

Concerning such as cry against Orders.

By George Fox

God is a God of order, and not of confusion; and the apostle said to the church of Christ, 'Let all things be done decently, and in order.' Mark, all things in the church of Christ. So then there is nothing to be done indecently, out of the order of the peaceable truth; for God is not the author of confusion, or tumults, or unquiet, but of peace in all the churches of the saints. And therefore, if God is not the author of such confusion, tumults, and unquiet, but of peace in all the churches of the saints; then confused, tumultuous, unquiet, and indecent, and disorderly spirits, with the power and spirit of God, they must be admonished to the peaceable spirit of God in them, and with it judge out the contrary, else the church of Christ, in its power and peaceable spirit, can have no unity with them, but with the spirit and power of Christ, judge that indecent, confused, tumultuous, unquiet, disorderly spirit. For God, as I said before, is a God of order; but the devil, which is the world's god, has made the world like a wilderness, which lies in wickedness. And this devil or Satan, in whom there is no truth, the power of death, and darkness, and confusion, got into Adam and Eve by their disobedience, and rules in the hearts of the disobedient, where all tumults, unquiet, confusion, and disorders are. For who went and go into disobedience from God, they went and are gone from his image, from the innocence and simplicity, and his power and spirit within, and so go out from his power, spirit, and image, in which his holy order is, and out of simplicity and innocence, into subtlety and craft. For the devil, who did not abide in the truth, and his followers, who disobey God and his truth, which follow the devil, in whom there is no truth, there is no order among them, but confusion. Truth has an order for all things that God did make by Jesus Christ, who upholds all things by his word and power. So, with his word and power he keeps all things in their places, and in their order, in their times, and in their seasons; the summer and the winter, the night and the day, the sun, moon, and the stars, all things are kept in order by the word of God and his power; and the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, and the sea, and the fullness therein.

So both the earth and the sea, and all things therein, are kept in their order by the word and power of God, by which they were made, by which they were upheld. So all the works of the Lord praise him, and so do all men and women that are in the truth, which makes them free from him that abode not in the truth, in whom there is no truth. So all God's free people or children, (that are

made free indeed by the truth), are in the order of the truth, and in the order of the spirit of God, and in the order of the gospel, and are in the order of the light, the life in Christ, and are over the foul spirit of disorder, in the land of death and darkness; as the scripture said, 'a land of darkness, as darkness itself, and of the shadow of death, without any order,' mark, without any order, 'where the light is as darkness.'

This spirit may cry out against orders, whose habitation is darkness, without any order; but as the Lord said, 'Who offers up praise, glorifies me, and he that orders his conduct aright, shall see the salvation of God.' Now here is a particular order for every man and woman to observe; for 'the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and he delights in his way.' Psalm 37:23. 'The Lord has sworn, and will not repent,' speaking of Christ, 'you are a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek.' Psalm 110:4, Heb 5:6. And Christ is not called after the order of Aaron. Heb 7:11. Here you may see, Melchizedek the priest was not made without an order, and Aaron's priesthood was made by an order of God, according to his rod's budding in the tabernacle. And Christ was not a priest made without an order, which is after the order of Melchizedek; and his royal priesthood, who offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, are in his spiritual order, and in the order of the spirit of God.

In Isaiah 9, 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders.' So here, Christ bears up his government, 'and of the increase of his government and peace, there shall be no end;' for Christ orders it, and establishes it. So Christ's government is a peaceable government, and there is no strife in it; and Christ's government is peaceable in his power, light, and spirit. And the apostle, after he had exhorted the Corinthians of many things, said, 'The rest I will set in order when I come;' and this was by the power and spirit of Christ. And the apostle said to Titus, 'I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are wanting, and that you ordain elders in every city, as I have appointed you.' And in Tit 2, you may see how he speaks of the qualifications of the aged men, and the aged women, that were to be teachers of good things, and of the younger. Now here you may see the apostle was for good order, and established good order in the church of Christ, and encouraged Titus to set in order, and ordain elders in every city in Crete, which were wanting, so that all the church of Christ might be kept in the order of the power and spirit of Christ.

And the apostles said to the Colossians, 'Though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ; and as you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.' Now here you may see, the church of Christ had a spiritual order, though the apostle was absent in the flesh from them, yet he was present with them in his spirit, with which spirit he rejoiced, and beheld

their spiritual order; so in this spiritual order must all God's people live, though they are absent in body one from another, yet in the spirit they may rejoice, beholding the spiritual order that is in the church of Christ, and the steadfastness of one another's faith in Christ Jesus, who is the author and finisher of it.