke our saluation. } Christ.

Antichrist is the childe of the Deuill, filled with the spirit of delusion and hypocritie, who hath an vniuersal office ouer false christians, named the church of God, and by the strength of his lawes, gouernement, and superstitious ceremonies, doth ouerthrowe their redemption by Christ. } Antichrist.

45 The Priesthoode of Christ is his office of mediation and seruice in the church, for attonement and sanctification, whereby all sinne and vncleannes is taken away. } Priesthoode of Christ. } In making attonement } By forgiveness of sinnes. In sanctifying vs. } By iustification.

The Priesthoode of Antichrist is his office of tolerating and dispensing with wickednes, that it may remaine, and agreement might be made betweene Christ and Belial. } Priesthoode of Antichrist.

46 His Mediation is a duetie of his Priestlic office, in seeking and getting the helpe & blessing of God towards vs, by the fauor of God towards him: and therefore he complaineth & intreateth for vs, as belonging vnto him. } Mediation of Christ.

The forgiveness of sinnes is the mercifull graunt of God to the prayer of Christ, that the sinnes of his, for whom he answered in righteousnes, might be taken away. } Forgiveness of sinnes.

Our Iustification, is the full discharge of all duties wherewith the lawe charged vs, which deliuereth vs from the guiltines of sinne, by the righteousnes of Christ. } Iustification.

Our Sanctification is the partaking of the holines & spirituall graces of Christ Iesus, whereby we serue God in newnesse of spirite. } Sanctification.