

dear brethren, to make the Bible our guide. As a denomination in all our history we have professed allegiance to God's Word. You know that in our earnestly contending for the truth in our seeking to carry out the commands of our Master, we have been the especial object of the gaze of men. We have been censured, counted illiberal because we would not change any of the cherished precepts of Christ. On the other hand by those best able to judge our denomination has been admired for consistency. God has smiled upon us, the small one has become great and to-day the Baptists are a recognized moral power in the world. Ours an illustrious past. We have had our martyrs and saintly confessors. Our members have been distinguished for loyalty to the State and to God. In the past they contended for freedom to worship God, as dictated by their own consciences; they have rejoiced in seeing this boon granted to many from whom it was long denied. They have sought the diffusion of truth. To carry out the great commission, Baptists have made many and precious sacrifices. The gold and silver of many have been laid on the Altar of Consecration, and many in the past and many now at work have given themselves to the work of saving the heathen. At home and abroad the smile of God has ever rested upon our denomination. The cherished principles for which our fathers contended are our inheritance and by us are to be perpetuated. We are to be loyal to truth. Much is expected of us; seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, our souls fired with a Heavenly zeal, let us prove our allegiance to truth. While we seek the diffusion of our principles, unitedly contending for the faith once delivered to the Saints; while we have for our sister denominations that love that envieth not, while recognizing them in their grand moral work, and while for them we cultivate Christian kindness, by no means let us forget one another. Drawn toward each other by the most tender of relationships, let us see to it that we love one another fervently. Brethren, we who are in some respects the leaders of the people should have nothing but words of love and sympathy for each other. Of each other's reputation we should be jealous, we should love one another. The fathers in the ministry should lay the loving hand on the heads of those who in after years shall take their places. The young men should cultivate the kindest feelings of love for those who have, amid many discouragements and sacrifices, helped make our denomination what it is.

Brethren of the Churches love one another. Let the world see what Christianity really is. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love." If there have