

of all sermons, the most convincing of all arguments to the Divine reality of the religion of the Cross.

The love of the brethren—a true test of discipleship, is a result—the cause being the love of God shed abroad in the heart. This grace is a fruit of our regeneration, a grace susceptible of continual development. It grows with Christian growth. Its budding form is seen in the life of the young Christian, its maturity, its ripeness, in the mellowed age of the one long living near the Cross. It is a boon to be sought after, a prize worthy of the ambition of all, nothing can take its place. No grace so adorning, either old or young. No influence in the church so potent for the churches good, no attraction so inviting to those whose weary and sin sick souls long for that Jesus alone can impart. No light shining so brightly at home in the individual soul, and sending its cheering rays so far out into the dreary world as this grace of love for the brethren. No power that we can exert so constraining to the wanderer from home, so winning to the unconverted. If in the church there were more love there would not be so many wandering ones from the fold. If the churches were more home like, if there were not such seemingly impassable gulfs between the members, if the Dear Brethren would but throw wide open their heart's doors, if they would cultivate one another's acquaintance, and exhibit in many ways as their good natures prompt them, their kind regards for each other, less and less would be the number yearly reported as straying away from the fold, a loss to the church as also wronging their own souls. Who can picture the state of the church when the "new commandment" shall be lovingly obeyed. What a mellenium; what burdens lifted from toiling pastors; what strength imparted to the weakest; what joy and peace would dwell with the soul of each; what conversions, who can tell their numbers, for then as in the early days of Christianity there would be added to the church "day by day those that were being saved."

No institution should be as attractive as the church, none can be if we love as brethren. But if the grace is wanting, in vain the gilded spires, the sweetest of music, the most beautiful service, the most eloquent pulpit, in vain all. Would that there was more love in our churches, refining our natures, drawing us nearer each other, making us what we should be, our churches what they might be, homes of peace, union, love, ever more and more attractive centres of influence and power. Let me urge the obedience to this "new commandment," a loving and loyal obedience on the part of the members of the churches of this Association. We profess

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