

Devout Charles Bridges well said: "To meet the Christian in ordinary courtesy, not in unity of heart, is a sign of an unspiritual walk with God. Fellowship with God is 'walking in the light'; fellowship with one another is the natural outflow."

This witness, if true for individual communion with God, is reflected in the collective communion of His people. They who have little or no communion with their fellow-Christians, in the highest and holiest things common to them in the Lord, as a rule would be found to have little or no fellowship with God. They cannot have the lower thing if they have not the higher. Communion with Him will regulate the thoughts, feelings, words, and ways, with regard to His people, be they where they may. No one holding fellowship with God could speak evil of another, much less invent and disseminate a falsehood concerning another. Such things are of the darkness and not of the light, for "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now . . . he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because darkness hath blinded his eyes" (1 John ii. 9-11).

Of the prevalent sin of evil-speaking among professed Christians, a living Spanish writer has well said: "Whatever flows from it is infected, and poisons whatever it approaches; even its praises are empoisoned, its applause malicious, its silence criminal; its gestures, motions, and