

with contempt. Church censures scripturally administered express the mind of God, and it is an act of daring impiety to disregard them.

It is of great importance that those who bear rule in Christ's house, should be loving, just and true in acting for Him and in His name. Better that the tares should rear high their flaunting heads through all the months of summer than that one ear of wheat should perish. Bear with the weak; reclaim the erring; be merciful, tender and unselfish, ever making the pang of your brother your own. The Church is one great family, having one Lord, one faith, one baptism—eating the same spiritual food, washed in the same precious blood, journeying to the same happy land. Let rulers and ruled, then, bear each others burdens, strengthen each others hands and gladden each others hearts.

Private Christians, as such, have no charge of the discipline of the Church; this is the duty of the office-bearers. You must on no account take the law into your own hands and summarily decide that such and such a man is unfit for Church fellowship. The Lord Jesus did not refuse to eat bread and drink wine with JUDAS ISCARIOT. Is it therefore fitting that you should take upon yourself to say, "This man is a hypocrite, I cannot sit at the Lord's Table with him;" "this one hates me;" "that other is not a sincere Christian." Your impressions may be correct; but the inference is not warrantable. To his own Master he stands or falls. Dr. MILLER of Princeton, than whom there was never a more intelligent or pious Presbyterian, was in the habit of saying to his students, "*I will go to the Lord's table with the devil until he can be regularly put out of the Church.*" This is putting the case in the strongest possible light; but not stronger, we are convinced, than the example of Christ warrants. There would be less of debate and fretting jealousy in our Churches were this distinction borne in mind.

The Church must be pure in practice as well as in doctrine; but she must use proper means to secure purity. The truth must be taught and received in love and faithfulness. Christians must obey those who are over them in holy things. The presence and oversight of Christ as the ever-living Head of the Church, the fountain of authority and of spiritual power, must be more profoundly realized. Then, and not till then shall the bloom of heavenly beauty be restored to the face of the "Church catholic." The scars and furrows contracted in the house of bondage will be removed, and the radiance of holiness shall spring forth before all nations. Immaculate purity, indeed, is never reached on earth; for as the most illustrious saints failed even in the very virtues for which they were noted, so every age of the Church (nay, every section!) has come short in the peculiar work committed to its care. The SPOTLER has left his mark even on the Church of the living God! But "the elect" who "have been gathered" home are even now rejoicing in perfect purity and holiness. As they are shall we be, if we fight like them the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life.

WHAT HAVE I DONE FOR CHRIST?

At the last day we shall all be judged *according to our works*. What a solemn thought! What an incentive to tenfold diligence while laboring in the vineyard! If Christ will judge us by our works, let us judge ourselves to-day by the same criterion as in His presence. What have we done for Christ during all our years that have vanished; and what are we doing now?