

then we overlook his good qualities and his good actions together : We withdraw from him our friendship ; we account him unworthy of regard ; we will not allow him even those marks of civility which we would give to a stranger. You must have also observed, that, of all disputes, those which arise in the church, are the most inveterate ; as if the animosity of christians ought to be proportioned to their former harmony. How unseemly is this, and how utterly repugnant to christian principles ! If reason and moderation exist in the world, they should be found among christians. Good men expect to be companions forever : surely, it becomes them now, to cultivate communion ; to vie with each other, in looks, and words, and offices of kindness.

I do not doubt, brethren, that you all wish to display a conduct, worthy of yourselves. But here is the danger of quarrelling : in contention, we overlook our true character ; and, in eagerness to play the man, we forget the christian. In all disputes, therefore, it would serve an excellent purpose, did we recollect the nature and design of a christian profession, consider the obligations of religion, and then examine if our conduct be worthy of the christian calling. Allow me, brethren, to bring you to this test. It is evident that there is something wrong among you : this may help to discover it ; and I think, that, with your usual candour, if you could only perceive your mistake, you would readily disapprove and rectify it.

You are aware that a principal design of the christian profession, is the honour of God. You know that he is worthy to be praised ; and, perhaps, it would be doing you injustice to say, that any of you have other objects in view. I doubt, however, that you have not chosen the best method of showing forth the honour of his name. Nothing can reflect honour upon the deity, which does not accord with his character, and display submission to his

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