

in sanctuary and on the street, in public office and in private life wherever human beings join hands or rub elbows in the pleasures and friendships and tasks of life. She must make men and women feel everywhere that the joy of life is not strife but service, that the aim of the noblest life is not to get but to give. She must cease living at peace with evils that imperil society. Often individuals are at war with them, but seldom churches as churches. We are opposed to evil in the abstract, let us also combat the concrete evils at our doors. The devotion paid to a divine person must be coupled with a devotion to a divine cause—transforming a self-seeking society into a religiously social life where each lives for others and all live for God.

It is a significant thing to note that while social injustices and social unrighteousness have been culminating in a time of critical importance, the church has not been making the progress she ought to make. Her membership increases very slowly. Her benevolences languish. There are many signs of decrepitude that we are unwilling to confess. The fact is painfully apparent that the church will not increase, will not even hold her own, and cannot retain her grip upon the world unless we find out and do our real business in this world. Salvation lies in doing our rightful task and the task of the church to-day is to socialize Christianity. To see in these movements and problems which constitute our social crisis nothing more than an economic disturbance is to miss the very note that gives special character and significance to our day. We must not miss the note of duty and we must not fail to see the opportunity for the humanization of life. A tone of moral obligation and of moral uplift characterizes this crisis, for it is a sign not of decadence but of progress. It is most acute where the conditions of life are most hopeful in Britain, in Germany, and in all the English-speaking world. It indicates, not that we are on the way down, but that we are on the way up. It indicates that our learning is leading us to larger life.