

Dear Friends

Your Epistle dated in last 10 month has been received and read in our meeting and is very acceptable. We refer you to the accompanying copy of a minute of this meeting made on the occasion which will we trust afford you satisfaction.

While we tenderly sympathize with you in your present condition, we are thankful for the deliverance so mercifully bestowed upon you, from a state for more painful of peribleness and bondage. Cordially do we approve of the quiet yet decisive manner in which you were enabled to withdraw from a Body of persons who had so indisputably connected themselves with the Separatists, thus preserving an interrupted your unity with Friends of sound principles in America and elsewhere.

In reference to this subject, we are inclined to repeat a sentiment contained in our Epistle to you of last year, namely, that there exists a broad distinction between Christian Charity and Christian Unity; for while the former ought to extend to our fellow men of every persuasion and profession the latter can be maintained only with those who believe in Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God the Lord of life and glory.

Unspokeably important however as are the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, a concern has at this time been felt and expressed amongst us, that we may entertain them not as matters of speculative opinion but as practical and heartfelt truths. If under a just apprehension and deep feeling of our own weakness and sinfulness we accept Christ as our Saviour if he dwell in our hearts by Faith, we shall be enabled by his power to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit and to walk with holy circumspection in the fear of God.

The various temptations which abound in the present day and the conflicting opinions on Religious subjects now so much abroad in the world, appear calculated to impair upon us the necessity of our coming home to the principles of Truth in our own bosoms and of our dwelling deeply before the Lord in a humble, reverent and watchful frame of mind.

We entertain a hope that as you are favoured to maintain such a frame of mind and to show out of a good conversation your works with the usefulness of Widows many of those in your parts who have departed from the faith of the Gospel as held

by their forefathers, or who may have been led away by others will again rally round by degrees the Standard of Truth. But whatever may be permitted to occur in this respect, may you, dear Friends, be abundantly blessed with Peace and preservation, may you be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the works of the Lord" and may you realize in your own experience the ancient Promise "my People shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings and in quiet resting places."

This meeting has felt itself called upon to issue a minute declaratory of its belief in regard to some of the fundamental Truths of the Christian Religion, and of its disunity with any Bodies of Religious professors which do not acknowledge these truths. It has directed that a copy of the same be transmitted to you, and another copy to your meeting for reference.

With the salutation of Love we remain
Your affectionate friends
Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting, by
Josiah Foster
Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

From

Our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island from the 14th to the 18th inclusive of the 6th month 1839.

To the Yearly Meeting of Baltimore
Dear Friends.

We have received your acceptable Epistle of last year the reading of which at this time has renewedly sanctioned in our minds, a deep felt sympathy with and for you under the various trials and afflictions that have been your allotted portion: and our desires and prayers have been that we all may experience preservation on that foundation which standeth sure. The waves of affliction have indeed passed heavily over you, bearing away in their devastating course great numbers of those who formerly were united with you and us in Society compact but dear Friends, be not discouraged for although your numbers may now be comparatively few, yet remember that the promises of the Lord are unfailing and we have the solemn assurance that "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

We feel you to be so, and are bound to acknowledge