Samuel Rutherford’s

*The Due Right of Presbyteries:*

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Edited by

Travis Fentiman

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The Original Title:

The Due Right of Presbyteries:

or,

A Peaceable Plea for the

Government of the Church of Scotland

Wherein is examined:

1. The Way of the Churches of Christ in New England in brotherly equality and independency, or coordination without subjection of one church to another.¹

2. Their Apology² for the said government and their Answers to 32 Questions³ are considered.

3. A treatise for a church-covenant is discussed.

4. The arguments of Mr. Robinson in his Justification of Separation⁴ are discovered.

5. His treatise called, The People’s Plea for the Exercise of Prophecy⁵ is tried.

6. Diverse late arguments against presbyterial government and the power of synods are discussed; the power of the prince in matters ecclesiastical is modestly considered and diverse incident controversies resolved.

¹ By John Cotton (London, 1645)
² Richard Mather et al., An Apology of the Churches in New England for Church-Covenant (London, 1643)
³ Contained in Richard Mather et al., Church-Government and Church-Covenant Discussed (1643)
⁴ John Robinson (1610)
⁵ 1618
Brief Outline

Part 1

The Keys of the Kingdom and the Visible Church, chs. 1-6

Officers of the Church & their Election, ch. 6
  Ruling Elders, ch. 7
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The Communion of the Visible, catholic Church, ch. 10

Part 2

An Examination of New England Congregationalism

Appendix: The Civil Magistrate about Religion

Page numbering is non-continuous with Part 1.
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## Part 1

Ch. 1 - The church which Christ has instituted and to which He has committed the keys of his Kingdom, is a company of believers.  

Ch. 2 – This church does meet together every Lord’s Day, all of them, even the whole church, for administration of the ordinances of God, to public edification.  

Ch. 3 – Whether or not is there a necessity of the personal presence of the whole Church in all the acts of Church-censures?  

Ch. 4 – Whether there be no national or provincial Church under the New Testament, but only a parish congregational meeting every Lord’s Day, in one place for the worship of God?  

Ch. 5 – All who would be saved must be added to the Church (Acts 2:47), if God offer opportunity (Gen. 17:7), because every Christian stands in need of all the ordinances of Christ.  

Ch. 6 – Touching Officers and their Election  

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1 Tim. 5:17  

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Ch. 8 – Of Election of Officers  

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7 This is a simplified table of contents. For the original (rather convoluted) table of contents, see the EEBO-TCP edition.
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8 The page numbering is not continuous with Part 1 and starts with p. 185. Rutherford’s method is to refute the various New England divines (including Separatists, Independents, and the two forms of Puritan Congregationalism) according to the organization of their books (chiefly John Robinson and John Cotton), which layout may appear disorganized to the reader. The chapter and section number headings in Part 2 of Rutherford’s work refer to the chapter and section numbers of his opponents’ works.
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\(^{13}\) [Rutherford changed his viewpoint on this two years later in 1646 in *The Divine Right of Church Government*, where he argues the opposite extensively (see especially ch. 27). He retained George Gillespie’s viewpoint for the rest of his writing career.]
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