

In one or other of these general classes all who are not Church members will find themselves included, and I would ask you to consider with me certain grounds upon which the Church makes a claim upon you for active membership. I have been asked to speak as a young man to young men, and my remarks will be specially applicable to the young man's situation, though I trust they will not entirely lack point for young women, and even for older men and women.

Facing the question, then, "Why should a young man join the Church?" I give two simple general divisions. I say a young man should join the Church because, in the first place, union with the Church will do him good, and in the second place it will do the Church good. 1.—Young men need the Church; 2.—The Church needs young men.

Let us first make as clear as possible in a sentence or two what the Church really is. The Church is not the building you worship in, though that lends important associations. It is not the particular denomination you are inclined to favor, though that may have an influence in deciding your attitude to the Church. The Church is the body of men and women who have united in their common allegiance to Jesus Christ; who unitedly strive to help one another live the Christian life; and also unitedly endeavor to extend the sphere of Christian influence in the life of the world at large. So when you are asked to join the Church, you are asked to enroll yourself in this organized body, to share its benefits, and shoulder your part of its responsibilities. And it is because we believe that membership in this Church will do you good, and at the same time strengthen the Church, that we ask you to join her ranks.

1.—Let us consider, then, in the first place, what good the Church can do a young man.

I have tried to lay my finger upon two or three dangers that a young man's life is exposed to in this new land, and in this critical age. And I believe our chief dangers are these:

- (a) An indefiniteness or lack of aim;
- (b) An openness to great moral temptations;
- (c) A lack of conviction or assurance regarding the great verities of the moral and religious life.

And I can think of nothing that can equip a young man to face these dangers successfully except union with the Church of Christ.

(a) *Union with the Church of Christ will give definite outline to a young man's aim:*

In this new land, where our notions of moral rectitude are apt to be more lax than in older parts, nothing is more fatal to the young man than aimlessness. Too many respectable middle-aged men mourn the