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WHO ARE HERETICS ?

[Continued from page 140 and concluded.]

Every heretic, in the bible sense of the word, is a factionist. His vital element is party. He makes, perpetuates, loves, and rejoices in division. All his views, each and every one of his errors, and the issue of all his operations, have this tendency. Prophets and apostles, Christ and the truth, on which the Christian superstructure is reared, make not the foundation upon which he builds. He is a work-man that shares not his labor with the loyal subjects of the one Lord and one King.

What! a uniting co-operating heretic?—! It would be a grand contradiction. There is no such person either in the world of mortals or of spirits, angelic or demoniac. We might as rationally speak of infernal loveliness or a holy demon.— Amongst all the incongruities of the universe; a peace-making and harmony-loving heretic is not to be found.

Indeed, with the New Testament before us, and in Christian style, we might say that the term heretic principally signifies party-maker, disuniter, disorganizer, subverter. If we have not been led astray in defining heresy according to its general (not critical) meaning, this view is clearly supportable, and all that grows out of it easily established. For if the wisdom of God has devised and authorized a grand renovating scheme by which his love shall be exhibited, his truth established and declared, his people united, and sinners reconciled to himself and his government, the simple fact of any professor not acting in unity with all the christian brotherhood in carrying out the principles of this great plan, constitutes him in the style of scripture a factionist or partyist. One of this character is most dangerous to christianity. No enemy is more deadly; for the Saviour designed that his love, truth, and saving power should be as fully manifested to the world by the unity and purity of his people as by any other, or we might say by all other, means.

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