

"I am in Christ, and I am satisfied," it is to be feared, and very likely, that he is not in Christ. As to doctrine he may be clear enough ; but if he really were in Him he could not be satisfied without communion. "Knowledge puffeth up" ; but the effect of being in the light is to make us value not the place only, but fellowship with the Father and with the Son (with one another, too, of course). The way it works is this : the very essence of the condition of soul in a right state is a *conscious dependence*. Now, one may use the fact of completeness in Christ to make one independent. Two things are implied in dependence : first, the sense that we cannot do without God in a single instance ; and, secondly, that He is "for us."

In other words, there is confidence in His love and power on our behalf, as well as the consciousness that without Him we can do nothing.

That is the reason why you will find constant reference to mercy when Scripture speaks of or to the individual. When the Church is addressed "grace and peace" only are mentioned. Only in Jude we have "mercy unto you and peace and love be multiplied." And then in verse 21, "Looking for the mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life," where the departure of christendom is contemplated, and when things were rapidly going on to judgment. We find, there-