

Darby would have us believe); but if I possess it at all it is because I am a child of God, and the indwelling of the Spirit is the consequence of my connection with Christ. "The Spirit of God cannot dwell," (says that writer) "where evil is tolerated." *I say it can.* That Comforter which abides with the child of God for ever will be with him just as much whether he kneels beside a drunkard or a saint. *It would be too hard to rob me of my heritage because my next door neighbour had nothing to say to it.* Nay, beloved, the indwelling of the Spirit is an individual thing—an increase of individual piety—brings with it an increase of the Spirit's influence, and thus it is that if, out of an assembly of many, even two or three meet in the name of Jesus, we have every reason to feel that the Spirit will be in that assembly, and be in it for good; it will be there with its children; it will follow its children; it will abide with its children; and although Mr Darby may not think so, I place my Saviour's promise against his unhappy views, that, "when the Comforter is come he will abide with me for ever."

But remember we can only claim this Comforter as children of God, and if we are children of God we must be as distinct from the children of the world as the good seed was ever distinct from the tares. We cannot help the tares being in the field, neither can, or ought, we prevent evil men entering our churches and kneeling with us on the same floor, in prayer; but it is no reason because we are liberal, and I believe, Christian, that we are to be inconsistent. We are to embrace no tare views, take part in no tare pleasure, or ever act in such a way as to lead people to suppose that because we are amongst the tares that therefore we are tares ourselves. We must never forget that, though we are living in darkness, we are children of the light; that we are the faint light of the world, and that our light is not to be hid. We must remember that we are to come out and be separate, not by destroying the tares and by standing alone, but by living in the midst of the wicked as children of God, just as the good seed lived in the midst of the tares, and yet had no immediate connection with them.

Let us be consistent Christians. Let us realize, first, the duty of a child of God and then perform it, and, believe me, we will keep the Spirit in our midst—yes; keep it for ever—keep it till that happy day, when the Church, being purified from all known evil, shall arise beautiful to meet its Lord, and so shall we, as members of that Church, be for ever with the Lord.