

Ah, my dear Brethren, this is a golden rule, a splendid summary of our Apostles' teaching. It will do us all good to keep it in mind. We all need it continually to direct us in our religious differences and arguments, and with us here, as a congregation, I think it is a rule not difficult to be followed; for, are we not most of us educated, liberal-minded Christian men and women, by whom a truth clearly stated is readily appreciated? For it is a pleasant thing to know that there is in this congregation a very happy *unity about essential things*. I am sure if we were all to be on our death beds to-night there would be no difference between us as to our Faith, our Hope, our Love;—our Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Hope as resting solely on His Sacrifice on Calvary, His glorious Resurrection and Ascension, His Intercession and Mediation, His union with us and our union with Him, and as looking forward to being with the Lord and seeing Him as He is where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest—the Hope of Immortality! And then would not our hearts be full of Love to one another as well as to our Lord? And then, would we not be at peace with all the world and forgive every enemy, forgive as we ourselves hope to be forgiven for His Sake! These, dear Brethren, are the *essential things*, and on these have we not unity? For ten years past I have been kneeling by many many death beds. From the first to the last the same prayers, the same doctrine, the same words of comfort, warning and exhortation have been uttered, and not in one solitary instance have I had an argument about the essentials of the Faith. I am, therefore, persuaded we are *united in Essentials*. Thank God for this unity.

“*In doubtful things liberty.*”

There are a great many things about which neither the Bible nor the Church have laid down definite rules, and about which men, who hold quite as strongly as other men the essentials of the Faith, hold and are allowed to hold different views which they look at from different standpoints, just as they have been differently trained and educated, or according to the constitutional bias of their temperament or disposition. St. Paul speaks