

forces of the material world. All move in harmony to fulfil the purpose for which they were called into existence. This principle of order is not less clearly seen in the arrangements of His spiritual kingdom. The Church is not a mere aggregation of discordant forces, moving with lawless energy, without unity of method or purpose. It is the whole body of believers, acting as one army of the living God, under the Captain of their salvation. One family, the members of which are to help one another in love, being bound together by the double ties of mutual love and loyalty to their common Father and King.

God has never left Himself without a witnessing Church in the world. The patriarchs proclaimed Jehovah "fearful in praises, glorious in holiness, doing wonders." The Jewish Church, by its worship, by its being the depository of the Divine law, and by the testimony of its inspired prophets, bore testimony, amid prevailing idolatry, to the power and holiness of the God of Abraham. Before our Divine Redeemer ascended upon high, He called and appointed men to testify of His sovereign grace, and made provision for forming those who believed upon Him into a community of faithful souls, that should make known the riches of His redeeming love to every nation and kindred and tongue. In the words of an eminent living writer: "It was His design to form a holy community, from which, as from a new humanity, reconstituted, filled by His Spirit and living by His life, the Gospel should go forth into all the world. The holy community thus founded is the Christian Church. It differs from all the institutions that preceded it. It is not limited, like the Jewish theocracy, to one special nation; it is not bounded by the frontiers of any land. It forms the kingdom which is not of this world, and which is destined to triumph over all the powers of earth leagued against it. Placed beyond the external conditions of Judaism, the Christian Church is primarily a moral and spiritual fact, the character of which is essentially supernatural. Born of a miracle, it lives by a miracle. Founded upon the great miracle of redemption, it grows and is perpetuated by the ever-repeated miracle of conversion. It is entered, not by the natural way of birth, but by the supernatural way of the new birth."