

principal causes of disunion, and the principles on which all christians may meet and form one communion.

*The causes of disunion.* These are so numerous, that we fear to begin a particular specification. The grand and radical cause, however, is the want of conformity to the word of God. Were men guided by this, they never would hate or try to injure one of the human family. If the word of Christ dwelt in them richly," they would by their love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, and meekness, convince all who associated with them that they were filled with the spirit of Christ.

The cause of individual opposition and religious variance is easily solved. All who are properly instructed in the christian scriptures take pleasure and satisfaction in the company of those who love the Lord, although they may conscientiously differ. What then should prevent such persons from living in a Church together? But to the causes of separation.

*Ignorance.* Persons may be well instructed in the arts and sciences and ignorant of the living oracles. An individual may have read all the human productions ever written, and yet be extremely deficient in Bible knowledge. To become acquainted with the scriptures is essential to rational union. The more enlightened the christian, the more he desires to see all who love and serve the Lord forming one band of holy brotherhood.

Ignorance of each other's principles often keep christians separate. Should they meet frequently and have a cordial interchange of sentiment with the Bible in their hands, they would soon see the full amount of difference. The more distant religious persons keep, the more they magnify each other's supposed errors.

*Agitating speculative questions.* These gender strife. No person but partially acquainted with the scriptures will do this. We, therefore, sum up all the causes and difficulties amongst professors of religion in a want of scriptural knowledge, conformity in their lives to the word of God, and acquaintance with each other.

It was our design in the commencement of this article to go into a particular enumeration of the causes of disunion, but we have considered the subject carefully, and are satisfied that the best way to promote real christian union is to disseminate scriptural knowledge; endeavour to draw off the attention of the world from men's inventions, and fix them on the word of God—the scriptures of truth.

The Church was once united; all the disciples were of "one heart and one mind." They then had no human laws; they were wholly governed by the Apostles under the inspiration of the Spirit. Although there was a deep rooted animosity existing between Jews and Gentiles, still, when they surrendered themselves wholly to the teaching of the Lord's twelve princes, sitting on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel, they were one; they became united.

The church continued thus for a length of time. They passed many fiery persecutions by which every natural and national tie was severed; but their love to the Lord, his people, and cause, continued.