

In your pastoral oversight of the flock, seek to enlarge the circle of spiritual activity by devolving specific work upon as many members as possible.

Downright honest Christian work is a great means of grace. "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work," said Jesus; and His followers should do the same. Not a few of them are very unhealthy spiritually and imperfectly developed for lack of something to do, while others are suffering spiritual deterioration from the same cause. The pastor, it seems to me, should esteem it a privilege and duty to guard against these evils by finding both classes appropriate places in the work of the Church. This should be kept in view from the moment members are received into the fellowship of the saints. It is surely unwise to enroll them as idlers and keep them in this condition until they lose the freshness of their first zeal for Christian service. The Master's word to all who enter His kingdom is, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart." Obviously, His meaning is not that all are to become bustling, obtrusive, dictatorial. There is danger in this direction. There is a strong tendency now under the name of religious organization and special appliance to create machinery which practically means increased friction and waste of energy. This is often the outcome of the desire of some to be in office, to teach and to rule, to be interpreters of the deep things of God, while their proper place is among learners. The great thing to be aimed at is to have all the members of the one body—the hand, the foot, the eye, the ear, the head—harmoniously active, each discharging its appropriate functions; but no good can be accomplished by the displacement of them or by relegating to one what in the divine order of things belongs to another. It would be monstrous, for instance, to expect the ear to do the work of the eye, and vice versa.

Thus, you see, while you seek to stimulate activity, it should be in the forms and in the order which God has appointed. This is the age of associations, committees, conventions and