

TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Friends, here is a few things for you to take into consideration.

—By George Fox

1. Dwell in righteousness and truth, for that preserves both governors, and government, and people in peace.
2. Let no man that is a curser, a swearer, a drunkard, heady, high-minded, furious, rash, covetous, and loves gifts and rewards, and respects persons, bear office and rule; for such will not be like meek Moses, but will bring the wrath of God both upon people and magistrates, as in former ages has been seen. Instead, set up those who loves mercy, and do justly, walks humbly with God, and hates covetousness, Micah 6, such God requires, and such as do not respect men's persons, and are not convinced of the law as transgressors, Jam 2:5, and these will be to the praise of God, of government, and governors; and these differ from Pharaoh, Herod, and Nebuchadnezzar, that knew not the kingdom of the Most High to rule in sons of men; therefore to the witness of God in you come down to, and consider these things, that the nations and dominions may be ruled as a family.
3. Let no one be put to death for cattle, or money, or any such outward things, for by the law of God they were to restore four-fold, and if they had it not, to be sold for their theft; and so let them restore; and the apostle said in the gospel, "let him that stole, steal no more, but labor in the thing that is good, so let him live that he may repent." These things lay upon me to write to you; Let no man be imprisoned, or persecuted, because they for conscience sake cannot swear, Mat 5:33-37, but obeys Christ's commands, and the apostles' doctrine, that said, "swear not at all, for fear that they should fall into condemnation of the devil, and evil," Jam 5:12, but speaks truth, and does truth and justice at yes and no in any places they are put in, or court, according to Christ and the apostles' commands, who is our Lord and Master.
4. Let none be persecuted because they cannot for conscience sake towards God, put off their hats, and respect men's persons, at which many has been imprisoned and fined, which has been like the Pharisees, a mark of unbelievers, that be from the witness in themselves, John 5:41-44, such as seeks the honor that is from above only, that will never stain, we would

have all to be clothed with that, and honor all men in the Lord, and have all men in esteem, and say, that those who rule well in truth, in justice, and in righteousness, are worthy of double honor; for even someone, who has murder in his heart, may give honor with the hat deceitfully.

5. Let none be persecuted for not maintaining a ministry that they know in their conscience is not of God, which destroys both edification and comfort, quenches the spirit, and limits the Holy One, and despises prophesying; that is, if anything is revealed to another that sits by, let the first hold his peace; this was order in the true church; for you may all prophesy one by one, and this is according to the apostles' doctrine, (which is disorder among the contrary), 1 Cor 4:29-32, and Peter said, Acts the 2d, and Joel2, "that the Lord would pour out his spirit upon all flesh, and his sons and his daughters should prophesy," which many witness, glory and honor be to the Lord God forever. And meek Moses said, "he would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and stopped and rebuked him that complained of them." Num 11:29.
6. Let no one be persecuted and imprisoned for warning drunkards, cursers, cheaters, fighters, and quarrelers to repent in streets, markets, cities, and towns; and for telling them that they are out of the life of Christ and the apostles, and shame their profession. If the magistrates were faithful and feared God, they would have kept down these things, and not have turned their sword upon the righteous men that have reprov'd sin in their gates, who have instead been a prey to them.

Consider these things, for it is your time now, and consider them in your time so that you are faithful to the Lord God and you are valiant for his truth upon earth, keeping to the light that shines in your hearts, that gives the knowledge of the truth, 2 Cor 4:6; and the truth in the inward parts, which is the stay of the mind, and word in the heart, which is to be obeyed and done, in which is the wisdom that is pure, and from above, James 3:17. This is the engrafted word which is able to save the soul which is immortal, and bring it up to God, from where it came, Jam 1:21. This word will be always with you, taking heed to it, in counsel, wisdom and judgment; and it will soften, and it will condemn if it is not obeyed; and those who do not obey it, hurt their own souls; and they cannot say by the testimony of the engrafted word, that their souls are saved. Let all your laws be drawn up into a short volume, so that everyone in the nation may know them, and the meaning of them, that they may not distract people about opinions of them, but that all may know the full law and its end. For many men, not knowing of the law, puts it to others to do for them, not knowing the laws themselves; and so they come to be overthrown and undone, and great charges, which if things were short, it would prevent this, so that everyone might know it.

Let all writs, indictments, warrants and mittimus, have no more in them than can justly be charged upon people, and that is the way to keep things sweet and wholesome; and if those things were looked into, you would see significantly more in them than is needed to be put in; which grieves the hearts of the simple and righteous.

Let none be persecuted about the word you, to a particular person, as many have been by them that takes more honor and worship to themselves than they give to God, who said you and you to God.

Let no prisoners lie long in jail, but let them come speedily to trial, for they learn badness one of another. Let none keep jails but sober men, that they may be patterns and examples of good to prisoners.

Let none keep ale-houses, or taverns, but wholesome people, and such as fear God, and are able to lodge travelers, that there may be no bad houses to nourish wickedness, which grieves the souls of the righteous.

Let all things be done in love, that keeps down the spirit of strife, where the vain-glorying is; and mind the law of God, and the gospel, Let your actions be accordingly, that all your dominions may be as a family, and ruled in mercy, truth, and righteousness, and that establishes rulers and people in peace.

Let no one be persecuted about church-worship, and religion; for Christ rebuked persecutors, and such as would revenge, and told them that he came to save men's lives; and the apostles' weapons were not carnal, but spiritual, that they wrestled with about religion. Now consider those who wrestle with flesh and blood, whether these are men with spiritual weapons, as were the apostles; and whether they have the mind of Christ.

Now such as will invent forms and worships, and set them up, and compel others to bow unto them, mind and consider, and take heed of such, and that; for Christ has showed how people may worship God, and in what, John 4:23-24.

Those who fear the Lord, and meet often together, and speak often one to another, which are his jewels, Malachi 3:16-17, be tender to such as you tender your souls, for the Lord God has reprov'd many for harming his prophets, Psalm 105:15.

Let no one be persecuted for worshipping God in spirit and truth; for Christ said to the woman of Samaria, "neither at Jerusalem, nor at this mountain, but those who worship the Father, must worship him in spirit and in truth, for he seeks such to worship him;" and the hour was come, and now is.

For Jerusalem was the place to which they came for to worship out of many nations, and therefore the Jews persecuted the christians that came of their worship, and temple, and priesthood, and witnessed Christ the everlasting priest, and the one offering, that ended all the other offerings, and those who received him, their bodies was the temples of God and Christ; and all Christendom is in ruins, and their worship is in ruins because they are not in the spirit and the truth, in which is the unity, in which spirit and truth, the God of all truth, who is a spirit, is worshipped.

From a lover of your souls, and eternal good, and that righteousness and truth may be established among you.

George Fox,

a prisoner in Lancaster Castle