

Tenth Thesis

*Concerning the ministry*¹

*Concerning the ministers and pastors of the church*²

All true knowledge in things spiritual is received and revealed by the gift of God, the Light or grace*; by this knowledge, manifested and received in the innermost* heart, every true minister of the Gospel is ordained, prepared and supplied in the work of the ministry. By the leading, pulling, and moving of such knowledge every evangelist and Christian pastor should be led and commanded* in his work for the Gospel, as to the place where, the persons to whom, and the time when he is to minister.

Moreover, those who have this authority may and ought to preach the Gospel, whether or not they have human commission or literature.³ On the other hand, those who do not have the authority of this divine gift, no matter how learned nor how authorized by the commissions of human beings and churches, should be considered deceivers and not true ministers of the Gospel.⁴

¹ Title in English

² Title in latin: *De Ministris & Pastoribus Ecclesiæ*

³ Latin: *licet humanis mandatis carentes, & humanæ literaturæ ignari*, “although they lack human authority, and don’t know the human literature.”

⁴ Latin: *qui hujus divini doni autoritate carent, quanquam eruditione & scientia præditi, & ecclesiarum mandatis & hominum autoritate ut plurimum pollentes, impostores tantum & fraudatores, non veri Evangelii ministri seu prædicatores habendi sunt*, “those who do not have the authority of this divine gift, although gifted with erudition and knowledge, although very powerful by the mandates of churches

Also, those who have received this holy and immaculate* gift, as they have freely received it so are they freely to give it,⁵ without wages or bargaining, and much less use it as a job to earn money. Nevertheless, if God has called any person from their trade or job by which they earn their living,⁶ it may be lawful (according to the liberty which they feel is given to them in the Lord) for them to receive temporal things — what they need for food and clothing — which are given to them freely and from the heart by those to whom they have given spiritual things.

Source: Robert Barclay, *Apology for the True Christian Divinity*, (Glenside PA: Quaker Heritage Press, 2002) p. 230; and Roberti Barclaii, *Teologiae verè Christianae apologia*, facsimile (Amsterdam: Jacob Claus, 1676) pp. 171-172.

and by human authority, should be considered imposters and frauds, not true ministers or preachers of the Gospel.

⁵ Matthew 10:8 RB

⁶ Latin: *sibi & familiæ comparare panem*, “get bread for themselves and their family.”