

3VAE5CBA: Sujet du devoir

Write a historical commentary of the following text (maximum length: 8 pages or 4000 words). Use your *precise* knowledge of the period to describe the historical relevance and background of this document.

The communication between Lady Jane and Master Feckenham.

Source: John Foxe, *Acts and Monuments*, book X, 1583.

Lady Jane Grey was beheaded on February 12, 1554. Two days before, Master Feckenham was sent from Queen Mary to try to reduce her to the queen's religion.

Feck.: What thing is required in a Christian?

Jane: To believe in God the Father, in God the Son, in God the Holy Ghost, three persons and one God.

Feck.: Is there nothing else required in a Christian, but to believe in God?

5 *Jane:* Yes: We must believe in him, we must love him, with all our heart, with all our soul, and all our mind, and our neighbour as ourself. [...]

Feck.: How shall we love our neighbour?

Jane: To love our neighbour, is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and to give drink to the thirsty, and to do to him as we would do to ourselves.

10 *Feck.:* Why, then it is necessary to salvation to do good works, and it is not sufficient to believe?

Jane: I deny that, I affirm that faith only saveth; for it is meet for all Christians, in token that they follow their master Christ, to do good works; yet may we not say, nor in any wise believe, that they profit to salvation: for although we have done all that we can,
15 yet we are unprofitable servants, and the faith we have only in Christ's blood and his merits, saveth.

Feck.: How many Sacraments are there?

Jane: Two: the one the Sacrament of Baptism, and the other the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

20 *Feck.:* No, there be seven Sacraments.

Jane: By what Scripture find you that?

Feck.: [...] but what is signified by your two sacraments?

Jane: By the Sacrament of Baptism I am washed with water, and regenerated in the spirit, and that washing is a token to me that I am the child of God: [By] the Sacrament
25 of the Lord's Supper is offered unto me as a sure seal and testimony, that I am, by the blood of Christ which he shed for me on the cross, made partaker of the everlasting kingdom.

Feck.: Why, what do you receive in that bread: do you not receive the very body and blood of Christ?

30 *Jane:* No, surely, I do not believe so: I think at that supper I receive neither flesh nor blood, but only bread and wine; the which bread when it is broken, and the wine when it is drunk, putteth me in mid how that for my sins the body of Christ was broken, and his blood shed on the cross, and with that bread and wine I receive the benefits which came by breaking of his body, and by the shedding of his blood on the cross for my sins.

35 *Feck.:* Why, but madam, doth not Christ speak these words: take eat, this is my body: can you require any plainer words: doth he not say, that it is his body?

Jane: I grant he saith so; and so he saith likewise in other places, I am the vine, I am the door, it being only but a figurative speech[...]

40 *Feck.:* You ground your faith upon such authors as say and unsay, both with a breath, and not upon the church, to whom you ought to give credit.

Jane: No, I ground my faith upon God's word, and not upon the church: for if the church be a good church, the faith of the church must be tried by God's word, and not God's word by the church: neither yet my faith: shall I believe the church because of antiquity? Or shall I give credit to that church which taketh away from me a full half
45 part of the Lord's Supper, and will not layman receive it in both kinds, but the priests only themselves, which thing if they deny to us part, they deny us part of our salvation? [...]