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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, *even* CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

The Topic for the Month.

While many of the ministers and people of the Church of England, are sufficiently infatuated, to claim for their establishment the pre-eminent designation of "THE CHURCH," it is truly cause of rejoicing to meet enlightened and devoted christians in her communion—ministers as well as others, who trample all such arrogant assumptions in the dust; having been taught of God that his kingdom exists *within* men—that wherever a believing penitent is found, possessing "righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost"—there stands a being, constituted a king and priest unto God—one whom the heavens shall receive, and the universe own, as a member of "THE CHURCH of the Living God." Let all fervently pray, that ministers such as the writer of the following personal address may be greatly multiplied in the Church of England, and that he may be long preserved to make like effective appeals to the consciences of men:—

THE TRUE CHURCH.

BY THE REV. J. C. EYLE, B. A., RECTOR OF HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND.

Reader, I want you to belong to the one true Church, to the Church outside of which there is no salvation. I do not ask where you go on a Sunday. I only ask, "Do you belong to the one true Church?"

Where is this one true Church? What is this one true Church like? What are the marks by which this one true Church may be known? You may well ask such questions. Give me your attention and I will provide you with some answers.

The one true Church is composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus. It is made up of all God's elect,—of all converted men and women,—of all true Christians. In whomsoever we can discern the election of God the Father, the sprinkling of the blood of God the Son, the sanctifying work of God the Spirit, in that person we see a member of Christ's true Church.

It is a Church of which all the members have the same marks. They are all born again of the Spirit. They all possess "repentance towards God, faith towards

our Lord Jesus Christ," and holiness of life and conversation. They all hate sin, and they all love Christ. They worship differently, and after various fashions. Some worship with a form of prayer, and some with none. Some worship kneeling and some standing. But they all worship with one heart.—They are all led by one Spirit.—They all build upon one foundation.—They all draw their religion from one single book, that is the Bible. They are all joined to one great centre, that is Jesus Christ. They all, even now, can say with one heart, "Hallelujah;" and they all can respond with one heart and voice, "Amen and amen."

It is a Church which is dependent upon no ministers upon earth, however much it values those who preach the Gospel to its members. The life of its members does not hang upon Church-membership, and baptism, and the Lord's Supper, although they highly value these things, when they are to be had. But it has only one Great Head,—one Shepherd,—one chief Bishop,—and that is Jesus Christ. He alone, by His Spirit, admits the members of this Church, though ministers may show the door. Till He opens the door, no man on earth can open it,—neither Bishops, nor Presbyters, nor Convocations, nor Synods. Once let a man repent and believe the Gospel, and that moment he becomes a member of this Church. Like the penitent thief, he may have no opportunity of being baptized. But he has that which is far better than any water-baptism,—the baptism of the Spirit. He may not be able to receive the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper,—but he eats Christ's body and drinks Christ's blood by faith every day he lives, and no minister on earth can prevent him. He may be excommunicated by *ordained* men, and cut off from the outward ordinances of the professing Church,—but all the *ordained* men in the world cannot shut him out of the true Church.

It is a Church whose existence does not depend on forms, ceremonies, cathedrals, churches, chapels, pulpits, fonts, vestments, organs, endowments, money, kings, governments, magistrates, or any act or favour whatsoever from the hand of man. It has often lived on and continued when all these things have been taken from it. It has often been driven into the wilderness, or into dens and caves of the earth, by those who ought to have been its friends. Its existence depends on nothing but the presence of Christ and His Spirit, and they being ever with it, the Church cannot die.