

The Divine Ruler has intimated it as the special purpose which He wills should be accomplished by means of His commanded establishment of families and nations—that there should be the establishment of another community, formed out of, and subsisting in the midst of the various families and nations of the world, to whom He communicates the knowledge of His will. All the individuals composing families; parents and children, masters and servants—and all the individuals forming a nation, Sovereigns and subjects, the rulers and the ruled, of every grade, are invited and commanded by God to constitute component parts of this community, under the solemn, humbling, and affecting consideration, by each, of the Divine intimation and promise—"there is no respect of persons with God—the rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all—where two or three are met together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

When spoken of or alluded to, as individuals, the persons forming this society are called "believers, disciples or scholars, followers of Christ, Christians, faithful ones, saints or holy ones, brethren, soldiers of Jesus Christ, people of God."

The community or society composed of persons so designated, is, in the Bible, most frequently denominated the Church of God, or the Church of Christ—the English word *Church*, however, not setting forth to the mind of a person unacquainted with the Greek language, the meaning of the Greek word, of which the word *Church* is the translation in the English Bible—the Greek word signifying a community or assembly of persons, called, chosen, or selected from amongst others—the means by which the Divine Spirit has thus called them being the truth concerning Christ contained in the word; and to whose call, by this means, they have responded, and are together before God, to hear from His word, as their only Rule, all things which are therein commanded them. And though the faithful ones who may be living in a particular place, and who must, under the Divine command, form themselves into such a society or community, must necessarily be separated by distance of place, from other similar communities, "scattered abroad," yet these various believers, so compacted together into various *Churches*, or *ecclesiastical* assemblies, are by the Lord regarded as but one, and ought to be so regarded by one another—"one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

As every family, and every nation is, respectively, under government, according to Divine appointment, so the community which is formed by the Redeemer, consisting of believers or faithful ones, is plac-