

and received in the love of it, draws men to him and to one another. Jesus gave a *new commandment*, peculiar to the new dispensation, and and most positively binding on all his disciples, "That ye love one another, as I have loved you." Until his people love one another as he has loved them, they will not have come up to the standard of christian love. The spirit that pervades the christian dispensation, and distinguishes it from every other, is the spirit of power and of love, and of a sound mind, 2 Tim. 1: 7; Phil. 2: Jno. 2: 10; 3: 14, 23; 4: 7, 11, 12, 20, 21; 5: 1, 2; Jer. 31: 33. See also our Lord's discourse recorded in the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th chapters of John.

A.—It is said, however, that the different denominations agree in the *essential* points of christianity. Do you believe that christianity has *essentials* and *non-essentials*?

B.—It certainly has. The word of God plainly shows where christians may differ, and still keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace; and on points upon which they cannot differ with impunity, it is equally clear and decisive. On matters of *Opinion* christians may differ and still keep the unity of the Spirit—on matters of *Faith* they cannot. Matters of Faith or Fact, are laid down in the scriptures as *positively essential* for us to receive; while matters of *Opinion* are treated as non-essentials. It is most important to observe a proper distinction between Faith and Opinion.

A.—Will you point out the difference between faith and opinion in general, and between the christian faith and a christian's opinion in particular?

B.—Whatever we see, or hear, or feel, is a matter of *personal knowledge*. Whatever we *believe* on the testimony of others is a matter of *faith*. Whatever we *think* to be the case, without positive testimony, is a matter of *opinion*. What I have seen and heard, I *know*. What such an one testifies, I *believe*. What appears to me reasonable from certain circumstances, I *think*. The first is *knowledge*. The second, *faith*. The third, *opinion*.

As all minds are not the same, it is impossible for all to view circumstances in the same light, and draw from them the same conclusions; hence it is impossible for all to be of the same opinion upon subjects on which they employ the powers of their own minds. The scriptures declare there is one *faith*, but no where say there is one *opinion*. All things that Christ and his Apostles have said are true, and we must all