

place after the death of the Apostles, when whole nations embraced, *outwardly*, Christianity as their national religion. In the Apostles' days it was not so, and the assembly of God in a town or city, was a company of true believers, gathered to the Name of the Lord Jesus, entirely distinct and separate from the State, or the mass of Jews and Gentiles who were around them, still going on in Judaism or in open idolatry. Now, in so-called Christian countries, almost every one professes, outwardly at all events, some kind of Christianity. And Church and State are joined together. Neither is there in consequence the same open violent persecution that the early Christians had to go through, even unto death. But the world is the same old world still, no matter if it calls itself Christian now, or not. And, *by their fruits ye shall know them.*

There can be no real, true enjoyment, of happy communion with the Father and the Son ; that holy, blessed happy fellowship with God, that taste of heaven upon earth, (even now !) *where there is not separation from the world.* It is impossible. Yea, more. Friendship with the world, and loving the things of the world, so deadens the souls of those who try to go on with it, even if they do not walk on the dirty, but on the clean side of the broad way, that the world is on in its downward road to everlasting destruction and misery, that the child of God goes to sleep among the dead—loses spiritual eyesight, and power—forgets what the grace of God delivered them from at the first ; and has to be waked