

5. And is it not also a most effective means for preserving the purity and spirituality of the Church? The accomplishing of such an end is not only immensely important, but exceedingly difficult. Provision can be made for expulsion of open transgressors without any very great difficulty, though, even its execution is no easy matter. But how can the Church, in its organic form, take cognizance of the spiritual condition of its membership? is a most difficult problem. I believe that this is the most perfect method that it is possible to adopt. It starts on the spiritual basis, pure and simple. It promotes it to the largest degree. It repels in its whole operation all worldly-mindedness; so that it becomes a very unnatural thing for the man of the world to seek such association. He has no sympathy with it. He is an utter alien to its spirit, its life, and practices. He can have no satisfaction or enjoyment in such a place. As soon as the soul that was alive and interested in its work becomes dead, the thing becomes dull, and then distasteful. Then, following his own inclinations, he absents himself, and thereby declares himself no longer of this brotherhood. Expulsion, if you choose to call it such, is his own act, and is a most tangible expression of his lack of suitable qualifications for such a position. The nature of the conditions of this membership becomes, thereby, a most effective means of preserving the spirituality and purity of the visible Church. Any failure that becomes conspicuous arises mainly from failure to