

Essential Improvements Of The New Covenant. Over Covenant of 1830.

- 1st. It has more method, perspicuity & consistency, beginning with Title page.
- 2nd. The New Covenant is shorn of the abundant tautology, and numerous repetitions of the same things by which means it is from 1,000 to 1,500 words shorter than the old, and, at same time contains almost double the amount of matter.
- 3rd. It is adapted to any country or language; but the Old is not.
4. It explains what it means, by the term "Church," the Old does not, & lawyers are in the fog about it.
5. It tells what the "One faith" is; the Old does not.
6. It makes the heading of Article 1st and other Sections agree with what is under them. The Old does not.
- 7th. It makes One head, to the Body of All Lion.
8. It relieves the Ministry of the first Bishopricks from going to other Bishopricks only as they may feel a gift, to do so, knowing needs and circumstances.

- 9th It binds all to receive whomsoever the first Lead may send. — Not in Old Covenant.
10. It makes provisions for a Lion's Ministry, in the distant future, when needed. This not in the Old.
11. Sect III. of Old Covenant made plain & consistent, and, added, How Novitiates money should be used! not in Old Covenant.
12. All of Article III, Omitted. Substance being in Section II.st
13. The Order of the Eldership placed before Trustees, as it should be, — reversing the Old.
14. Mode of confirmation given. Not in the Old.
15. Elders Obligations, added to duties. Not in the Old.
16. Trustee, and Trustor; Consecratee; Consecrators are explained. Not in the Old.
17. Sisters made equal Trustees with Brethren; equal voice, in all important matters. Not in the Old only as associated, not as equals.
18. Trustees removed as unceremoniously as Elders or Others, that is, without a written legal document. No such provision in the Old, And this saves a great deal of labour, trouble and anxiety in appointing successors of Trusteeship.

19. Trustees duties and obligations made much plainer than the old; their limits defined &c.
20. Males and Females equal voice in the use of money, not to hold separate interests - Societies made plain.
21. Trustees prohibited from disposing of any portion of the homestead, lands, or buildings only on conditions named. Not in Old Covenant.
22. New Covenant forbids borrowing money of outside society, or giving notes for value received, or going in debt, in any way, except in cases of most desperate and extreme misfortune, & then by full union of society. Not in Old Covenant. And some now give notes. &c.
23. Statements wherein Trustees may not buy or sell in a dishonest, selfish & advantageous capacity. Not in Old.
24. Forbids all Lottery dealings, or games of chance.
25. Requires Funds in Bank to have more than our name. Not in Old let
26. Exemption of Trust Omitted, Not needed, by signers of New Covenant, as the ground is covered.
27. See C. of Old Cov^t omitted; all contained elsewhere.
28. Right of appeal granted to members; not in Old. let
29. Tells who, & who may not be Elders, & Trustees, & who helps in those departments. Not in the old.

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30.th New Covenant makes provision for keeping all the consecrated property and estate in the possession of Covenant Keepers, in case of the failure of families, or societies, who might fail, and wish to convert it to selfish purposes. Not in the Old Cove^t

31. The Old Covenant would have been lost, in the Spring term of the Court of Appeals, in Kentucky in the Spring case of "Gale & Banta" vs. Wilhite and Others. A Society of Shakers, had not the Covenant been sustained on the ground of making society a charitable institution, within the meaning of a British statute, yet in force, passed in the forty third year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. A foundation which we publicly now deny, in our published articles, as being false, claiming the institution purely religious, and the charity simply the result of Christian sympathy and humane duty.

The Old Covenant might be sustained against one, two, or three complainers; but, in case of the secession of one half or two thirds of a family, or society, would most surely fail, to be sustained, at this date, as was done by the skin of its teeth in Kentucky in 1834. Because we since have publicly declared the institution was not a charitable one, per se,

32. Such sentences as "mutual support and benefit of each other in things spiritual and temporal," are left out, & the whole of Article III:rd because, no odds what is said afterwards, because Lawyers say "If one part contradicts the other, it makes the whole null & void."

It is not difficult for Shakers to know what they mean, but, when clashing words and sentences were seen, Judge Nichols, in the case of "Gass and Banta" against the Shakers in Pleasant Hill, Ky. was bound to throw all such sentiments overboard, and rest the decision of support of the Covenant of 1830, entirely on the basis of Charity alone; and, when any thing, or a Covenant rests on a falsehood, the foundation is sandy indeed. —

33. The New Covenant Omits all the weak points of the old One of 1830. And, the best Lawyers and Judges in Kentucky now affirm, that, in the New Covenant, the Shakers have a Covenant that is an honor to them in any Court; while the old One, in many respects was so ambiguous, & difficult of being rightly understood, it was rather a dishonor.

34. Some Elders, who have, in an offhand way, objected to the New Covenant, when put to the test, could not point out a single defect in it, showing they decided from prejudice,

Statements of
Important Improvements
in the
New Covenant.

